

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

COMMUNICATION

from

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

transmitting

2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF
THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, PURSUANT TO
36 U.S.C. 50308 AND 44 U.S.C. 1332



NOVEMBER 14, 2016.—Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and
ordered to be printed

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

October 13, 2016

Hon. Paul D. Ryan
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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2016, 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, 2015, as described in 36 U.S.C. 10101.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Marc Burgess". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

J. MARC BURGESS
National Adjutant
Chief Executive Officer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

JOINT OPENING SESSION, SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 31, 2016

Call to Order: Commander Moses A. McIntosh, Jr.	1
National Anthem: Jonathan Jackson, Hall County Sheriff's Deputy	1
Invocation: Michael Dover, National Chaplain	1
Welcoming Remarks: Dr. Tincie M. Lynch, Convention Chairperson	2
Introduction of National Officers	3
Report of Convention: Moses A. McIntosh Jr., National Commander	3
Report of Convention: Fran Costa, Auxiliary National Senior Vice Commander	5
Presentation: Matilda Brooks, Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year	6
Presentation: God Bless the Broken Road, Director Harold Cronk	7
Presentation: Stuart Parker, CEO, USAA	8
Presentation: Mary Beth Hernandez, CEO, Camp Corral	
Amanda Brown, Manager of National Marketing and Media, Camp Corral	9
Remarks: Benna Logan, Manager for International Expansion,	
Ford Motor Company Fund	10
Presentation: Shane Matthew, Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship	13
Awards: George H. Seal Memorial	14
Remarks: Honorable Robert A. McDonald, Secretary of Veterans Affairs	16
Presentation: Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Ottosen, Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans	21
Presentation: Hacksaw Ridge, Mel Gibson and Vince Vaughan	22
Report: J. Marc Burgess, National Adjutant	23
Presentation: Bobby Body, Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year	24
Adopt Policy	26
Convention Committee Advisors	26
Announcements: J. Marc Burgess, National Adjutant	26
Benediction: Michael Dover, National Chaplain	27
Recess	27

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION, MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 1, 2016

Call to Order: Commander Moses A. McIntosh Jr.	28
Invocation: Michael Dover, National Chaplain	28
Credentials Committee Report	28
Report: Garry Augustine, Executive Director, Washington Headquarters	29
Report: Barry Jesinoski, Executive Director, National Headquarters	33
National Commander Awards: Service, Employment, Volunteer, Membership	36
Presentation: Larry Barnett	43
National Commander Recruiting Awards	44
Report: Rolly Lee, Board of Directors' Treasurer	45
Convention Committee Reports	46
Committee on Constitution and Bylaws	46
Announcements: J. Marc Burgess, National Adjutant	47
Benediction: Michael Dover, National Chaplain	48
Recess	48

SPECIAL BUSINESS SESSION, MONDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 1, 2016

Call to Order: Past Commander Roberto Barrera	87
Remarks: President of the United States, Barack Obama	87

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION, WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 3, 2016

Call to Order: Commander Moses A. McIntosh, Jr.	94
Invocation: Michael Dover, National Chaplain	94
Credentials Committee Report	94
Constitution and Bylaws Committee	94
Committee on Finance	95
Committee on Employment	96
Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights	106
Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services	133
Committee on General Resolutions and Membership	169
Report: Charitable Service Trust	177
Report: DVLMF	193
Remarks: State Commanders and Adjutants Association	195
Presentation: National Order of Trench Rats	196
Report and Awards: National Service Foundation	197
Report: POW/MIA	220
Announcements: J. Marc Burgess, National Adjutant	221
Benediction: Michael Dover, National Chaplain	221
Recess	221

FINAL BUSINESS SESSION, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 3, 2016

Call to Order: Commander Moses A. McIntosh, Jr.	222
Invocation: Michael Dover, National Chaplain	222
Final Credentials Committee Report	222
Report of the Nominating Committee	222
Nomination and Election of Officers	222
Remarks: Newly-Elected Commander	224
Cap Presentation, Newly-Elected Commander	225
Newly-Elected National Executive Committee Members	228
Announcement: J. Marc Burgess, National Adjutant	228
Benediction: Michael Dover, National Chaplain	228
Adjourn	229

AUXILIARY

DAV Auxiliary	230
---------------	-----

INDEX OF MOTIONS

<i>Motion</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Page</i>
Accept Commander's Report	5	Carried	5
Accept National Adjutant's Report	24	Carried	24
Accept Washington Headquarters Executive Director's Report	33	Carried	33
Accept National Headquarters Executive Director's Report	35	Carried	35
Accept Treasurer's Report	46	Carried	46
Accept Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report	95	Carried	95
Accept Committee on Finance Report	96	Carried	96
Accept Committee on Employment Report	106	Carried	106
Accept Committee on Legislation and Veterans' Rights Report	133	Carried	133
Accept Committee on Hospital & Voluntary Services Resolutions	169	Carried	169
Accept Committee on General Resolutions/Membership Report	177	Carried	177
Accept Charitable Service Trust Report	186	Carried	186
Accept Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation Report	195	Carried	195
Accept National Service Foundation Report	205	Carried	205
Adopt Final Credentials Committee Report	222	Carried	222
Adopt Committee on Nomination of National Officers	223	Carried	223
Election of National Officers	225	Carried	225
Discharge the Credentials Committee	228	Carried	228

- - -

NATIONAL OFFICERS 2016-2017
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

National Commander

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

Senior Vice Commander

Delphine Metcalf-Foster, 187 Nantucket Ln., Vallejo, CA 94590

1st Jr. Vice Commander

Dennis R. Nixon, 2521 Meandering Way, China Spring, TX 76633

2nd Jr. Vice Commander

Stephen Whitehead, 16095 Excel Way, Rosemount, MN 55068

3rd Jr. Vice Commander

Donald Day, 3112 Farragut Road, Brooklyn, NY 11210

4th Jr. Vice Commander

Andrew Marshall, 750 Tomoka Drive, Palm Harbor, FL 34683

National Judge Advocate

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

National Chaplain

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

Past National Commander

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

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

First District	Daniel P. Stack, Uxbridge, Massachusetts
Second District	Chester Wisnesky, Jr., Constable, New York
Third District	Richard Fournier, Windsor, Maine
Fourth District	James M. Kopley, Princeton, New Jersey
Fifth District	Lawrence F. Kelly, Beaver Meadows, Pennsylvania
Sixth District	Idalis M. Marquez, Toa Baja, Puerto Rico
Seventh District	Richard L. Tolfa, Winter Springs, Florida
Eighth District	Johnnie Carver, Sevierville, Tennessee
Ninth District	Cleveland Bryant, Jr., Cary, North Carolina
Tenth District	James R. Dempsey, Dexter, Michigan
Eleventh District	Robert Bertschy, East Liverpool, Ohio
Twelfth District	Alfred C. Reynolds, Mt. Zion, Illinois
Thirteenth District	Tom P. Bratcher, Indianapolis, Indiana
Fourteenth District	David P. Valtinson, Grand Rapids, Minnesota
Fifteenth District	Kimberly R. Tatham, Lebanon, Missouri
Sixteenth District	Michael Steinbaugh, Berkeley, California
Seventeenth District	Frank Maughan, Ogden, Utah
Eighteenth District	Richard Walker, Jr., Henderson, Nevada
Nineteenth District	Sarah J. Royse, Tillamook, Oregon
Twentieth District	Percy Spence, III, Selma, Texas
Twenty-first District	Charles D. Stake, Heber Springs, Arkansas



David W. Riley
National Commander
2016–2017
Disabled American Veterans



Moses A. McIntosh, Jr.
National Commander
2015–2016
Disabled American Veterans

NATIONAL OFFICERS 2015–16
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

National Commander

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

Senior Vice Commander

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

1st Jr. Vice Commander

Delphine Metcalf-Foster, 187 Nantucket Ln., Vallejo, CA 94590

2nd Jr. Vice Commander

Dennis R. Nixon, 2521 Meandering Way, China Spring, TX 76633

3rd Jr. Vice Commander

Harmon L. Evans, 8101 Spring Flower Rd., Columbia, SC 29223

4th Jr. Vice Commander

Stephen Whitehead, 16095 Excel Way, Rosemount, MN 55068

National Judge Advocate

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

National Chaplain

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

Past National Commander

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

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

First District	Daniel P. Stack, Uxbridge, Massachusetts
Second District	Robert J. Finnerty, S. Ozone Park, New York
Third District	Richard Fournier, Windsor, Maine
Fourth District	Timothy J. Kelly, Fairfield, Connecticut
Fifth District	Lawrence F. Kelly, Beaver Meadows, Pennsylvania
Sixth District	Bennie Harris, Jr., Washington, District of Columbia
Seventh District	Richard L. Tolfa, Winter Springs, Florida
Eighth District	Kevin A. Wenthe, Ancoco, Louisiana
Ninth District	Cleveland Bryant, Jr., Cary, North Carolina
Tenth District	Rolly D. Lee, Sr., Farwell, Michigan
Eleventh District	Robert Bertschy, East Liverpool, Ohio
Twelfth District	Rodney Helgeson, Warrens, Wisconsin
Thirteenth District	Tom P. Bratcher, Indianapolis, Indiana
Fourteenth District	Joe Parsetich, Great Falls, Montana
Fifteenth District	Kimberly R. Tatham, Lebanon, Missouri
Sixteenth District	Daniel Contreras, Sherman Oaks, California
Seventeenth District	Frank Maughan, Ogden, Utah
Eighteenth District	Johnny N. Stewart, Tucson, Arizona
Nineteenth District	Sarah J. Royse, Tillamook, Oregon
Twentieth District	Teresa Johniken, Lufkin, Texas
Twenty-first District	Charles D. Stake, Heber Springs, Arkansas

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 (deceased 2015)
1958–59:	David B. Williams, Boston, Massachusetts (deceased 1994)
1959–60:	Bill H. Fribley, Crestline, Kansas (deceased 1994)
1960–61:	William O. Cooper, Dallas, Texas (deceased 1990)
1961–62:	Francis R. Buono, Whitestone, New York (deceased 1977)
1962–63:	Peter L. Dye, Denver, Colorado (deceased 2013)
1963–64:	Douglas H. McGarrity, Allen Park, Michigan (deceased 1986)
1964–65:	William G. Dwyer, San Diego, California (deceased 1982)
1965–66:	Claude L. Callegary, Baltimore, Maryland (deceased 2014)
1966–67:	John W. Unger, Sr., Danville, Illinois (deceased 1970)
1967–68:	Francis J. Beaton, Fargo, North Dakota (deceased 1969)
1968–69:	Wayne L. Sheirbon, Seattle, Washington (deceased 1999)
1969–70:	Raymond P. Neal, Daly City, California (deceased 1980)
1970–71:	Cecil W. Stevenson, Jonesboro, Arkansas (deceased 2013)
1971–72:	Edward T. Conroy, Bowie, Maryland (deceased 1982)
1972–73:	Jack O. Hicks, Larue, Ohio
1973–74:	John T. Soave, Detroit, Michigan (deceased 1984)
1974–75:	Walter T. Greaney, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts (deceased 1994)

1975–76: Lyle C. Pearson, North Mankato, Minnesota (deceased 2013)
 1976–77: Frank J. Randazzo, East Meadow, New York (deceased 2010)
 1977–78: Oliver E. Meadows, Godley, Texas (deceased 2005)
 1978–79: Billy O. Hightower, Grand Junction, Colorado (deceased 2015)
 1979–80: Paul L. Thompson, Baltimore, Maryland (deceased 1993)
 1980–81: Stan Pealer, Holts Summit, Missouri
 1981–82: Sherman E. Roodzant, Santa Ana, California
 1982–83: Edward G. Galian, New York, New York (deceased 2002)
 1983–84: Dennis A. Joyner, Apollo, Pennsylvania
 1984–85: Chad Colley, Barling, Arkansas
 1985–86: Albert H. Linden, Jr., Camp Springs, Maryland
 1986–87: Kenneth G. Musselmann, Huntington Beach, California (deceased 2009)
 1987–88: Gene A. Murphy, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
 1988–89: Billy E. Kirby, Clifton, Texas
 1989–90: Vernon V. Cardosi, Saugus, Massachusetts
 1990–91: Joseph E. Andry, Westerville, Ohio (deceased 2010)
 1991–92: Cleveland Jordan, Washington, D.C.
 1992–93: Joseph C. Zengerle, Washington, D.C.
 1993–94: Richard E. Marbes, Green Bay, Wisconsin
 1994–95: Donald A. Sioss, Miller Place, New York
 1995–96: Thomas A. McMasters, III, Sterling Hts., Michigan (deceased 2008)
 1996–97: Gregory C. Reed, Indianapolis, Indiana
 1997–98: Harry R. McDonald, Jr., Crestview, Florida (deceased 2008)
 1998–99: Andrew A. Kistler, Franklin, Pennsylvania
 1999–00: Michael E. Dobmeier, Grand Forks, North Dakota
 2000–01: Armando C. Albarran, San Antonio, Texas
 2001–02: George H. Steese, Jr., Fresno, California
 2002–03: Edward R. Heath, Sr., Mechanic Falls, Maine (deceased 2005)
 2003–04: Alan W. Bowers, Royalston, Massachusetts
 2004–05: James E. Sursely, Apopka, Florida
 2005–06: Paul W. Jackson, Colorado Springs, Colorado
 2006–07: Bradley S. Barton, Tualatin, Oregon
 2007–08: Robert T. Reynolds, Alexandria, Virginia
 2008–09: Raymond E. Dempsey, Des Plaines, Illinois
 2009–10: Roberto Barrera, Del Rio, Texas
 2010–11: Wallace E. Tyson, Fayetteville, North Carolina
 2011–12: Donald L. Samuels, Gallatin, Tennessee
 2012–13: Larry A. Polzin, Sylmar, California
 2013–14: Joseph W. Johnston, Williamsburg, Ohio
 2014–15: Ron F. Hope, Clemmons, North Carolina
 2015–16: Moses A. McIntosh, Jr., Hephzibah, Georgia

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 95th NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HELD AT**

Atlanta, Georgia

July 31, 2016

Joint Opening Session

- - -

The Joint Opening Session of the Disabled American Veterans 95th National Convention and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary 94th National Convention convened in the Centennial Ballroom on the Ballroom Level, Lower Level I, of the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, on Sunday morning, July 31, 2016, and was called to order at 8:31 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Moses A. McIntosh, Jr.

COMMANDER MOSES A. McINTOSH, JR.: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. And welcome to Atlanta. (Applause) I now call to order the 95th National Convention of DAV. Marc Burgess, National Adjutant, will read the Call to Convention.

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

In accordance with these directives, I, Marc Burgess, National Adjutant and Secretary for this event, declare the 95th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans to be convened at Atlanta, Georgia, at 8:30 a.m., Sunday, July 31st, 2016. Consideration and disposition of business brought before this Convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws now in force.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Marc. At this time I would like to ask everyone in attendance to please turn off your cell phones and other portable devices or put them on vibrate. I will now ask the Hall County, Georgia, Sheriff's Office Honor Guard to deliver our national standard. Present Colors.

(Whereupon, the Colors were presented and posted by the Hall County, Georgia, Sheriff's Office Honor Guard.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Ladies and gentlemen, our National Anthem will be performed by Hall County Sheriff's Deputy Jonathan Jackson.

(Whereupon, the National Anthem was sung by Hall County, Georgia, Sheriff's Deputy Jonathan Jackson.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you. Now please join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited; after which Hall Count Sheriff's Office Honor Guard withdrew, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in thanking Kyle White, a veteran of the United States Army; Navy veteran Blake Garrison; former Marine Michael Mount; and Air Force veteran Nathan Sherman of the Hall County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard. We thank you and Sheriff's Deputy Jonathan Jackson for continuing your service on behalf of your community and nation. (Applause)

At this time I would like to call on the National Chaplain Michael Dover, to lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN MICHAEL DOVER: Ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Let us pray. Heavenly Creator, we thank you for allowing us the freedom of assembly once again. We pray your blessings of protection on all our armed forces around the world who are protecting us and our freedoms.

We ask for your wisdom upon our leaders and the membership of this great organization. May you guide us as your will for the betterment of the veterans and their families we serve be accomplished. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you. Once again, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

COMMANDER McINTOSH: And welcome to the 95th Convention of the Disabled American Veterans. I am very proud to introduce our National Convention Chairperson for 2016 from the great State of Georgia, Dr. Tincie Marie Lynch. (Applause)

Dr. Lynch served in the United States Army for 14 years, and currently is the Commander of DAV Chapter 91 in Decatur, Georgia. (Applause) She is a trailblazer for women veterans as she is the first to hold the commander's position for Chapter 91. She has served in numerous leadership roles and helped lead key efforts for DAV in Decatur, Georgia.

She has spent the last ten years with the Department of Veterans Affairs on the Executive Staff as Congressional Liaison, Senior Outreach Coordinator, and Veterans Service Organization Liaison. She works directly with the medical center director and top leadership on issues that impact veterans.

Dr. Lynch has earned many awards and recognitions for her service to veterans. In 2015 she was one of only four women to receive the DeKalb County Veterans Advisory Board Extraordinary Women Award for service to veterans and their families in the community.

Dr. Lynch was appointed as the 2016 National Convention Chairperson and will be the first woman veteran to fulfill this position. Please join me and welcome your DAV 2016 National Convention Chairperson, Dr. Tincie M. Lynch. (Applause)

CONVENTION CHAIRPERSON DR. TINCIE M. LYNCH: Commander McIntosh, you are too kind. (Laughter) Thank you for such a nice introduction.

Commander and National Adjutant Burgess, National Line Officers, Auxiliary Senior Vice Commander Costa, Auxiliary National Adjutant Kemper, Auxiliary National Line Officers, distinguished guests, and, of course, DAV and Auxiliary delegates, welcome to the 95th National Convention. (Applause)

It is my true honor to welcome you to the great State of Georgia—specifically The Big Peach—the wonderful City of Atlanta. Georgia is one of the fastest growing states in the nation. Most of the growth is coming from the north, where I am from.

You can recognize the newcomers by their fast pace and quick speech. We Southerners like to take our time with things. (Laughter) We only have one life to live, after all. But, all are welcome. And we are glad to have you here.

We have beautiful mountains in North Georgia and pristine beaches on the coast. And you don't have to worry about hurricanes blowing you away. It is the best of both worlds. When you get hot, you go to the mountains. When you get cold, you go to the beach. Once you've visited our great state, you can see why see why Ray Charles wrote so lovingly about it and why I hope you leave here with Georgia on your mind. (Applause)

Okay, while you're here, hopefully you take the time to visit some of Atlanta's top attractions, many within walking distance of our hotel including the Georgia Aquarium, the World of Coca-Cola, the Center for Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta's new streetcar, and the College Football Hall of Fame.

I am proud to welcome you to Atlanta. And I am proud to be the first woman chairperson for our wonderful organization's national convention. (Applause) Where you at girls? DAV is a catalyst for women veterans, leading the way for women who served in all generations to make huge strides forward in the direction of equality. I'm proud to be a part of it.

Finally, I'd like to applaud our 95th National Convention Committee. We crossed state lines following in the footsteps of Commander McIntosh—to accomplish this great task. And I hope you thoroughly enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Thank you to the DAV Department of Georgia, National Headquarters, and our 1.3 million members for all that you do. Before we move forward, I would just like to thank the DAV Department of Georgia, my family for the support, the Department of Veterans Affairs for allowing me this time to serve as your National Convention Chair.

Okay, listen up, Louisiana. Look, this is how you do it. (Laughter) Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Tincie. And she's right, this is how we do it in Georgia. First notch.

Before we move forward, I have some very sad news to pass on regarding a dear friend and partner excuse me who is not with us today. Early this last week, Auxiliary National Commander Linda Stake passed away. To her last breath she was a fierce and loyal advocate of the Auxiliary and our nation's disabled veterans. She had a remarkable year but was taken far, from us far too soon. Let's pause now for at least a moment of silence.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Through to the very end Linda planned on being here. And while our thoughts are with her family, I know that if Linda were here today, she'd ask that we carry on with all the

energy and enthusiasm we can muster. We honor her life by carrying on her mission. As such, we should fight the good fight and celebrate her life in our hearts and in our spirits. And she will be dearly missed.

MR. DANIEL CLARE: And now your DAV Auxiliary Staff and National Officers: National Adjutant Pat Kemper of Kentucky; (Applause) Past National Commander LeeAnn Karg of Minnesota; (Applause) National Chaplain, Aura-Lee Nicodemus of New Hampshire; (Applause) Judge Advocate Donna Adams of Arizona; (Applause) Fourth Junior Vice Commander Lynn Helms Prosser of South Carolina; (Applause) Third Junior Vice Commander Diane Franz of Florida; (Applause) and Second Junior Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman of New Mexico; (Applause) First Junior Vice Commander Craig Johniken of Texas; (Applause) and your Senior Vice Commander from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Fran Costa. (Applause)

And now your DAV National Officers: from Ellerslie, Georgia, your National Chaplain, give a heavenly reception for the Reverend Michael Dover; (Applause) the pride of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and our National Judge Advocate, Mike Dobmeier; (Applause) your Fourth Junior Vice Commander, from Rosemount, Minnesota, Stephen "Butch" Whitehead; (Applause) your Third Junior Vice Commander from Columbia, South Carolina, Harmon Evans; (Applause) your Second Junior Vice Commander, from China Spring, Texas, Dennis Nixon; (Applause) and your First Junior Vice Commander from Vallejo, California, Delphine Metcalf-Foster; (Applause) and last but by no means least, your Senior Vice Commander from Semmes, Alabama, Dave Riley. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER DAVID W. RILEY: It is now my distinct pleasure to present a man of the people, DAV National Commander Moses A. McIntosh, Jr.. (Applause) Commander McIntosh is a service-connected Desert Shield and Desert Storm veteran who served in the Air Force and Army.

A qualified pilot on the UH-1 and UH-60 assault helicopters, he served until being medically retired in 1997, after an aviation mishap, having logged more than 2,800 flying hours and flying 25 combat missions during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

The Commander has been involved in veteran-related issues at all levels, including service as the chairman of the Department of Georgia Finance Committee, National Convention Chairman, National Interim Membership Committee, and National Ninth District Executive Committee. A life member of the Department of Georgia, he was unanimously elected to lead DAV at last year's National Convention in Denver.

Commander McIntosh provided exemplary leadership throughout his tenure. He led the charge for sensible, long-term solutions to strengthen the VA health care system and called on Congress to pass legislation to support caregivers of all generations and address the unique needs of women veterans.

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

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. And I love you all, too. Again, hello, everyone.

(Response of "Hello.")

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Hey, I want to welcome you. I can't welcome you enough to the great State of Georgia. Adjutant Burgess, Executive Director Jesinoski, Executive Director Augustine, thank you. Fellow veterans and families, and friends and honored guests, I want to thank you so much for that warm welcome.

Last year at this time I explained just how busy DAV is and I promised you we were going to get busier. I have worked with many of you directly over the past year so let me hear from you DAV. Have we been busy this year?

(Response of "Yes" and applause.)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: You bet we have. But before we get into that, let's take a short moment to recognize the people who are out there every day fighting the good fight. If you are a Chapter or Department Service Officer, raise your hand. Give yourself applause. Come on.

(Whereupon, Chapter and Department Service Officers raised their hands and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: If you're a National Service Officer, a Transition Service Officer, please raise your hand.

(Whereupon, National Service Officers and Transition Service Officers raised their hands and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Hospital and community volunteers, DAV Transportation Network drivers, where are you? Give yourself a hand.

(Whereupon, the volunteers raised their hands and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Again, thank you for all you do. And thank you to all our Chapters and Department leaders. You truly keep this organization running and your continued service to veterans is vital to our mission.

We have a lot to be proud of as we reflect back from when we were last together in Denver, for your help in accomplishing our growing mission of providing a lifetime of support to veterans and their families. I want to thank you all. Together, we have accomplished so many things. And we have so much more to accomplish in the coming years.

Make no mistake, we are growing. There are now over 1.3 million members and it's sustainable. Give yourself a round. (Applause) And largely a lot of you all are responsible for that, you, the members, your recruitment efforts and the efforts from our Membership Director Doug Wells. I really appreciate you. Thank you.

Last year our charity secured more than \$4 billion in new and retroactive earned benefits for veterans and their families. (Applause) We commissioned a national survey that shed important light on how veterans of all eras, men and women, feel about their military service and how well the government keeps its promises.

Local chapters are rapidly becoming the voice for veteran-related issues in their communities. DAV's message of continued service to veterans and their families is being told now more than ever. And all of you are ensuring the voice of the veteran community is being heard.

The voices of our women veterans are being heard more loudly than ever. My sisters-in-arms, let me hear you. (Applause) DAV is constantly pushing just like the chaplain pushes redemption our message of advocacy across the nation and the unique needs of women veterans.

We are continuing the good fight to secure government support for caregivers of all generations instead of limiting it to post-9/11 veterans. As many of you know, this year DAV and the DAV Auxiliary once again brought that message straight to Congress' doorstep and said we expect them to do the right thing by signing the Veterans Affairs Family Caregiver Expansion and Improvement Act into law. (Applause)

Thanks to you, DAV has a lot to be proud of but there is still much more work to do. It is incumbent upon each of us to ensure we "Charlie-Mike"—we continue the mission. We must never stop.

DAV has remained that strong organization in order to be the organization that veterans, their families and supporters know they can turn to when a veteran is in need. DAV must remain the thought-leader on Capitol Hill. We must continue our efforts regarding meaningful veterans' employment, especially employment for disabled veterans.

I hope you leave here motivated to return home and embrace veterans in your own backyard and ask them to join our cause. The camaraderie we enjoy in uniform remains with us here. I know with personal experiences we are extremely welcoming.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Department of Georgia and my very own Ninth District. Please stand and be recognized.

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

COMMANDER McINTOSH: And before I go any further, I must recognize and thank my strongest advocate and supporter—my wife Marjorie and daughter Paige. Marjorie stand up and be recognized so we can give you a round of applause.

(Whereupon, Mrs. McIntosh stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: It's not easy being the National Commander. So it's a lot harder being the wife of a National Commander. There is a lot of things going that you, the members, don't see. But we do it all for you. It's worth that effort. (Applause)

It has been my most profound honor and privilege to serve as your National Commander. Thank you for placing this trust in me. In my mind there are no finer group of men and women in our nation than our veterans and their families. And we couldn't do our mission without you—the dedicated and caring members of this great organization.

As I traveled from Hawaii to Puerto Rico, from Maine to California, from Michigan to Texas, DAV and DAV Auxiliary volunteers changed lives with their service given to our nation's disabled veterans and their families.

As Commander I was never satisfied with the status quo performance. And I repeat that. I'm one. I don't settle for status quo. You have to raise the ceiling sometime. I was only satisfied by knowing that those who will follow me will be able to achieve more because of empowerment.

I want to be remembered as a leader who credited those who were being led with accomplishments while I, alone, accept responsibility and accountability for every action that took place under my watch.

My support extends far beyond Georgia. And I want to thank, in particular, the Departments of Virginia, (Applause) Louisiana, (Applause) Indiana, (Applause) Minnesota, (Applause) and Wyoming (Applause) for their outstanding contributions to DAV and to myself this past year.

Leading an organization is never easy. However, it is very rewarding to have made so many friends. And I say that with all sincerity. You are all my friends. But I always take it one step further. When I was in the field and traveling we all are a family. Aren't we a family?

(Response of "Yes" and applause.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Okay. So that means I visit my family along the way. The memories of my year as your Commander will last a lifetime. The friendships will always be cherished. And what we have accomplished together brings a true feeling of pride every day.

I cannot begin to thank those among you who have been with me since the beginning of my journey to Commander, encouraging me to lead, advising me when I need guidance, and supporting me when I had to make tough decisions. You know who you are. And I will be eternally grateful.

You all are all my heroes. You are all my brothers and sisters. And, most importantly, you are all part of an organization that truly is fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served.

Now in keeping with—give yourself a round of applause. (Applause) Don't ever be ashamed to pat yourself on the back. This organization is second-to-none. And don't ever forget it.

Now, in keeping with tradition, I hope you will allow me to honor you with a final salute for all you do to ensure we maintain our mission of hope, providing a lifetime of support for our veterans and their families. I salute you.

(Whereupon, Commander McIntosh saluted the membership, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER RILEY: Commander McIntosh, under your inspiring leadership, this has been a truly memorable year for DAV. Thank you, very much. (Applause) I move to accept the National Commander's report. Do I have a second?

MR. LEON BOOKER: Leon Booker, Commander, William E. Tate Chapter Number 1, from the great Peach State of Georgia, I second that motion.

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

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

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

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you. Well, ladies, you thought I forgot about you. (Laughter) Like Pat Kemper said, I am the poster boy of the Auxiliary. Right, Pat? (Laughter) Okay, now, at this time I ask the National Auxiliary Executive Committee, please stand and be recognized.

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

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you for all you do. As I said before, when it comes to fulfilling our promises to American veterans and meeting the needs of their families, DAV does not stand alone. The DAV Auxiliary is a steady source of compassion and support we at DAV continuously count on. What they do every day really is making a difference.

As I mentioned earlier this morning, we lost a tremendous friend with the passing of DAV Auxiliary National Commander Linda Stake. In spite of the health challenges she endured through the majority of her term, she was a steadfast and devoted advocate for our nation's veterans and their families to the end.

Here to speak on behalf of our partners at the DAV Auxiliary please give a warm welcome to our National Senior Vice Commander Fran Costa. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a staff member placed a step in front of the podium, followed by laughter.)

AUXILIARY SENIOR VICE COMMANDER FRANCES COSTA: Sorry guys. (Laughter) Thank you, Commander McIntosh. Before her passing, Linda conveyed to me that there is no place she would rather be than to have been here with us today.

She shared many of her thoughts with me. And for the rest of my life I will say that one of my greatest pleasures—and I'm not the only one who could say this—was knowing and having Linda Stake as a friend and mentor.

Last year, Linda said her vision for DAV's Auxiliary was to make a concentrated effort to keep the spotlight on military families and caregivers. No one knows better than those of us in this room that service members do not deploy in harm's way alone.

The whole family is affected by sacrifices required of military life. The military member may be the one who raises his or her hand and says, "Send me. I will go;" but the families left behind—parents, spouses, and young children—shoulder a heavy burden as well. It's a burden very few in our nation will ever understand.

Linda asked that we all keep in mind it's not individuals who go to war. It's entire families who sacrifice when this country we love so much calls forth our bravest. When that service rendered to our country has life-changing effects on military members, it's often the families who are left to pick up the pieces.

During her tour as Auxiliary Commander, Linda often spoke of how a spouse, parent, or sometimes even children rapidly transition into the role of caregivers. They don't do it for tangible rewards or benefits. They do it from a place that I think we all can agree that it is the deepest and heartfelt expression of love. And so many care for our veterans with no support from our government.

When I spoke to Commander Stake, she asked that I mention how under current law eligibility for government support is limited to those veterans who incurred an illness or injury on or after 9/11. It does not support the thousands of caregivers over the many decades of service prior to 9/11. Linda has often said that this is simply wrong. This, in particular, was a major concern for Linda, even in her final days.

We all know that providing equal benefits to disabled veterans of all eras is the right thing to do and plain common sense. It's incumbent upon each of us to call, write or email our elected representatives and tell them we expect their support on this legislation. (Applause)

Linda said she truly believes there is no greater love in this world than a caregiver giving freely of themselves to enhance the quality of life of an ill or injured veteran. It is why our focus on caregivers and their roles in veterans' families is a very worthy cause, and it's a fight we should continue.

We should never forget that DAV and DAV Auxiliary exist to provide a lifetime of support to veterans and their families.

Many of us have direct experience with caregiver-related issues. It's a cause I know we can all get behind. It's one way we can keep Linda's memory alive forever.

Thank you for your time and thank you to our dear Commander Linda. I know you can hear me because surely they're watching live stream in heaven. (Laughter) You are in our thoughts and hearts this week. And your family and friends are in our thoughts as well.

This concludes my report. (Applause)

(Whereupon Auxiliary Senior Vice Commander Costa withdrew from the podium, after which Adjutant Burgess spoke to her and she returned to the podium.)

AUXILIARY SENIOR VICE COMMANDER COSTA: Little surprises for short people. (Laughter) See, they're throwing me curves already. And now I invite Auxiliary Past National Commander Donna Tanner from the great State of Massachusetts to the stage for a special presentation. (Applause)

PAST AUXILIARY COMMANDER DONNA TANNER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

PAST AUXILIARY COMMANDER TANNER: I'm slow but I'm sure. (Laughter) The Past National Commander's Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year Award recognizes the contributions and dedication of an Auxiliary member whose efforts enhance the goals of DAV, the Auxiliary, and community activities that are truly above and beyond the ordinary.

The 2016 award is being presented to a former firefighter and lifelong volunteer for veterans and her community—Matilda Brooks. (Applause) Matilda is the commander of the DAV Auxiliary Unit 144 in Wappinger Falls, New York.

They didn't teach me the technology. Hang on. (Laughter)

Matilda is a lifetime DAV Auxiliary member with more than 40 years of service on behalf of disabled veterans and their caregivers and is passionate and relentless in her service to veterans, their families, and her entire community.

Matilda has contributed more than 83,000 hours at VA hospitals over her lifetime. (Applause) She also served her community as a firefighter for more than 20 years. Today, she faithfully spends eight hours a day, Monday through Friday, volunteering as a DAV Transportation Network driver, a VA hospital volunteer, and at her beloved fire department. (Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, Matilda Brooks. (Standing Ovation)

MRS. MATILDA BROOKS: I would like to thank the State Department of New York for sending my name in for the Volunteer of the Year. And I would also like to thank the past commanders selecting me.

And I enjoy volunteering and driving the van. I'm going to do it as long as I'm able to. So I (undistinguishable) and everything. So I'm really an active member. And I enjoy volunteering and doing the things that I do. So I thank you all for electing me for this. And God bless America. (Applause)

PAST AUXILIARY COMMANDER TANNER: I am very proud to present this award to Auxiliary—yes, excuse me, Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year Matilda Brooks. Matilda, congratulations.

MRS. BROOKS: Thank you.

(Whereupon, an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Congratulations.

MRS. BROOKS: Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Remember I told you, "We don't settle for the status quo," right? You all remember I told you that. We always try to raise the bar. Well, I've got a surprise for you coming.

Earlier this year, DAV was contacted by the executive producer of the upcoming film called "God Bless the Broken Road." The film, we were told, would follow the story of a widow whose husband was killed while serving in Afghanistan.

The director, who is known for the film "God is Not Dead," wanted to ensure that the piece not only told an inspiring story but that it would ultimately contribute to an effort to help veterans, their families, and, of course, their survivors.

In addition to supporting DAV's mission through a portion of the film's proceeds, DAV was actually given a role in the movie, so be sure to keep an eye out as you watch the following clip. Here is a preview of what is to come.

(Whereupon, video trailer for "God Bless the Broken Road" was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: And now to tell us more about this unique partnership please give a big DAV welcome to "God Bless the Broken Road's" director, Harold Cronk. (Applause)

MR. HAROLD CRONK: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. CRONK: It is my sincere hope that "God Bless the Broken Road" will remind our fellow Americans of the needs of our soldiers and their families as well as shine a light on the amazing work DAV is doing.

The theme of "God Bless the Broken Road" is this: when we put our love into action we can plant a seed of faith in others who may be traveling a broken road.

There is not a more perfect example of a group of people who put their love into action every day than DAV. (Applause) And our team at Ten West Studios wants to follow DAV's example.

It is my privilege to share with you today that Ten West Studios will be donating 5 percent of the total profits from "God Bless the Broken Road" to military charities, the largest portion—(Applause)—the largest portion of which will be going to DAV. (Applause)

Ten West and DAV will be working side-by-side to explore ways we can further leverage the film and its stars from Veterans Day through the release early next year to increase awareness about the film, DAV's mission, and to invite moviegoers to join us in keeping the promise to America's men and women who have served our country. (Applause)

Thank you. Thank you so much and enjoy your time here in Atlanta this week. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you. Thanks so much, Harold. We are grateful for your partnership with DAV and we are all looking forward to seeing the movie.

DAV is fortunate to have had many supporters and partners throughout our long history. Our next speaker represents an organization that has a proud legacy of its own. The United States Automobile Association, better known as USAA, has been a stalwart supporter of veterans, service members, and their families dating back to its founding in 1922.

I'm proud to introduce our next guest, USAA Chief Executive Officer Stuart Parker. In his nearly 10-year career with the United States Air Force his service to our country included flying combat missions during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

After joining USAA as a financial planner in 1998 he went on to serve in a variety of leadership roles, including president of USAA's Property and Casualty Company, chief financial officer and chief operating officer.

He became the CEO in 2015. For the past 18 years he has dedicated himself to advocating for those who are currently serving and all those who have honorably served in the past.

Equally important, his relationship with DAV started on the right foot. He was introduced to the organization when he needed help filing his claim for benefits. He is a DAV life member. Please give a round of applause for DAV's newest partner, USAA, Stuart Parker. (Applause)

MR. STUART PARKER: Thank you so much. I appreciate that. Thank you, Commander McIntosh. It is a pleasure to be here with the DAV, the Auxiliary, your family members and special guests. And, yes, the Commander has it right. I am a lifetime member of the DAV. (Applause) I'm very proud of that. Thank you.

My military career started just a few hours' drive south of here in Valdosta, Georgia, where I was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force. After I—(Applause). Thank you.

After I got my commission I went to pilot training in Wichita Falls, Texas, became an instructor pilot. And then my follow on assignment was to fly C-141s in Charleston, South Carolina. That was around 1990. You may remember that time—Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

I remember flying missions with two other pilots. There would be a crew of three pilots, two flight engineers, a couple of load masters. We would take off from places like Spain or Germany or the UK, fly down to the Middle East carrying troops, carrying cargo. We would unload, refuel and come back. Those were 23-hour missions. They were grueling but I was loving life.

And then after a ten-year career in the United States Air Force life threw me a curve ball. I was medically retired from the Air Force. And at that moment when I did not know about my health, my benefits or what I was going to do going forward, the DAV stepped in and helped me.

You helped me understand how to go through that transition, how to apply for my disability with the VA, how to get tuition assistance so I could go back to school and earn my MBA. And because of that I will always be grateful to the DAV. Thank you all very much for that. (Applause) Thank you. You absolutely changed my life.

And at USAA we have the opportunity to not only serve those on active duty but also veterans, many of which who have fallen on hard times. You may not know this but one out of three homeless individuals in our country are veterans.

That means that tonight over 300,000 veterans do not have a safe, comfortable place to sleep. This is a national tragedy. (Applause) It is. I recently visited Haven for Hope in San Antonio. It's one of the nation's largest homeless transformational campuses. Every night about 1,600 individuals go there to seek refuge. Many of them are veterans.

And it broke my heart to speak with these men and women who have so bravely served our country. Many of them are lonely and most of them are struggling. But we decided at USAA, right then and there, to solve that problem.

We made a \$2 million contribution to the City of San Antonio. We worked with other non-profit organizations. And I am proud to tell you that as of this spring if you are a homeless veteran in San Antonio we do have a safe, comfortable place for you to sleep. (Applause)

And we are committed to working where we have other major campuses—in Arizona, Colorado, Florida and Virginia—to do the same. But we also recognize that many veterans are struggling when they transition from their military career to civilian life. They want to find meaningful work.

We have a program at USAA called "Vet Fit." It's a 22-week program where our veterans train and go through an internship and become software developers in our IT department. And so we are taking that example and we are sharing that with other companies across the country, helping them understand the unique value that veterans have as employees because vets have a strong work ethic. They have great teambuilding skills. And they live by their core values.

We know that at USAA because over the last ten years we have hired over 10,000 individuals from the military community. (Applause) And, by the way, our commitment going forward is that over 30 percent of our new hires will either be a veteran or a military spouse. (Applause)

Well, you can see that the DAV and USAA, our core values are aligned. And we are only beginning just to scratch that surface. And so I'm looking forward to our partnership going forward. In fact, I'd like to introduce a fellow USAA employee. It's Assistant Vice President Eric Engquist. Eric is a former Army officer. He served in Kosovo and Iraq. And I believe he has a check that he would like to present. So, Eric, come on, please. (Applause)

(Whereupon, an official photograph was taken as a ceremonial check for \$500,000 was presented to Commander McIntosh.)

MR. PARKER: Thank you so much. Thank you very much.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: We truly appreciate USAA's commitment to the DAV, contributing over \$1 million to DAV since the partnership was established two years ago. Our sincere thanks to Stuart and USAA. Let's give them one more round of applause. (Applause) Receiving checks is good. (Laughter) Well, let's continue to roll.

As we all know, over the last 15 years DAV Chapters and Departments have benefited significantly through our exclusive partnership with Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Night program.

Golden Corral was the first restaurant to nationally recognize the service and sacrifices of veterans with a free meal. Year after year they continue to show a commitment to ill and injured veterans and their families that is unparalleled in their business.

In 2015, through this program, DAV was able to reach out to more than 336,000 veterans who received free meals. We were also able to raise more than \$1.3 million to support state and local service initiatives. (Applause)

For most, involvement in DAV and the Auxiliary is a family activity. It is for that very reason that we were particularly pleased when our partners at Golden Corral launched Camp Corral in 2011 to provide life changing experiences to the children and survivors of military members and injured veterans.

It has been our pleasure to stand with Golden Corral since the founding of Camp Corral to help grow the camps and ensure every child who wants to attend has an opportunity to do so. Our goal is to clear out the waiting list and get every child who wants to attend a camp to a camp.

That is why in March of this year we announced our formal partnership with Camp Corral to expand its programs in support of veterans and their families. This partnership serves to strengthen DAV's longstanding relationship with Camp Corral. And our additional support will allow 1,000 more children of injured and ill veterans and service members to attend camp. (Applause)

Now let's remember when Camp Corral launched in 2011 it hosted one camp in Eastern North Carolina for about 200 kids. With the increased support from DAV, as we join with Golden Corral as the camp's signature partners, this summer nearly 3,400 kids will have attended a free week of camp at 21 Camp Corral sites in 19 states. (Applause) And, once again, I thank you, the members, for supporting that.

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

To better understand the full scope of this important program, let's take a closer look at the camp experience.

(Whereupon, a video on Camp Corral was viewed.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: The Just B Kids program empowers Chapters and Departments to raise funds through DAV. So far this year DAV Departments and Chapters have raised \$80,761.46 to get kids to these camps—and it's because of you. Give yourself a round of applause. (Applause)

Under this umbrella and with the support of the Charitable Service Trust, DAV Auxiliary and our members, DAV is proud to make a special presentation to Camp Corral. I would ask for a very few guests to join us for this special presentation. Excuse me.

Representing our partners at Golden Corral is Amanda Brown who manages national marketing and media. Amanda is the wife of an Army veteran who enlisted after our nation was attacked on 9/11. In the second year of a three-year commitment, he was wounded during a training accident and was medically discharged.

Amanda manages the Military Appreciation Night program and the Camp Corral fundraising campaign for Golden Corral. She is honored to be a part of Golden Corral—of thanking those who have served our nation and providing our children with a special, one-of-a-kind experience at Camp Corral.

Also joining us is Mary Beth Hernandez, the CEO of Camp Corral. Mary Beth is the daughter of an Army captain and has always had a special appreciation for the brave men and women who served.

She was on the planning committee for Charlotte Bridge Home, a non-profit that helps veterans make successful transitions out of the military, and has worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the needs of veterans on the UNC Chapel Hill campus.

Please welcome to the stand Camp Corral CEO Mary Beth Hernandez, Auxiliary Senior Vice Commander Fran Costa, Golden Corral's Amanda Brown, and DAV Charitable Service Trust President, Past National Commander Dick Marbes. (Applause)

Mary Beth, on behalf of DAV's Just B Kids program, please accept this donation of \$601,556. (Applause)

(Whereupon, an official photograph was taken as a ceremonial check was presented to Ms. Hernandez.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Ladies and gentlemen, these funds are the result of support from DAV through the DAV Charitable Service Trust, matched contributions that were collected or donated by our Chapters and Departments through DAV's Just B Kids scholarship program, and, of course, the support of the DAV Auxiliary. (Applause)

CAMP CORRAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MARY BETH HERNANDEZ: Good morning. On behalf of the staff and the board of Camp Corral we just can't thank DAV enough for your support. As you saw in the video, it had a direct impact this summer by enabling us to do another week of camp

at Camp Flaming Arrow near San Antonio, Texas, where we have one of our longest waiting lists of children who want to attend camp. So those kids just finished up last week. They had a phenomenal time. And so thank you.

I want to share a story with you. I think it's more effective to tell a story than to just give you some data and some survey information that we receive from parents. This really, I think, explains the impact that Camp Corral has on military children.

A few months ago I received a call from a young mother we will call Sargent Smith. And she had been seriously wounded by an IED in Iraq. She spent months recuperating at Walter Reed.

She was away from her children, a 12-year old son named Jeremy and a 10-year old son named Tom. And by the time she got home she was alarmed at the changes that she had seen in Jeremy, her 12-year old. He was, his grades had gone down. He had started getting in to trouble. She was afraid he was hanging around with the wrong kind of kids and she was really desperate for help for Jeremy.

What happened is she discovered our first session, our first year of Camp Corral, so she sent him to Camp Corral, our inaugural session in Eastern North Carolina. And what she said to me in her phone call was that Camp Corral turned his life around.

He attended camp for the next three years and then became a camp counselor when he aged out of the program. And now Jeremy just graduated from high school and he is going to college. And she attributes his success to Camp Corral. (Applause)

So on behalf of everyone at Camp Corral and all of our families, thank you. Please know that you are having—your support has a significant impact on our military families and children. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: DAV's compassion for ill and injured veterans and their families is evident in its nationwide Transportation Network.

Throughout the country our Hospital Service Coordinators and volunteers organize and facilitate transportation for them, making it possible for ill and injured veterans to receive the care they need and earned at VA medical facilities.

Since 1987 the National Organization, Chapters, Departments, National Service Foundation, and Columbia Trust have purchased 3,079 vehicles at the cost of more than \$68 million. This year, through the Ford Fund's generous donation, eight more vehicles were donated to DAV's Transportation Network, bringing the total vehicles purchased through Ford's generosity to 207. (Applause)

Throughout our history, DAV has received unparalleled support from numerous sources, but there has been only one partner who has faithfully been with us since the beginning and continues to support and elevate our mission, and that is Ford.

Joining us today is a special guest with more news about the long-standing Ford/DAV partnership. Benna Logan joined Ford Motor Company in 2010 in the government affairs office in Washington, D.C.

In 2013 she became the manager for international expansion for the Ford Motor Company Fund. In this role Benna oversees the global expansion of Ford Fund signature programs, focusing on education, auto safety, and sustainability.

She recently relocated here to Atlanta and coordinates the Ford Fund's community outreach strategy in partnership with non-profit partners, local dealers, and employees.

Ladies and gentlemen, please give a round of applause to Ms. Benna Logan. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the song Mustang Sally played as Ms. Logan advanced to the podium.)

MS. BENNA LOGAN: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. LOGAN: Thank you, National Commander McIntosh. I appreciate that intro. Wow, I am extremely honored to be here with all of you. This is quite an impressive crowd. Everyone warned me of how large this crowd is and it is very large. (Laughter)

But, I'm humbled to be standing in front of such an honorable group. This really is a special day. And speaking of honorable, I would like to recognize a very special person who is here with us today and his story will resonate with many of you—my grandfather, Colonel Ben H. Penton. (Applause)

Colonel Penton, or as I call him, Bendaddy, joined the Air Force when he was just 19 years old. And he started as a buck Private E1, married my Nana who is sitting right next to him today, right out of high school, and later joined the National Guard. And through years of hard work and dedication to our country, he earned the rank of full Colonel.

And I have to brag a little bit—and I don't know which is a bigger accomplishment—but my Bendaddy was the youngest person to ever be inducted in the OCS Hall of Fame. And, today, he is wearing the original Dress Blues that he got 56 years ago. (Applause) I can hardly wear something I bought a year ago, much less 56 years ago. (Laughter)

His commitment to our country runs through our family. My cousin, Bendaddy's grandson, also served almost nine years active duty in the Army, which included three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is highly decorated, being a Purple Heart recipient, as well as several Valorous Awards.

So, not only does Ford appreciate all of your commitments, but my family and I personally understand the sacrifices you all have made for our country and the help that DAV continues to give all veterans across the nation.

Ford and DAV have a special bond that goes back nearly 100 years when Henry Ford organized 50 Model Ts so a group of veterans could attend the National Convention in 1922, the second one, which means we have only missed one. We almost got perfect attendance. (Laughter) Just missed it.

Our goal at Ford Motor Company Fund is to help make people's lives better. Whether it is feeding the hungry, providing education and scholarship programs, or assisting veterans our mission is to help make people's lives better. And that goes back to our founder, Henry Ford, who understood a company is only as strong as its communities. And so that is what we strive to do to help make our communities sustainable on their own. And we can only do that through strong partnerships like DAV.

DAV is one of Ford's first community partners and we are proud of our work supporting, together, the military veterans who sacrifice everything to defend our freedom.

Assisting veterans is now one of Ford's signature community missions. Since 1974 Ford and the Ford Motor Company Fund have provided nearly \$10 million to veterans' organizations through partnerships with DAV, American Red Cross, Honor Flight, Yankee Air Museum, among many others.

Our support includes helping veterans with medical transportation and rehabilitation as well as scholarships and job training opportunities. We also employ more than 6,000 military veterans in the U.S. as well as hundreds of active duty military personnel.

Now this year during Women's History Month we had the opportunity to honor a very special group of women. We know them as Rosie the Riveters. They came from farms and small towns in the 1940s to work as welders, riveters, office clerks and seamstresses—ordinary women doing extraordinary things to build the arsenal of democracy that helped the Allies win World War II.

Thousands of these women worked at the Ford Willow Run Bomber Plant outside of Detroit and other nearby factories.

On March 22 of this year 31 of these ladies from Michigan—all in their 90s—joined us for an Original Rosie Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. (Applause) It was a day full of smiles, tears and long-overdue thanks. We thought you would like to see for yourselves how special this day was. Please watch this video.

(Whereupon, a video of the event honoring Rosie the Riveters was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

MS. LOGAN: It was a very special day. Earlier this summer we brought veterans and their families to the third annual Ford Focus on Freedom event held in conjunction with the Ford Fireworks on the Detroit River. Try to say that three times fast. (Laughter)

And you may remember that last year we created an Operation Proud Nation mural which is made from thousands of individual drawings to show support to our active military. The mural is now on display at the Pentagon. Project SNAP is working on this year's mural. And the theme draws from the song "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and is entitled "America: Land of the Noble Free."

We know how important it is to honor all veterans and everything that they have done. And these are just a few ways we try to show our appreciation.

And a big thanks to all of you for supporting Ford, as well. According to a Polk vehicle registration study when American military families buy a new vehicle, they prefer Ford trucks and cars over any other brand. And I can vouch for that because Bendaddy, Nana, and my cousin Ben all drive Fords. (Laughter) I had nothing to do with it but. (Laughter)

Since 2001 DAV members and their families have purchased more than 23,000 vehicles from Ford through the Ford Partnership Recognition program or the X Plan. Those numbers put DAV members among the top three of the 3,700 organizations that utilize this program to purchase vehicles. So thank you to all of you for your loyalty to Ford. (Applause)

Now, while you are here be sure to visit my colleagues at the Ford booth outside. They can help with any questions you might have about the X Plan. And this year any DAV members attending the conference may take part in a special offer but you have to stop by to find out what it is. (Laughter) And we are also giving our prizes just for filling out a short survey so please stop by and say hello to our team because I know they would like to meet you, as well.

So, now for the fun part. If I may have—at this time I'd like to ask National Commander McIntosh and National Adjutant Burgess if they would please join me.

(Whereupon, Commander McIntosh and Adjutant Burgess joined Ms. Logan at the podium.)

MS. LOGAN: Back in 1996 Ford began donating vehicles to the DAV. And last year Ford vehicles assisted 716,000 military veterans to reach their medical appointments.

Today I am proud to announce we are donating eight new Flex utility vehicles (Applause) for use by the DAV in eight cities around the country. (Applause) The cities include Bay Pines, Florida; Danville, Illinois; Baltimore, Maryland; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Manchester, New Hampshire; Syracuse, New York; Chattanooga, Tennessee; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (Applause)

We're happy to be able to provide the vehicles to show our appreciation for all of the sacrifices you have made to protect our freedom.

And now, on behalf of every Ford Motor Company employee I'd like to present you with the ceremonial check which represents the value of the vehicle donation.

(Whereupon, Ms. Logan presented a ceremonial check to Commander McIntosh and Adjutant Burgess, at which time an official photograph was taken, followed by a round of applause.)

MS. LOGAN: This gift means that Ford Motor Company has donated a total of 207 vehicles to DAV, representing a value of more than \$5 million. (Applause)

We are also proud to support the families of DAV members through the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program which honors young volunteers who are dedicated to serving our veterans. It is my pleasure to present this ceremonial check to National Commander McIntosh in the amount of \$20,000 (sic) to support this outstanding academic program. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Logan presented a ceremonial check in the amount of \$45,000 to Commander McIntosh and Adjutant Burgess, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MS. LOGAN: Okay, no more money. (Laughter) And National Commander McIntosh, would you please stay here with me. I would like to ask Auxiliary National Senior Vice Commander Fran Costa to join us at the podium.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Burgess withdrew and DAV Auxiliary Senior Vice Commander Costa joined Ms. Logan and Commander McIntosh.)

MS. LOGAN: And we also at Ford are also mourning the passing of Auxiliary Commander Linda Stake. We are so sorry to hear for your loss. Fran, we hope you will accept this memento on her behalf.

(Whereupon, Ms. Logan presented a gift to DAV Auxiliary Senior Vice Commander Costa.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you so much.

MS. LOGAN: You're welcome. DAV has a wonderful history and a bright future because of the strength of its leadership. In recognition of your hard work and dedication over the past year I would like to present each of you with a gift from Ford Motor Company. Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, Ms. Logan presented the gifts to DAV Commander McIntosh.)

AUXILIARY SENIOR VICE COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you very much.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. LOGAN: Thank you again for your leadership. Your hard work has made a difference in a lot of veterans' lives over the past year.

And in closing, on behalf of the more than 201,000 men and women of Ford Motor Company and on behalf of my family, it is truly 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 preserve our freedom. Please enjoy the rest of your Convention and may God bless each and every one of you and this great country. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you. Thank you so much, Benna, for all you and our great friends at Ford do to support our nation's heroes. We are grateful for our partnership and look forward to another great year together.

Now we're going to move on. Serving those who put their lives on the line and put their country before themselves is what DAV is all about, and some incredible young individuals have personified this service through their volunteer work. DAV is proud to recognize tomorrow's leaders who have made an amazing commitment to serving our nation's veterans.

Each year, with the continued support of the Ford Motor Company Fund, DAV honors a group of dedicated young volunteers with scholarships for higher education in recognition and appreciation of their volunteer service to our nation's veterans.

The award is named after one of the most respected and distinguished leaders in the history of DAV Jesse Brown. Jesse was a Marine veteran who was wounded in Vietnam in 1965. His injuries only deepened his resolve in pursuing his life's purpose—service to others. He joined DAV in 1967 and would go on to become our Executive Director in 1989.

His infectious attitude and dedicated service to ill and injured veterans inspired others to follow. In a testament to his steadfast dedication to veterans and his outstanding leadership he was selected by President William Jefferson Clinton to be the first African-American Secretary of Veterans Affairs in 1993. Serving those who put their country above themselves is not just a tradition but also a way of life for individuals like Jesse Brown.

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

This year we have chosen eight of the nation's dedicated young volunteers to receive the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship. This year's top recipient to the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship goes to Shane Mathew of Coral Springs, Florida. (Applause)

Now Shane plans to use this \$20,000 at the University of Florida where he is already enrolled in a pre-med program and wishes to continue to serve our men and women in uniform perhaps as a commissioned medical officer in the Armed Forces or as a VA physician.

Shane has spent the last four years volunteering at the Miami VA health care system in Florida and has accumulated more than 667 volunteer hours serving veterans. (Applause)

Shane has displayed a keen awareness of how to inspire patients through his calm demeanor and his willingness to help on a daily basis while serving at the VA. His compassion and care for veterans show each and every day and helped many veterans become empowered to live their lives with dignity and respect. DAV wishes him the best in all of his future endeavors.

Please join me in welcoming DAV National Director of Voluntary Services John Kleindienst, Ms. Benna Logan, and our honoree, Shane Mathew, to the podium for his scholarship presentation.

(Whereupon, Mr. Mathew and John Kleindienst joined Commander McIntosh for the presentation, at which time an official photograph was taken, followed by a round of applause.)

MR. SHANE MATHEW: Thank you for that introduction, National Commander McIntosh. Distinguished board of officers and most respected ladies and gentlemen of the DAV, I cannot begin to describe what an honor it is to be standing here.

Looking back to my first days as a student volunteer in South Florida I would have never imagined that all those experiences at the VA could lead to this moment. But I am confident in saying that all those moments and memories I gained these past four years are truly worth it and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.

I want to pay tribute to all those individuals that have paved this path for me over these years. First, I want to thank God. Without his presence in my life none of this would have been possible. I am humbled to have grown up in a household that put God first and acknowledged Him for bringing us the good times and pushing us through the hard times.

I am thankful that He gave me a family that continues to push me no matter what circumstances stand before me. That's where my parents come in. Mom and Dad, if it weren't for you I would not be here. (Laughter) But, more importantly, I would not have learned what it means to have a strong work ethic and strive for success. You have taught me to always improve and be the best version of myself and for that I am forever grateful.

I want to thank my grandparents for being a guiding force throughout my life, especially my grandfather who never fails to amaze me with his own life experiences and wisdom and my late grandmother who showed me love and always demonstrated true wisdom and discipline a woman who I will always model my life after. I love both of you and I hope I can make you proud in the time to come.

When times got tough I had my siblings by my side to get me through them. My brother Sean and my sisters Sheena and Shannon, as well as my sister-in-law, Regina, thank you for always being there for me and being the models of service that I witness every day.

For all my family and loved ones far and near, without your presence in my life and your continued support I would not be the man I am today.

Being a volunteer for the Department of Veterans Affairs has undoubtedly been a roller coaster ride. And I am so grateful that it became the volunteering opportunity that I love so much.

From serving coffee in the front lobby to greeting patients at the radiology clinic desk to, ultimately, developing a passion for physical therapy through the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department, these small memories have snowballed into an experience that I wish that more students my age could discover.

For that I want to acknowledge a few pivotal people. I want to give a special shout-out to Mr. Michael Daugherty for making my entire volunteer experience possible and for laying the framework for what has been an incredible with the VA.

My mentors and preceptors, Dr. Robin (undistinguishable), Sergeant Claytor, Ms. Nogaras, Dr. Salinas, Dr. Dee, Lauren, Dean, Jose, Karen and Gus. You have been the most exceptional individuals that have given me the tools and skills that I will keep for the rest of my life.

As the veterans come home and seek help and care for all their needs they come to places like the VA to do just that. The most defining moments of my volunteering experience was witnessing firsthand the progression of health and mental wellbeing that our heroes truly deserve.

So, out of all these thank yous and moments of gratitude, I truly believe the greatest thanks goes to you all. Serving our nation's heroes has been a privilege and honor. And my experiences with the many and proud Americans that have and continue to lay down their lives for us and for our freedom are those that I would never trade for anything in the world.

I only wish to dedicate my life in service of our heroes however and whenever I can. Because of you all and the sacrifices you have made I am proud to be a citizen of the United States. Thank you and God bless. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you. Keep up the good work. Congratulations, Shane, and to all of our scholarship winners. Let's give them a big round of applause. (Applause)

Member of the DAV and the DAV Auxiliary are, without a doubt, among the most dedicated and caring volunteers in our nation. They don't volunteer for the recognition. They do it because they have an enormous amount of compassion towards our veterans and want to assist in fulfilling our promises to those who served.

The role of our volunteers cannot be overstated. And it is my pleasure to announce the winners of the 2016 George H. Seal Memorial Trophy. Winning this year's DAV George Seal Award is Navy veteran Horace Scott, Jr.. (Applause)

Horace has volunteered for more than 26 years and has given more than 24,000 volunteer hours to his fellow veterans at the VA Connecticut health care system.

Although Horace began his work with DAV as a volunteer driver, he has volunteered in many different capacities and at various times—from nights to weekends. When it comes to taking care of veterans, Horace is everywhere for everyone.

His dedication and loyalty of service has a direct positive influence on patient morale, as many of his volunteer efforts impacts the physical and recreational care of the patients he assists.

Horace is always willing to share his experience, knowledge and wisdom with other volunteers. And his infectious attitude has helped inspire more people to join him. He is a friend to the veterans and the volunteers. A life member of Chapter 12 in Hartford, Connecticut, Horace is truly deserving of this distinguished award.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to present the George H. Seal Memorial Trophy to Horace Scott, Jr.. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Scott advanced to the podium to accept the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. HORACE SCOTT, JR.: Thank you very much for this opportunity. May God bless the DAV and the United States of America. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you.

MR. JOE CANZANELLA: Hi. My name is Joe Canzanella. I work at the VA in Newington, Connecticut. And I just want to say a couple of words because that is all we have time for I was told.

But Horace is an extremely young gentleman that gives his every-day effort and he comes to the hospital and he puts joys on everybody's faces. Without Horace and other people like Horace, I don't know what we would do at the hospitals because he is very important. He comes five days a week, like they said, sometimes on weekends with me. He is just like a brother to me.

And the most important thing about Horace, he is quiet. He is shy. But when it comes to talking to a veteran and helping a veteran, he does it.

I've been there 38 years. And now this is the second person—listen very carefully—the second person who has won the George H. Seal Award from Newington, Connecticut. And thanks to the State of Connecticut, Department, please, if they are here stand up and let them get a round of applause because working together we're one.

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

MR. CANZANELLA: Thank you very much.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you. Thank you, Horace. And, again, congratulations. This year's Auxiliary George H. Seal Memorial Trophy winner is Jeannie Kyle, a devoted volunteer at the VA medical center in Spokane, Washington.

Jeannie began her volunteer work with DAV in 1987 by first volunteering at the DAV "Forget-me-Not" donation table. And it was there she found her life's passion—to interact with and to support veterans.

And with her husband, a brother and a stepson who are veterans, Jeannie stays extremely motivated in her work and continues to make sure veterans from all eras receive the support that DAV and the Auxiliary offer.

Jeannie has been the Hospital Service Coordinator for the past eleven years, as well as accumulating over 13,000 volunteer hours.

Jeannie is also actively involved in her unit's community service projects, and for many years she helped cook and serve at the monthly luncheons.

Jeannie is a three-time past commander of the DAV Auxiliary Unit 45 in Spokane, Washington, and is now a member with Washington State.

I am very proud to present the Auxiliary George H. Seal Memorial Trophy to Jeannie Kyle. I would like to ask Auxiliary Senior Vice Commander Fran Costa to join us at the podium for the presentation.

(Whereupon, Auxiliary Senior Vice Commander Costa and Mrs. Kyle advanced to the podium to accept the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MRS. JEANNIE KYLE: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MRS. KYLE: It's a great honor to be here. As the HSC for our facility when I went to work there volunteering in 2004 I found that we had a few difugelties (sic) that needed a little work. One of them was the fact that we were doing what we thought was a great job getting veterans to their appointments but not everybody at the facility actually realized that we were there and that we needed to all work together. And so I started working on that.

I also found that without DAV we wouldn't have any vans to get our veterans to their appointments and without all of the volunteer drivers that our veterans and our vans didn't get to their appointments and whatnot. So we started actively working on trying to recruit more drivers.

Then a little ways down the line I discovered that on the frontline as volunteers we do more than just push a patient in a wheelchair to his appointment at the hospital, that we go to their home to pick them up or to a pickup point and get them to their designated place to be.

Our catchment area in Spokane has 66,000 miles. Last year our drivers put in 161,000 miles. And they listened to the veterans that they were transporting on their way to their appointments. They discovered that we had a few veterans that were falling through the cracks, that really felt that there wasn't a reason for them to be here anymore. They translated that to myself or to some of the staff at the hospital so that we could get them into the services that they really needed.

As a driver you are the first line of defense looking at someone who is getting on the van. I look at some of you sitting out here. I don't know a whole lot about you. But as a driver you learn that there is a lot of things going on with a veteran because they are talking.

One of the things may be that, you know, maybe the person you are picking up doesn't necessary smell as well as you think they do. Well, maybe he can't get to his washing machine or into a shower at home. So those are some of the things that the 45 drivers that I have that volunteer in the DAV program ask a few questions, look at some of our veterans that need assistance and then they relay it to those of us that maybe know where we can get them some help.

So, I really, truly, want to thank you for all of the donations that you collect and turn over for our vans, for all of the other programs that you help with. And, again, this is one of the greatest honors that has ever been bestowed on me. And I want to thank you very, very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Jeannie. Thank you and congratulations, again.

At this time, it is an honor and a pleasure to introduce the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Robert A. McDonald. Secretary McDonald is a 1975 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and an alumnus of the University of Utah where he earned an MBA.

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

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

Nominated by President Barack Obama as the eighth Secretary of Veterans Affairs on June the 30th, he was confirmed by the United States Senate on July the 29th, 2014.

Since taking on his role as a VA secretary, Secretary McDonald has expanded veterans' access by increasing staffing, productivity and VA Community Care.

He also focused on driving down the disability claims backlog and progressed toward an effective end to veterans' homeless through proven prevention and treatment services and the development of an unprecedented partnership, vital networks and collaborative relationships across the federal government, state and local governments, also, and with non-profit organizations such as DAV.

Ladies and gentlemen, I always had the pleasure—he is the only VA Secretary that I spent a lot of time with. I want you to give him a round of applause like no other to our Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Robert A. McDonald, a/k/a Bob. (Standing Ovation)

THE HONORABLE ROBERT A. McDONALD: Thank you very much. Commander Moses McIntosh, thank you for that kind introduction.

You know, your Commander, your National Commander and I both have the same belief about leadership—you can't know what is going on unless you get around the country to all the various sites. And I have seen your National Commander in various sites this year. In fact, I think he thinks I was stalking him. (Laughter) But I think it was just our similar philosophy in leadership.

I want to join all of you in honoring Linda Stake. We are all saddened at Linda's passing. I know she was a beloved leader, advocate, and devoted friend of all veterans. May God bless her and her family.

Marc Burgess, Barry Jesinoski, Garry Augustine, Pat Kemper, good morning. Fellow veterans, colleagues, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for that warm welcome.

Monday you'll hear from President Obama. So please join me tomorrow in giving him a warm welcome. No one has done more than the President and the First Lady for veterans. Theirs has been an unwavering commitment to both the letter and the spirit of President Lincoln's charge to care for those "who have borne the battle," and their families.

Two weeks ago in the East Room of the White House I watched the President present the Medal of Honor to those who have "borne the battle"—Vietnam veteran and helicopter pilot Charles Kettles. What an amazing story and what a humble man.

In 1967 Major Kettles volunteered to lead his flight of Hueys into the middle of a vicious firefight, to carry reinforcements in, and to carry the wounded out. His flight made the trip three times. And then Major Kettles went back once more, alone—alone, the only aircraft. Single ship, no cover, overloaded with those soldiers he was rescuing, leaking fuel, tail damaged, main rotor damaged, windshields gone. Indomitable courage, resolve, grit.

But here's the point—and please listen closely—veterans are the only ones who really know what it means to stand on that dangerous ground between freedom and tyranny. Some people miss that, but it's the heart of the matter.

This time two years ago people who had cut their teeth on Washington politics were asking me, "Why do you want to be the VA Secretary?" I told them there is no higher calling. There's no more noble mission. I want to make a lasting and positive difference in the lives of my fellow veterans.

After confirmation my first stop was Phoenix. My next stop was Las Vegas where I gave my first address as Secretary to the Disabled American Veterans. I haven't forgotten. In fact, I've depended on the encouragement and the advice of you and your leaders that you've given me and time and time again since that important time. And I still do.

It's why I always stay at your Mid-Winter Conference until everyone leaves. In fact, I remember this year as I was getting ready to leave and I think everyone in the room was tired I heard your Executive Director say, "Okay, he's gone. We can pack up now." (Laughter)

But the reason I stay is I need to hear what you have to say. I want to use your ideas in transforming the VA. I need to know how VA looks from your perspective, not from Washington, D.C.

And here's what I said in Las Vegas, "Coming face-to-face with the reality some veterans have endured isn't a disaster. It's a great opportunity. And it's a rare opportunity we can't miss, nor can we underestimate it." And we haven't.

Across 23 cities I have consulted thousands of veterans, VA employees, other stakeholders and VSO leaders. And we talked about how to shape our MyVA transformation so that VA would be the best able to serve your needs as veterans.

I tell you this because it's important you understand. This isn't my strategy. It's yours. It's not about me. It's about you. It reflects your ideals, your insights, and your innovations.

Now you've heard many times that VA is broken. So let me answer one simple question. Can the Department of Veterans Affairs be fixed? Can it be transformed?

(Response of "Yes.")

SECRETARY McDONALD: The answer is yes. Absolutely. And it's important you know that. Not only can it be transformed, but transformation is well underway and we're already seeing results.

Changing VA meant changing leadership. So it's important you know that 13 of our top 17 executives are new since I became Secretary. These are world-class, enthusiastic business leaders and health care professionals. And eight of them are veterans like you and like me.

It's important you know that since early last year our new MyVA Advisory Committee has been helping guide this transformation. Committee members have brought extensive experience in medicine, in government, in veteran advocacy, in customer service, and in organizational change.

They're veterans like Major General Joe Robles, retired major general from the U.S. Army and retired president and CEO of USAA. And he spent 30 years in the Army. Other members include Dr. Richard Carmona, the 17th Surgeon General of the United States, a Special Forces veteran in Vietnam, a recipient of the Purple Heart.

Or Navy veteran Dr. Connie Mariano, the first military woman to serve as White House physician to the President. And Connie's cared for three Presidents of the United States. She was the first woman director of the White House medical unit. And she's the first Filipino American promoted to Navy Rear Admiral.

Now these are innovative and respected leaders. They know business. They know customer service. And they know veterans.

It's important you know that we're collaborating with world-class institutions like Johnson and Johnson, USAA, Starbucks, NASA, Kaiser Permanente, Hospital Corporation of America, Virginia Mason, and many others.

It's important you know that we've partnered with respected organizations like the YMCA, the Elks, the PenFed Foundation, LinkedIn, Coursera, Google, Walgreens, academic institutions and many, many more.

Over the last two years we've helped build a new network of 68 community veteran engagement boards or CVEBs, as we call them. CVEBs are local partnership meetings where veterans' needs as well as VA employees get together to discuss the needs of veterans in that community and make sure we allocate the resources of the VA to meet those customized needs. Our goal is to have 100 CVEBs across the country by the end of the year. If your community doesn't yet have one, let's get on it.

We've been working closely with 4,000 public and private partnerships to end veterans' homelessness. We've launched our 25 Cities initiative in March of 2014. A few months later First Lady Michelle Obama announced the Mayor's Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness. Get this. Over 880 mayors, governors, county and city officials, have accepted the challenge.

These partnerships are why 28 communities and two states have achieved an effective end to veterans' homelessness. They're why over 360,000 veterans and their families have been housed, rehoused, or prevented from falling into homelessness. We're talking about kids getting their moms and dads back.

Rudy's combat in Iraq and Afghanistan wracked him with PTSD. And he ended up in jail and then he ended up homeless. Now he's working on his bachelor of arts in social work. And he says life with his family is the best that it's ever been.

Lonnie went from sleeping in his car. Now he's got a job. He's got a home. And he's got hope. And because of Lonnie's success his company is now hiring other formerly homeless veterans.

Everyone wants to succeed, and success is contagious. It's part of the reason veteran unemployment has dropped by half in the last five years. And unemployment for post-9/11 veterans has dropped by more than 70 percent.

Veterans' homelessness nationwide is down by 36 percent since 2010, based on last year's numbers. The President will report this year's numbers for you tomorrow. We're expecting to see accelerated progress.

So these are powerful, productive partnerships that are working for veterans. We know they work because of what we saw in Los Angeles, the worst city in the country for homelessness. Last year in L.A. we cut veterans' homelessness by more than 30 percent—about four times the rate of decline of the previous years. (Applause)

So all that's a product of new leadership, innovative collaboration, and expanded partnerships all important for you to know.

Now let me talk about VA health care. You already know VA is the largest integrated health care system in the country. We have a unique lifetime relationship with our 9 million patients and a single electronic health record across the entire enterprise. Nobody else offers that.

Our mental health care is integrated with primary care, with specialty care, and with psycho-social support to minimize barriers and help resolve problems early. Nobody else offers that.

VA health care is whole veteran health care body, mind, soul customized to meet the veteran needs. Yoga? Acupuncture? Sports therapy? Music therapy? Writing and art therapy? We validate and embrace what works to heal veterans.

And VA care is integrated with non-medical determinants of health that people often miss. I'm talking about education services, career transition support, disability compensation, and many, many others. Nobody—nobody—offers all of that.

Let me talk about access to VA health care. You should know we're changing our system to proactive, holistic health care and wellness. It's time we get beyond just reacting to disease when it happens.

You should know that more veterans are coming to VA for their care and waiting less time.

You should know that last year veterans had nearly 5 million more appointments than the previous year. Almost 57 million were in VA facilities and over 21 million were VA Care in the Community.

Last March veterans set a record for completed appointments 5.3 million inside the VA 730,000 more than in March of 2014.

Last March veterans were issued 370,000 authorizations for Care in the Community twice as many as in March of 2014. Those authorizations represent more than 2 million appointments for veterans in the months ahead.

Ninety-seven percent of the appointments are now completed within 30 days of the veterans' preferred date; 91 percent within 14 days; 85 percent within 7 days; and 22 percent get this, 22 percent—are completed the very same day.

Now you should know that the average wait time for primary care around the country is five days, six days for specialty care, and two days for mental health care. And by December you can expect same-day access in primary care and mental health care.

By the way, VA's the only health care system that publicly reports on wait times as a measure of access.

Ninety percent of veterans we surveyed are "satisfied or completely satisfied" with the timeliness of their care. But we won't be satisfied until we get to 100 percent.

So we are making important progress, advancing along all these lines and many others. But you rarely see that in the headlines. You'd never know we lead in many fields of research that benefit all Americans, not just veterans: post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, prosthetics, genetics, and I could go on.

You'd never know that the American Customer Satisfaction Index rated your National Cemetery Administration Number 1 in customer service five years running. (Applause)

You'd never know—you'd never know that J.D. Power rated your mail-order pharmacy best in the country in customer satisfaction six years running—better than Walmart, better than CVS, better than Walgreens, better than anybody. (Applause)

Not too long ago all you heard about was the disability claims backlog—611,000 claims more than 125 days old. Today, that backlog is down 90 percent and the average time waiting for a completed claim is down 65 percent. (Applause)

How'd we do that? Well, we added staff; we adjusted policies; and we designed an automated claims processing system. The point is we are eliminating the bureaucracy and the unproductive work and we are encouraging innovative approaches.

We're promoting best practices in health care and sharing them across the entire health care system. Department-wide leader training is instilling lasting change. And private-sector leadership experts are teaching VA teams Lean Six Sigma and Human-Centered Design. These are cutting-edge business skills for the 21st Century, long overdue at VA.

And all that work, all that's the work of some industrious, devoted people employees and leaders and many of them are veterans. They're building the high-performing, veteran-centric, customer-centric enterprise you veterans and we veterans deserve. But you never read about that.

Listen to some people and we'd never know there is a decent person working at the VA veteran or otherwise. Well, as you can imagine, as your National Commander and I go across the country these last two years I've met and I've talked with thousands of VA employees in over 300 locations in fact, about 320 locations many of them veterans just like you and just like me.

They're people like Victor Vasquez, a groundskeeper at the Fort Bliss National Cemetery who put a tree where an older veteran wished to see one shading his wife's grave.

Cathy DeNobile is a nurse with our D.C. Home-Based Primary Care office. A veteran she serves suffers from severe Post-Traumatic Stress. He doesn't get out much so Cathy takes him a holiday dinner every Thanksgiving and every Christmas.

Chuck Malden is an emergency room nurse at the Salisbury VAMC here in North Carolina, I'm sorry, in North Carolina. We're in Georgia. (Laughter) Boy, I'd be in trouble with that comment later when Senator Johnny Isakson is here. (Laughter) He'd probably ask for my impeachment. (Laughter) Chuck literally gave a veteran the shoes off his feet to help heal the veteran's blisters.

James Barger's a cemetery technician at Mountain Home National Cemetery in Tennessee. On one particular rainy day, James gave a visitor the boots off his feet so she could make her way to her grandfather's grave. He was a veteran of World War II.

Patrice Green and Marissa Jones are social workers at the VA Health Care for Homeless Veterans program here in Atlanta. They didn't just house their homeless veteran, they worked on their own for nearly a year to find his family. They were reunited after 22 years apart. He had no idea that he was an uncle.

Nurse Grace, also in Atlanta, noticed a subtle change in her veteran during a home visit so she asked. And the veteran longed for his son that he hadn't seen in 18 years. Again, she worked on her own to find the veteran's son and to unite them. He got his son back and he got some grandkids too.

Now, why do VA employees do that? Why do they do that? Because veterans need them. Because they care. Because that's what we're about. Listen, our employees are good people. I'm proud of them. They care about us as veterans. They want to serve us well. And we are equipping them for success.

Now, they're not all perfect, not by a long shot. But it's a gross misrepresentation to cherry-pick the worst and hold them up like they represent all VA employees, just like it's a gross misrepresentation to hold up a bad veteran to represent all of us. It's a distortion that sells papers but it's a distortion that hurts veterans and it hurts the good people caring for them.

Now, some claim that there is no accountability at the VA. Well, I'd like to tell you to tell that to the VA employee in Augusta, Georgia, recently convicted of falsifying health care records convicted. He's facing sentencing that will include years in prison and hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines.

We've terminated over 3,750 employees in two years. (Applause) And I've got to tell you there are some people who think that if we fire more people, if we fire them faster, if we fire more, that everything will be fine. It's not true. We can't fire our way to excellence.

Over my 33 years in the private sector, running one of the largest and most admired companies in the world, I've never encountered an organization where firing people was a measure of leadership. Now, consequences for behavior inconsistent with our values are a part of effective leadership.

But we won't punish people based on opinions, recycled and embellished media accounts, political pressure or external pressure. It's not in the best interest of the veterans we serve.

Excellence is what we're after. So the right dialogue is about forward-looking leadership and sustainable accountability. Sustainable accountability gives you positive outcomes. It's leaders and supervisors providing routine daily feedback, just like we remember in well-led, well-trained military units.

It's ensuring employees understand how daily work supports our mission, our values and our strategy. It's training leaders to lead and our employees to exceed expectations your expectations, my expectations every single day.

It's recognizing what is going well and coaching and retraining when improvement is necessary. And, yes—yes, it's taking corrective action when it's warranted and supported by evidence. These are pretty simple concepts for veterans. These same principles built the greatest fighting force in the history.

We all want to look back at 2016 as the year we turned the corner for veterans. And we're committed to doing everything we can for veterans with everything we are given. But there are some things we can't do without the help of Congress.

It's important you know the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a budget nearly equal to the President's request. But the House proposed a budget that was a \$1.5 billion reduction. This reduction would hurt veterans. It would impede critical initiatives to transform the VA into a high-performing organization that you deserve.

In fact, there are more than 100 legislative proposals for veterans in the President's 2017 budget many are absolutely vital to maintaining our ability to purchase non-VA care.

Only Congress can modernize and clarify our purchased care authorities so there is a strong foundation for your access to community care in the years ahead. Only Congress can clear the way for us to streamline our Care in the Community systems and programs.

We submitted our plan last October yes, October of 2015. But we need Congressional action to execute it. Only Congress can enact legislation so we can better compete with the private sector and get the best medical professionals to choose to serve veterans.

And only Congress can modernize the archaic appeals process.

Last year the Board was adjudicating an appeal that originated 25 years ago. And it's been decided more than 27 times. Under current law with no significant change in resources, the number of veterans awaiting a decision will soar by 179 percent by 2027 from 500,000 to nearly 1.3 million.

So, VA, DAV and other veteran service organizations, the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, and other veterans' advocates shaped a streamlined, simplified and fair appeals plan.

It's your plan. It's my plan. We've urged ambitious action by Congress. And we need them to pass this law. The legislation costs nothing. It's free. And it will be more efficient and less costly over time. In five years you could have appeals resolved within one year of the filing one year.

What's the alternative? Devote more resources to the broken system and fund more employees to administer it. And you'll be waiting 10 years for a final decision on your appeal. That's unacceptable to me. And I bet it's unacceptable to you. (Applause)

These proposals and others like them require congressional action. And VSOs like DAV can get it done. Eighty-six years ago this month VSOs made the Veterans Bureau happen. Nine years later VSOs made the Veterans Administration happen. VSOs got us the GI Bill. You got us the Montgomery GI Bill. You got us the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

You're why President Reagan made VA a Department—giving all of us “a seat at the table of our national affairs.” And you're the ones who can keep veterans in control of how, when and where they wish to be served. And that's what MyVA is all about.

Some have argued VA can best serve veterans by shutting down VA health care altogether. They argue that closing VHA is the “bold transformation” that veterans and their families need, want, and deserve.

(Response of “No.”)

SECRETARY McDONALD: I suspect that proposal serves some parties pretty well, somewhere. But it's not transformational. It's more along the lines of dereliction. It doesn't serve veterans well and it doesn't sit well with me.

Now, you're going to hear lots more recommendations about VA's future. Make sure there's substance to these discussions—that they're about veterans' interests and not some ideology or something else. Make sure they're anchored to the service and sacrifice, the sense of duty and honor that veterans represent and only veterans can understand.

It's your VA. It's your VA. It always has been. God bless you and your families. God bless veterans. And God bless the United States of America. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. We're talking about legacies now. The legacy of Wilson family is one that will continue to benefit generations of veterans to come. In addition to all Art and his wife Mary have contributed to DAV, their name will be remembered and used to address one of the most important issues facing the veteran community.

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

For some who fought to defend our freedom and prosperity, getting a job is not enough. For them full participation in the “American Dream” means starting their own company and creating employment opportunities for their fellow veterans.

This year, the Arthur H. and Mary E. Wilson Award for Top Venture Impacting Veterans is awarded to a veteran-owned operation who did exceptionally well in the business plan competition in the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities or EBV.

Founded in 2007 by the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University, the EBV offers cutting-edge experience and training in startup and small business management to veterans with disabilities. The EBV program's business plan competition mirrors DAV's mission of empowering veterans to live 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.” This award recognizes a disabled veteran who has taken on the challenge of starting his or her own business and has set an example for others to follow.

The 2016 recipient had a unique vision when he started his own venture. Ottosen and Company exists to ensure every veteran has one of the most important things critical for a fulfilling life a home.

Ryan Ottosen, a fellow disabled veteran and United States Marine, founded the real estate and property management company in 2013. His wife, Traci, serves as vice president of the organization and as the director of community relationships.

Ryan and Traci are very aware of the veterans' homelessness epidemic gripping our country. So they founded the Veterans Affairs Supported Housing or VASH Network. This is a national network focusing on housing professionals who are linked together across our country. These real estate and mortgage specialists are dedicated to preventing and ending veterans' homelessness.

They do this by providing safe and affordable rental housing, credit repair, prequalifications, housing education, and a pathway to home ownership. The VASH Network works hand-in-hand with the VA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Ottosen and Company is also active in their local community. Continuing to live a life fueled by service, as many veterans and families do, their "Give Where You Live" initiative is a program that allows the organization to better the lives of their neighbors.

Active community volunteers, the Ottosens demonstrate that having a good home is just part of the equation. A supportive and vibrant community is what makes a home complete.

I'll now invite Ryan and Traci Ottosen to the stage and ask Jeff Hall to help present this award. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. and Mrs. Ottosen were joined by Adjutant Burgess, Commander McIntosh, and Jeff Hall, and an official photograph was taken.)

MS. TRACI OTTOSEN: Thank you. I just want to take a minute to thank Jeff and the DAV for their support and believing in us and our mission. I want to thank each and every one of you in this room for what you guys do every single day.

And I want to thank my husband for his sacrifice to our country and our family because without him I wouldn't be up here today. I'm a proud wife of a United States Marine. And I thank him. (Applause)

MR. RYAN OTTOSEN: Thank you. There are very few moments in life where you get to stand in a room full of greatness and I believe that there are even fewer moments in life where you get to stand in the presence of God. And there are even more rare moments where the two combine. And I believe at this very second I am standing in a room full of greatness, surrounded by God. (Applause)

Through a period of my life over the last couple of years I am often asked why or how do you get involved with housing veterans and what did that look like. And I don't think I knew for a long time. I just didn't have an answer.

Then I thought about it one day. I've always owned a home. I've been fortunate. As soon as I got out of the Marine Corps the first time I bought a home. I sold the home after 9/11 and I went back into the Marine Corps. I got home in 2003 and I bought another home.

From 2003 to 2006 and '07 was a pretty dark period of my life but yet I owned a home. And so when I was acting a fool or being less than honorable, there was nobody there to kick me out. I always paid my mortgage. I was always lucky. I didn't have neighbors complaining. I didn't have landlords asking me to leave.

And when I met my beautiful bride and we started our real estate company I didn't really understand property management and the full power that that had. I saw it as a way to provide for my family and earn an income.

But as I started learning about a product that the VA puts out called VASH, the Veterans Affordable and Safe Housing, I suddenly realized that I could help other veterans.

And then when I started doing the research I realized that there is a 22 percent success rate across all other services everything. Crime goes down. Abuse goes down. Alcoholism goes down. Everything gets better for the veteran when they have a place to live.

And I looked at my wife and I said, "This is just something we have to do. It's not optional. If we have to make less money to provide this, then that's what we will do." And so I enrolled in the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities and just got after it.

I enlisted in the Marine Corps as a machine gunner after turning down college scholarships. So when they told me I had to write a business plan I was ready to go back to bootcamp, if that tells you anything. (Laughter)

When we decided to compete in the competition there was only one award I wanted only one. It wasn't about the financial impact. It was about what the award stood for. And to be blessed and honored with an award that says "Top Business Venture Impacting the Lives of Other Veterans" how should I not go after that one?

So to stand up in this room full of amazing people doing amazing things, to be awarded an award that says I, Ryan Ottosen, along with my wife and my children, Tristan and Trevor, am impacting the lives of other veterans, I'm humbled beyond belief.

As I sit around the room and I read your logo Fulfilling our Promises, I can look you, each and every one of you right in the eye and say you have fulfilled your promise to me and my family so thank you. (Applause)

You are doing great work. Keep it up. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you. Thank you. Good job. Amazing story, wasn't it? Now, as I was saying, I've got another surprise for you, the members. I have a very unique surprise for all of you now. It begins with a story.

In 1945 on a rocky outcropping on the Island of Okinawa, Army Private First Class Desmond Doss endured a living hell. On a jagged slope, his fellow soldiers took many devastating hits from enemy artillery, mortar and machine-gun fire. Doss, a medic, is credited for recovering 75 casualties from a fire-swept area to the safety of a rope-supported litter down the face of a cliff.

For his service he was awarded the Medal of Honor among other awards for heroism. Amazingly, Doss was a conscientious objector—the first of his kind to receive the nation's highest honor.

He was also a longtime DAV member who suffered from the wounds that earned him three Purple Hearts and the even deeper scars of war that impacted he and his family for generations.

Last night many of us were treated to a special screening of what will surely be a Hollywood blockbuster about Desmond Doss. Hacksaw Ridge, which will be released in November in time for Veterans' Day, stars Andrew Garfield, Vince Vaughn, Sam Worthington and others.

Let's take a quick preview.

(Whereupon, a video trailer for Hacksaw Ridge was viewed.)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: In addition to illustrating the bravery and sacrifices of our nation's veterans, the film has a special giveback mission. It was my honor to endorse former DAV National Chaplain Ron "Chappy" Ringo as a subject-matter-expert to help lead this effort.

As Ron told me, the producers and cast of Hacksaw Ridge are committed to using the movie to make communities aware of the issues veterans face after surviving the horrors of war.

Ron will be working with DAV and community groups at the grassroots level to educate and encourage people to welcome veterans home and show their appreciation in meaningful ways.

Here to add a few words are two Hollywood heavyweights who are using their celebrity and the film to bring greater awareness to the issues veterans face. And I told you, ladies and gentlemen, I got a surprise for you. Let's give a round, warm welcome to the film's director and one of its stars Mel Gibson and Vince Vaughn. (Standing Ovation)

MR. MEL GIBSON: Al right. Wow. Well, thank you. Thanks for the warm welcome. I can't tell you how proud and privileged I am to be in the presence of veterans. And I just, you know, first off just want to say thank you for your service and thank you for your sacrifice.

You know I've because of your sacrifice I didn't have to go. You know. But over the years and even as a young man I've talked to veterans. When I was a kid I was talking to the World War I guys and getting their stories because as research.

And it took me on this journey of discovery about the experience of men who have to go into these conflicts and the women who have to go into these conflicts and the families of the people who go into these conflicts and gave me a special understanding.

My dad was in, you know, Guadalcanal, so there is the World War II guys I've spoken to and then there is the Vietnam guys when I worked with General Moore on We Were Soldiers. And the (Applause)

And I was struck with every generation that I've spoken to by the indelible mark left on their hearts and minds and souls by the experiences they went through and how underserved they are in sort of dealing or with being helped to deal with these issues.

And it is certainly my hope that making this film and we showed it to 200 of your leaders last night. It was an unfinished version but I was gratified to see that many found it cathartic and helpful as far as the issue of PTSD and just you know dealing with the experiences of the hellish experiences of war. And I made it graphic so that people would really be able to appreciate what it must be like to be in a situation like that.

So it's my hope that this film will bring awareness to the plight of veterans and it's underserved. And our stories in art and film can actually change things. So that's my hope.

And with the help of all of you and Ron Ringo and Commander McIntosh here and folks like that we can actually get more awareness and do something and make a difference. Thanks. Vince. (Applause)

MR. VINCE VAUGHN: It's great to be with you guys. My father was in the service, so was my sister, a lot of my family members were. I've been overseas to Iraq and Afghanistan with the USO many times so I was really thrilled to be included in this with such a great director as Mel bringing attention to these stories.

And you know with it coming out in November and that being Veterans Day hopefully in a small way this will bring some awareness and be a celebration of all the great sacrifice and great things that all of you have given to us. So thanks so much and great to be with you. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Mr. Gibson and Mr. Vaughn withdrew from the podium and greeted all the members of the DAV and DAV Auxiliary on the stage before calling out goodbye to the membership.)

MR. GIBSON: Okay, bye. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. VAUGHN: Thank you so much, guys. (Applause)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you, Vince. (Applause) Was that a surprise?

(Response of "Yes.")

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: I'm full of surprises. But I'm here to make you all happy. Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, your DAV continues to rise. And leading our organization during these transformative days is a veteran I am honored to introduce.

This past year has been busy for all of us. It's been a time of evolution, with our organization taking on greater responsibilities in the areas of advocacy, employment and outreach.

While many established veterans organizations are struggling, DAV is on the rise. Our membership continues to rise incrementally toward new landmarks. Our voice is increasingly prominent and prolific while remaining the most trusted on Capitol Hill.

Our services continue to make the most relevant impact in the lives of veterans. And we have developed new resources to ensure the heroes and families we serve receive the best possible representation.

At the helm of our great ship is a thoughtful and diligent captain. And, ladies and gentlemen, he is very thoughtful and diligent. He is like me. He has the love of the people you, the members our National Adjutant Marc Burgess.

He has continued to provide DAV both the dedicated professionalism and compassionate leadership necessary to manage our day-to-day operations, as well as a clear vision for the future of our organization.

Under his direction, we have grown as an organization and we are charting a new path to success. For our charity, and, more importantly, for the veterans, families and survivors we serve, Marc Burgess has been a caring and strategic leader.

In times like these, when the veteran community is in the greatest need of unity and strength, we are grateful for the solid hand of leadership he provides. It will no doubt carry us closer to achieving our mission and help us better serve our nation's veterans and their families.

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

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Thank you, Commander. Thank you, everyone. It is truly a great honor to serve as your National Adjutant.

It's been a momentous year and the hard work we're doing around the country has been paying off in the lives we've improved and the promises that were kept for our nation's heroes. It is only through their sacrifices that our nation can enjoy the tremendous liberties and prosperity we take for granted.

Through your dedication to our cause and through the will of our fellow citizens we've come a great distance in terms of recognizing those sacrifices. There is more work to be done, but it is equally important for us to focus on defending the advancements we have made after nearly a century of service and advocacy.

As many of you know, our country has a presidential election coming up—one that may very well decide the future of the VA and the benefits and services our veterans receive.

It can be easy to get caught up in the back-and-forth between candidates when it's nearly all that is being discussed in the media. At a time when so much is on the line and candidates push to show their leadership on key issues, I'm asking for your help in bringing our causes to light.

DAV's focus on service, legislative advocacy, employment, membership, and volunteerism have only grown sharper as veterans' need for support has become greater.

I'm remiss if I don't join my fellow DAV and Auxiliary members in voicing our sympathies to the family of Linda Stake. Linda was a true friend and an advocate for her fellow Auxiliary members and the DAV. Her passing is devastating to all of us who knew her and admired her. She'll remain in our hearts and our accomplishments over the last year honor her service and advocacy on behalf of all who serve.

Though with heavy hearts, now let's take a brief look at DAV's last year of work on behalf of veterans. We have charted a great deal of growth and progress for our organization, and you should all be proud to have been a part of these efforts. With that, let's take a look.

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

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I think we can all agree that this has been another banner year for DAV and for the men, women, families and survivors that we serve. We have had some major successes. And I believe, truly, the best is yet to come. We could simply not accomplish all we do without your hard work and continued dedication.

Looking back on the past year, it's remarkable to see how much faith the veteran community places in our organization and in our mission. Veterans, their families and survivors are the driving force behind every decision we make. And that must continue to be our focus for the next century of service and advocacy.

I'm so grateful to all the men and women out in the field who make what we do possible. It's because of you we were able to represent more than 300,000 benefits claims for veterans and their families over the past year. It is why, as you just saw, we have been entrusted with more than one million powers-of-attorney for veterans' disability claims.

It's why veterans are able to get to their hospital appointments and receive a special thank-you in VA facilities by volunteers who recognize their contributions. And it's why we stand out among other veterans' service organizations for the sheer volume of work that we do and for the quality of service we provide.

Another year of success is in the books. But I know you all well enough to know that that doesn't mean we are going to rest on our laurels. It means that we look to tomorrow and ask, "What can we do better? How can we continue to improve what we do?" I encourage you all to remain active and engaged. This is one of our greatest strengths—in service, in advocacy, in volunteer work, and in our efforts to build our membership.

A strong member base is the foundation of DAV. And as you can see, we continue to grow in number. This network of community service and leadership is the framework that allows us to be the best in the business.

Everything you do reflects credit upon our great organization. And I thank you for helping to build and preserve DAV's proud legacy of service and advocacy. You should all be exceptionally proud of your contributions to another incredible year.

Thank you, as well, for the opportunity you have given me to serve. And thank you, Commander, for your leadership and service representing our great cause. That concludes my report. (Applause)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you, Marc. The chair will entertain a motion to accept the National Adjutant's outstanding report. May I have a second.

MR. DANIEL OLIVER: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN MCINTOSH: Yes, sir.

MR. OLIVER: Danny Oliver, Delegate from Oklahoma, move to accept the Adjutant's report.

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

It is our honor each and every year to recognize an individual who through both their resolve and actions reflect DAV's commitment that no veteran should have to face the difficult road to recovery alone.

During his transition from service, the physical and emotional scars of war threw up some roadblocks for this individual but thanks to a true fighter's spirit did not stop him from achieving personal success while also giving back to the veteran community.

Ladies and gentlemen, for his work helping his fellow veterans overcome their physical, mental, and emotional hardship, as well as his patriotism and inspiring spirit, I am proud to introduce the 2016 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, Bobby Body. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a video outlining Bobby Body's service was viewed.)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm reception to our 2016 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, Bobby Body. (Standing Ovation)

MR. BOBBY BODY: Thank you. Thank you. Before I begin I'd like to recognize a specific person that has been my biggest supporter since my amputation and that would be my wife, Terry. (Applause)

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Disabled American Veterans for believing in me, for their trust in me, and for making myself and my family, my wife, Terry, my daughters, Adrienne and Madeline, and my sons Isaac and Jaden, feel as if we are part of something that is larger than anything. We have been made to feel as if we are a part of a family.

The DAV has inspired me to continue on with mission, to serve our nation and our heroes, to fight until I reach all the four corners of this great nation for those heroes.

The actions of service to veterans become as a domino effect, which is why I am standing here today. It was just my turn this time. So I salute you, DAV, for your continued service to myself and my family. (Applause)

As you saw in the video, I believe that anything is possible if you choose it to be possible. I am not one that believes in fate. The reason why I don't believe in fate is because God has given each and every one of us the ability to have free will.

And without that free will how are we able to ever make our own decisions in life? How will we ever know what is right from wrong? Why help anybody? Fate will determine the path of least resistance, right? That's wrong.

We all have the ability to choose our own path in life. We all have the ability to make our own decisions and we can either choose to help ourselves, our neighbor, our brothers, our sisters, or our fellow veterans.

Knowing the history of wars we chose the path of most resistance by fighting for the freedoms that each and every one of us have today here in the United States. And that's what makes this country great.

Ever since I first joined the military, I have implanted in my very being that defeat and retreat will never, ever, nor will it ever, be in my vocabulary. Those are words that I will never understand. I will never give up helping or advocating for veterans and their families.

I will gladly continue this field of battle and to fight for the rights of all veterans of all eras. I will always draw strength from what I have learned from my military experience. Through blood, sweat and tears the one thing I have learned from Day 1 in the military is I will never leave a comrade.

No matter how hard life may seem, anything is possible. I may fail 100 veterans, but if I can just reach that one veteran and make a difference in that one veteran's life, then that will be my legacy.

In the movie Any Given Sunday Al Pacino stated that life is about the six inches in front of your face and you have to be willing to fight and die for those six inches. Those six inches is the difference between winning and losing, living and dying. And if I am going to have any life left, it's because I'm still willing to die for those six inches. And when you look at the person next to you, you will always see someone willing to die for those six inches.

And when joining the military we are all challenged to memorize specific creeds in life. And for myself I challenge myself with my own creeds. Defeat will never be in my creed. I will endeavor the honor and respect of my fellow veterans. They are my comrades as we shared the same blood and the same mud.

I will reach as many—I will reach out to as many as I possibly can and to help not let them fall. I will help as many as I can to help them not feel alone. I will do my utmost not to let them down. Never will I let you down.

Life was difficult for myself. My mother left when I was five years old. My father went to prison when I was ten years old. I lived in an orphanage until, from ten years old until I graduated from high school. And because of specific laws I was not allowed to be adopted and I was not allowed to go to a specific foster care.

So growing up without any family on either side—my mother's side or my father's side—I have had to deal with adversity throughout my life. But joining the military I have learned how to fight and overcome any adversity.

So I, again, thank you, Disabled American Veterans, for helping me overcome all my adversities.

And there is an ultra-marathon runner that stated as I was watching the Olympic trials on TV, he said, "Run when you can. Walk if you have to. Crawl if you must. Just never give up." Thank you from the bottom of my heart and from the Body family. I will always salute you.

(Whereupon, Mr. Body saluted the membership, followed by a standing ovation.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: At this time I want to read you the citation:

"DAV is honored to recognize your extraordinary commitment to veterans, your local community and the nation. Your resilience and determination to succeed following your return from military service, including a combat tour in Iraq, your optimism and your strength of character have provided inspiration to your fellow injured veterans and their families.

"Through tireless dedication to meeting goals in your personal and professional life, you set an exceptional example for others to follow. You have shown true dedication to your fellow veterans in your local community and across the country, placing special focus on overcoming post-traumatic stress disorder and the amputee experience for our nation's heroes.

"Despite the challenges you face as a result of your injuries and experiences, you continue to put the needs of other veterans first and have devoted your life to their well-being. Your humble spirit and positive attitude are a living example and a testament to DAV's mission of empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

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

Thank you very much.

MR. BODY: Thank you, sir.

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

MR. BODY: Thank you.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: That's one heck of an accomplishment. I will now ask the National Adjutant to read DAV's Statement of Policy, the list of committee advisors who I have appointed and who received the approval of the National Executive Committee at its most recent meeting, and to make any further announcements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I would now like to read into the record National Commander McIntosh's appointed Convention Committee Advisors: Credentials, Mike Dobmeier, Doug Wells; General Resolutions and Membership, Shurhonda Love, Scott Hope; Legislation and Veterans Rights, Joy Ilem, Paul Varela;

Constitution and Bylaws, Rob Reynolds, Ed Hartman; Finance, Rolly Lee, Barry Jesinoski; Employment, LeRoy Acosta and Jeff Hall; Hospital and Voluntary Services, Adrian Atizado, John Kleindienst; Nomination of National Officers, Gene Murphy, and Dick Marbes.

The Committee Advisors can pick up their Committee folders from the Resolution Coordinating Office in Conference Room 222 located in the Atrium Tower.

And I do have a few other announcements. We are looking forward to the President's appearance at our special session Monday at 1:45. In regards to Monday's event, members are encouraged to be in line by 11 a.m. in the hotel lobby.

To be clear, lines will not begin on this floor. The entire floor, this floor, will need to be cleared to accommodate security requirements following our business session on Monday.

There are special arrangements with the hotel restaurants to provide efficient food options in the lobby. Our special session on Monday afternoon will not begin until 1:45 a.m. We encourage you to eat before getting in line if at all possible.

Please be aware of any personal medical needs you may encounter for the duration of this special session. You may bring medication.

In regards to Monday's event, all attendees will go through airport-like security. Members should bring as few personal items as possible. No bags, no sharp objects—I didn't need to tell you that (Laughter)—no umbrellas, no liquids, no signs will be allowed in the venue. Cameras are permitted.

At registration each of you received "The Lending of Courage," a new book published by the Memorial Foundation. The book is literally "hot off the presses," and you are the first to receive the advance copy. It will be officially released next month.

Seminars this afternoon are here in the ballroom with the Benefits Protection Team Seminar at 12:30, featuring Under-Secretary for Health David Shulkin, Dr. David Shulkin, and the Service and Legislative Seminar in which we will welcome Johnny Isakson who is the Senate Affairs Committee chairman and VA Secretary Bob McDonald. You won't want to miss that important discussion. That will be here at 1:30.

The National Commander's reception will be here in the Centennial Ballroom at 7:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by our friends at Quick Lane who have generously partnered to support DAV's mission here and throughout the year.

Through Quick Lane's new Trading One Uniform for Another scholarship program, Quick Lane will award scholarships in the amount of \$10,000 each to five veterans so they can acquire the skills to become automotive technicians. You can visit their booth in the exhibit hall or stop by their table at the reception for more information.

Beginning this afternoon at 3:45 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 and to complete your work as soon as possible.

For Fun Night tomorrow evening at 8:00 p.m. we will be treated again to The Lieutenant Dan Band which is being presented by our friends at TriWest who have generously sponsored Gary Sinise and the band and the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. If you would like to learn more about how you can access their health care services through the Veterans Health Administration, visit them in the exhibition area.

Check out your program for more information on convention events and links to view and download photos, videos, reports and other convention content.

Our first business session will convene at 8:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. At that time we will hear reports from our headquarters Executive Directors and the Board of Directors' treasurer. We will also honor employers, VA employees, volunteers and our top recruiters.

I would encourage you all while you are going through our different exhibit areas to stop by the large photo collage and learn more about the DAV 5K. This exhibit is sponsored by Oracle.

In addition to being an outstanding company, Oracle is committed to hiring and supporting our nation's heroes. Oracle supports a broad range of efforts that provide disabled veterans with opportunities to build professional networks and find civilian jobs that build on their skills. And we're grateful to have them supporting our event.

We are giving away five \$25 gift cards for the DAV store to convention attendees. You must be present to win. So if I call your name and you are in the hall, please come up front and see Membership Director Doug Wells.

And those five lucky winners are: Dwayne Ramey from Virginia, Virginia Beach Number 20; (Cheers) in the hall; Michael Anderson, Rhode Island, Emily E. Baker, Number 9; McKinley Roberts, South Carolina, Woodrow Wilson Number 4; (Cheers) Raymond Salley, South Carolina, 92nd Buffalo Number 20; (Cheers) that sounded like the same person; (Laughter) Rafael Montanez, California, Charlotte W. Fay Number 28.

Commander, that's all the announcements I have.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Okay. Thank you, Marc. Ladies and gentlemen, will you please rise and I will ask Chaplin Mike Dover to lead us in a closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Ladies, gentlemen, let us pray. Heavenly Creator, as we celebrate these great accomplishments of all involved, remember them and bless them all for their efforts. Go now into our Creator's goodness and protection. Until we meet again. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Chaplain. The Convention stands in recess until 8:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 12:03 o'clock, p.m. on Sunday, July 31, 2016.)

- - -

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

August 1, 2016

The First Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 95th National Convention convened in the Centennial Ballroom on the Ballroom Level, Lower Level I, of the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, on Monday morning, August 1, 2016, and was called to order at 8:00 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Moses A. McIntosh, Jr..

COMMANDER MOSES A. McINTOSH, JR.: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

(Response of "Good morning.")

COMMANDER McINTOSH: The Convention will now come to order. As a reminder, I would like to ask everyone please turn off your cellular phones and portable devices or put them in vibrate. Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Two. And I will now ask Chaplain Dover to lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN MICHAEL DOVER: Ladies and gentlemen, let's pray. Heavenly Creator, we seek your blessings on the tasks before us. Bless our efforts with clear insight, our deliberations with wisdom, our work with clarity and accuracy, and our decisions with impartiality. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER McINTOSH: 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.

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

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

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARREN TOBIN: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Credentials was called to order for its first business session on July 31st, 2016, by the Committee advisors Michael E. Dobmeier and Doug Wells.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Warren Tobin of North Dakota was elected as chairman and Brigitte Marker of Oregon was elected as secretary. The Credentials Committee also met this morning at its second meeting with, in the Dunwoody Room at the Hyatt Atlanta.

Roll call showed 1,082 delegates and 71 alternates have registered, which includes: 37 Departments and 394 Chapters registered. There are 7 National Officers, 13 Past National Commanders currently registered with a total of 7,888 votes. This partial report is for the informational purposes only and reflects the registration at the close of business as of 7:00 a.m. as of August 1st, 2016.

This completes the partial report, Commander.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Warren. At this time I would like to introduce and recognize my National Chief-of-Staff Thomas Walls; Officer-of-the-Day Chad Richmond; and Sergeant-at-Arms John King.

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

COMMANDER McINTOSH: I want to thank you. You guys have definitely made my job easier this year. Thank you. Thank you.

Now it is an honor and a pleasure to introduce the Executive Director of DAV's National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington and my friend, Garry Augustine.

A Cleveland native, he enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduating from high school in August 1969. As a member of the 198th Infantry Brigade in South Vietnam he was severely wounded by a landmine explosion during a combat patrol operation in the Batangan Peninsula on April the 9th, 1970. He was medically discharged from the Army in December 1972.

Garry went on to earn a bachelor's degree with honors from Ohio University in 1978 and then a master's degree in sociology from Cleveland State University in 1983—the same year he became a DAV life member of Chapter 42 in Mentor, Ohio.

Garry's DAV career began in 1988 as a Hospital Service Coordinator for the Department of Ohio. In October of that year he was hired as a National Service Officer trainee in Cleveland. In 1997 he was

promoted to Assistant Supervisor of the Cleveland DAV National Service Office. And then in 2000 he was promoted to Supervisor of that same office.

In 2002 Garry was appointed Assistant National Service Director at DAV's Washington Headquarters. He was then appointed Deputy National Service Director in 2004, before being named the National Service Director in 2010.

In 2013 Garry was appointed Executive Director of DAV's Washington Headquarters where he is responsible for the National Service and Legislative programs.

He is DAV's principle spokesperson before Congress, the White House, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. In this role he continues to lead our advocacy efforts in Washington, as others have before him. Thanks to his leadership DAV has stayed in the forefront of the fight for veterans rights on Capitol Hill.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me with a warm welcome for our Executive Director of DAV's National Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C., Garry Augustine. (Applause)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS GARRY AUGUSTINE: Good morning, DAV.

(Response of "Good morning.")

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS AUGUSTINE: National Commander McIntosh, National Adjutant Burgess, distinguished guests and delegates to DAV's 95th National Convention, it is an honor to present my third annual report as Executive Director of the National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Let me begin by thanking Commander Moses McIntosh and Adjutant Marc Burgess for your steadfast leadership and unwavering support of all that we have accomplished this past year.

Thanks also go to Auxiliary National Adjutant Pat Kemper for all that you and your team do to support us. And I want to offer my condolences to the family of Auxiliary National Commander Linda Stake who sadly passed away last week after spending her final year working to improve the lives of the men and women who served. She has left a legacy of service that I know the Auxiliary will carry forward.

Let me also acknowledge the efforts of our hardworking staffs in Washington, D.C., and Cold Spring, Kentucky. Because of your professionalism and dedication I am proud to say that DAV continues to be the finest veterans' service organization in the world.

Most importantly, let me say that everything we achieve is built upon the strength of our members and Auxiliary. Thank you for all the work you do, the hours you volunteer, and the dedication you show year in and year out, whether it is through Chapter and Department activities, or by answering our calls to contact Congress and advocate for America's heroes.

You are the backbone and the muscle that allows us to succeed. We know that when there is important work to be done we can count on you every time. You truly epitomize a saying used by legendary Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi who said, "The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary." (Laughter)

Well, today I am here to report on some of our recent success, and to talk about the hard work ahead. As all of you are aware, the past year was yet another difficult one for America's veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Since the access crisis and the waiting list scandals in Phoenix erupted in the news in the spring of 2014, the VA has struggled to regain its footing. A series of revelations about hidden wait lists resulted in leadership changes across the VA.

Exactly two years ago, The Honorable Bob McDonald, who we heard from yesterday, began his tenure as the eighth Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Since then we have seen a number of important changes begun throughout VA.

Together with Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson, Under-Secretary for Health Dr. David Shulkin, and Acting Under-Secretary for Benefits Tom Murphy, VA's new leadership is beginning to turn the page on some longstanding problems.

Although there have been improvements over the past two years, we will not rest until all veterans receive the benefits they have earned through their service. And at DAV we greatly value service. (Applause) Thank you. I'm proud to report to you, once again, that DAV's National Service Program remains the best in the business.

We not only operate the largest service program helping veterans receive their earned benefits, but by any objective measure we are also the most effective. In over 100 offices across the country we employ over 270 National Service Officers and 32 Transition Service Officers, providing representation for over 300,000 claims last year.

Our Transition Service Program and Mobile Service Offices further extend DAV services to veterans as they return home. In 2015, our TSOs conducted more than 1,000 formal presentations to over 33,000 transitioning service members; and our MSOs traveled over 100,000 miles to nearly 900 cities and towns, including more than 100 colleges and universities.

We also represented over 15,000 appeals before the Board of Veterans' Appeals, nearly 30 percent of all cases. And we have a pro bono program matching veterans with private law firms if their appeal is heard by the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

To put it simply, when it comes to helping veterans get their benefits, no one does it more than the DAV. (Applause) Thank you.

But we never rest on our laurels. Thanks to a grant from the National Service Foundation we upgraded our equipment to allow local scanning and rolled out our new iTRAK online training system to our entire NSO Corps.

Let me just take a moment to acknowledge all the work done to bring iTRAK to life by our good friend, former Assistant National Service Director John Maki who sadly passed away earlier this year. John worked for DAV for nearly 30 years serving veterans. And I worked with him for 20 of those years. His spirit and his legacy continue on in the people and programs he touched.

I'm reminded of another quote from Coach Lombardi that applies perfectly to John, just as it does to many DAV members, "Individual commitment to a group effort—that is what makes a team work, a society work, a civilization work."

That's the "Team DAV" approach, everyone working to fulfill our promise to the men and women who served. That's why we have DAV's disaster relief program, to support injured and ill veterans, their family members and survivors, when they have nowhere else to turn.

In 2015 we provided over \$330,000 to assist almost 400 veteran families hurt by tornadoes, flooding and other disasters in more than a dozen states around the country. By the way, those are your National Service Officers who selflessly work overtime and on weekends, rushing into disaster zones to ensure that veterans get the help they need when and where they need it.

Another good example of the "Team DAV" approach is the collaboration between service and legislative staffs working to reform the appeals process. Although the claims backlog has dropped from over 600,000 claims to less than 100,000, the number of appeals awaiting decisions has risen dramatically to almost 450,000.

To address this rising backlog, a couple of years ago DAV brought together a workgroup involving veterans' service organizations, the Veterans' Benefit Administration, and the Board of Veterans Appeals, which ultimately resulted in development of the "Fully Developed Appeals" or FDA proposal.

I'm very pleased to report that earlier this year the House approved the FDA, as did the Senate VA Committee recently. And we are now closer than ever to finally passing FDA legislation. Furthermore, that success has now paved the way for consideration of even more comprehensive appeals reform legislation.

Building on the FDA, the VA invited DAV and other stakeholders to be part of a new workgroup to redesign the entire appeal system. Following months of meetings and negotiations we were able to reach consensus on a new framework for appeals, one that would provide veterans multiple paths to appeal their claims while reducing the time to get a decision.

We believe that this new system could help veterans get favorable appeal outcomes more quickly while protecting all of their due process rights. And enactment of this legislation, or at least the FDA legislation, is a very high priority for the remainder of this year.

We've also made progress on a number of other DAV legislative priorities. As so many of us know firsthand, the truly unsung heroes for many veterans are their family caregivers. Whether it's a spouse, a parent, a sibling, a child or other relative, there are hundreds of thousands of loving family members caring for veterans who rely on their support.

I know that many of you here today are or have been caregivers. I want to personally thank you for your service and let you know that we will never forget or stop fighting for you as well. (Applause)

DAV has worked long and hard to help pass the comprehensive caregiver support program; however due to budgetary constraints Congress limited this program to caregivers of veterans injured on or after September 11, 2001. And while we are grateful that the program has helped thousands of families, all caregivers deserve the same comprehensive support, regardless of when their loved ones served. (Applause)

I'm pleased to report that the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee recently passed S-2921, the Veterans First Act, which would phase-in full caregiver assistance benefits for veterans of all eras.

Although there is a cost to expand this program, there are tremendous savings to the government when veterans remain in their homes.

But regardless of the cost, we will continue working to enact legislation that extends full support to caregivers of all severely ill and injured veterans, no matter when they served, because it is the right thing to do. (Applause)

Another group of heroes that are not always recognized are women veterans. Today more women than ever are serving in the military in all occupational specialties as well as in combat. In 2014 DAV produced a landmark report on women veterans and the challenges they face when transitioning back to civilian life, offering dozens of recommendations, some of which have already been adopted into law.

I am pleased to report that in June, Congress passed and the President signed another one the Female Veterans Suicide Prevention Act, which recognizes that certain suicide prevention programs are more effective for women veterans and directs VA to strengthen them.

There are still a dozen other bills pending in Congress, including legislation to expand access to child care, improve maternity and newborn coverage, reduce homelessness and eliminate health care disparities for women veterans. (Applause)

You can be sure we will continue working to pass these bills and will not rest until all women who wear the uniform are recognized for their service and supported in the same manner as all veterans. (Applause)

But the most critical veterans' issue being debated in Congress today involves nothing less than the future of the VA health care system. For the first time in a generation there are now open calls by some for shrinking or even dismantling the VA health care system entirely, something almost unthinkable just a few years ago.

Now we all acknowledge that VA has problems, some quite serious. In response to access and waiting list problems in 2014 Congress approved emergency legislation to create the Choice program. However, from the beginning the Choice program has been plagued by problems with care coordination, appointment scheduling, and provider payments.

With the Choice program set to expire next year, VA, Congress and VSOs are engaged in a debate about what comes next. We have been regularly meeting with the key leaders in VA and in Congress so that the VA health care system that so many of our members rely on will be strengthened, reformed, and sustained. (Applause)

And because we also were not satisfied with the status quo, DAV worked with our independent budget partners the VFW and PVA to develop a Framework for Veterans Health Care Reform based on a couple of simple principles:

First, our nation has a sacred obligation to make whole the men and women injured or made ill as a result of their military service; and, second, it is the responsibility of the federal government to ensure that veterans have proper access to the full array of benefits, services, and supports promised to them by a grateful nation. (Applause)

From this firm footing we developed a series of sweeping proposals to expand access by strengthening, reforming, and sustaining the VA health care system. We proposed creating integrated networks, using community providers where gaps exist, and keeping the VA as a coordinator and principle provider of care.

Around the same time VA released its new plan to consolidate non-VA care programs, including the Choice program. We were pleased that the VA plan had many similarities with the IB Framework, including creating an integrated network, which was not surprising since VA worked closely with us to develop its own plan.

However, some political groups and politicians want to use VA's problems as an excuse to shrink or even eliminate the VA health care system entirely, an outcome that would be devastating for ill and injured veterans who choose or rely on VA for their care. Fueled by one-sided, negative media reporting and political agendas, they argue that veterans would be better off without a VA health care system.

Now, we certainly agree that there are problems inside the VA health care system, some quite serious, just as there are in private sector hospitals and health care systems. However, those of us who actually use the VA for our medical care know that the media has painted an incomplete picture that fails to tell the whole story of VA health care. (Applause)

As Mark Twain once said, "A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes." So in order to get the truth out about the VA health care system, DAV's Operation Keep the Promise 2016 launched our new "Setting the Record Straight" campaign during our Mid-Winter Conference.

Using a multi-faced media approach, our Legislative and Communications teams developed a series of op-eds, videos and social media tools to tell the true facts about VA health care, how it compares to private sector care, and what we proposed as solutions.

Rather than telling you what our "Setting the Record Straight" campaign looked like, let me show you.

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS AUGUSTINE: Thank you. There are five of those videos and they can be seen on the DAV website. And I just want to acknowledge Dan Clare and his Communications team. Those were all done in-house. (Applause)

We also took our Setting the Record Straight campaign to the Congressional-mandated Commission on Care which worked over the past year to make recommendations on VA health care reform.

We were fortunate to have former DAV Washington Executive Director David Gorman serving as one of the commissioners; however, most of the others had little knowledge about the VA health care system. In fact, only a couple had ever been in a VA hospital or clinic.

So to help educate the Commission we shared our videos and op-eds, met with their staff, and I was invited twice to speak to the Commission. In addition to sharing DAV's positions, we also shared a binder with over 4,000 DAV members' personal experiences with VA, word-for-word.

Let me share just one of them that sums up why we feel so strongly about the importance of fixing the VA. The veteran wrote:

"I have received health care from the VA since 2012 when I retired from the military. I haven't had any of the issues that I have seen within the media outlets.

"I have received excellent care at the VA in Oklahoma, New Jersey, and currently in Alabama. I would never want to go back to the private sector for my health care because they are not equipped to meet the needs of our veterans.

"Having care at the VA clinic makes me feel more comfortable because I know that the people that are next to me have had similar experiences and will not judge me just because I look or act a little different than some of the other patients.

"I have had to take my family to private sector health care providers and I would prefer to stick with the VA health care that is provided."

It is stories like this and thousands of others that best make our case.

A few weeks ago the Commission issued its final report and based on our initial review there is much that we agree on in this report, although there are still some problematic recommendations we will oppose. With Congress almost done for the year the real debate will take place next year after a new President is elected and a new Congress convened.

As we head into the fall it will be critical for us to educate candidates and elected officials about what veterans truly want and need from the VA health care system. That's why DAV is re-energizing our Benefits Protection Team program. And I encourage all of you to talk to your Department leaders about how to play a role in preserving the VA health care system for future generations.

Looking ahead, there are a number of positive signs of progress. DAV, our VSO partners, VA and now the Commission on Care have all proposed that the VA health care system remain the coordinator and primary provider of care to veterans, even while we integrate community partners to fill in gaps when and where needed.

VA's reform efforts, led by Secretary McDonald and Deputy Secretary Gibson, including their My VA initiative, are beginning to change the culture at VA for the better. And despite the continuing political stalemate in Washington, there is growing consensus in Congress on a number of critical reforms to strengthen veterans' health care services and enhance their earned benefits.

By the end of the year we may have some victories, but we should not minimize the long battle ahead. To borrow a quote from Winston Churchill, "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning." This is, however, the beginning of the end of my remarks. (Laughter)

While I remain optimistic about the coming year, like Churchill, I won't minimize the difficulties ahead. There are still hurdles and unforeseen obstacles to overcome, including political uncertainty over the upcoming elections.

However, standing here today with all of you, I am fully confident that with the strength and resolve of our members and Auxiliary behind us we can, we must, and we will continue to fulfill our promises to all the men and women who served. (Applause) Thank you.

Commander McIntosh, that concludes my report and I respectfully ask for its acceptance by the Convention.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Garry. That was an excellent report, very informative. And the members I know really appreciate it. You did a fantastic job. Keep up the good work. (Applause)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS AUGUSTINE:

Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: I have a motion. Do I hear a second.

MR. AL LABELLE: Commander, Al Labelle from Chapter 57 in Wisconsin seconds the motion.

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

Thank you. (Applause)

DAV has been on an unprecedented period of growth and diversification in terms of our, of how we conduct our business. And the individual I am about to introduce deserves much credit for our success and strategic direction.

National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski is a Persian Gulf War-era veteran of the United States Marine Corps—(Cheers) boy, that was really weak. (Laughter and cheers) Okay, that's more like it who was medically discharged in 1993.

A native of Ottertail County, Minnesota, he was appointed to his current position in August 2013 after serving as the Executive Director of the National Service and Legislative Headquarters and in numerous other leadership positions at the executive level in Washington and Cold Spring, Kentucky.

A gifted and selfless leader, Barry has earned the respect of key leaders, associates and members throughout the organization whose directions impact veterans. As DAV makes an historic evolution to enhance the breadth and scope of services that we offer our veterans, Barry's strategic guidance and management have dramatically changed the organization's reach for the better.

As DAV's Chief Financial Officer, his responsibilities cover all National Headquarters' Departments, including Membership, Voluntary Services, Accounting, Employment, Fundraising, Communication, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Direct Mail.

Please join me, ladies and gentlemen, in welcoming a visionary leader in the world of veterans' service, National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski. (Applause)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BARRY JESINOSKI: Thank you, Commander. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

(Response of "Good morning.")

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS JESINOSKI: One more extra-long report. (Laughter) It will be a good one, though. National Commander McIntosh, guests and delegates, it is certainly my privilege to share what is going on at DAV National Headquarters with so many of you who make our cause possible through your tireless efforts.

I want to thank Commander McIntosh and Adjutant Burgess whose support and forward-thinking have again spurred a year of tremendous growth for our organization.

This year we have focused on a concept that embodies our passion and our dedication to creating high-quality lives for our nation's injured and ill veterans. The concept of "Victories for Veterans" shows the results of DAV's efforts to keep our promises to the men and women who have served.

Let's get a quick overview of what these victories can entail.

(Whereupon, a video of "Victories for Veterans" was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS JESINOSKI:

Those were real voices from real veterans. (Applause) They illustrate the limitless opportunities we have to empower veterans, their families, and their survivors to lead high-quality lives with respect and with dignity.

DAV is as vital and as relevant today as we have been at any time in our history. Our most recent efforts in the area of employment show the impact we make when we focus foremost on creating victories for veterans. If you don't believe me, just ask Sam Johnson.

(Whereupon, the video address by Sam Johnson was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS JESINOSKI: As Marc mentioned yesterday, in just over two years of existence DAV's Employment Department has become an absolute force in terms of connecting veterans with employers. We're extremely proud of the fact that DAV hosted 71 career fairs in 2015.

We're also very excited about the direction we're going. In partnership with Veteran Recruiting, DAV has expanded into virtual fairs that extend our reach and enable veterans who wouldn't be able to attend fairs through our partnership with Recruit Military. We've challenged our nation's employers to hire 10,000 service-connected disabled veterans. (Applause) This initiative has become a force in the employment arena and will continue to grow and to evolve.

Last year, DAV conducted the Veterans' Pulse Survey—the most comprehensive, nationally representative sample of its kind and confirmed that fewer than half of all veterans feel that they are prepared for a career after leaving the military. Employment was identified as the most prominent challenge facing transitioning veterans and one of the top challenges for all veterans nationwide.

We will continue in the years ahead to advance this powerful service and address the critical needs veterans face today. When a veteran is changed as a result of his or her military service, he or she faces many challenges, as many of you in this room can certainly attest to.

And we're not going to let those setbacks bar the door to the accomplishments and the opportunities that veterans can still enjoy. (Applause) Just ask a very familiar voice to most of us how important it is to find a sense of community after a tremendous setback.

(Whereupon, a video of Past National Commander James Sursely was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS JESINOSKI: That is definitely one of my favorites. I think you all agree with me that Jim's "cool factor" is absolutely off the charts. (Laughter) Thank you, Jim, for helping us with that and all the other things that you continuously help us with at DAV.

Jim knows how important it is for veterans to pursue their goals in terms of employment and in terms of reintegration into the community. As a Past National Commander he also understands the value of DAV membership.

Fortunately, with individuals like Jim in our ranks, DAV has made progress in an area that is one of the biggest challenges for veterans' service organizations. As many of you know, we closed the 2015 membership year over the 1.3 million member mark.

We sustained that effort thanks in large part to the dedication and the commitment of the people in this room. But it's important to understand why we need to strengthen our voice.

According to the Veterans' Pulse survey, the divide between those who have served and the people we defended is only growing. In spite of how politically divisive the Vietnam War was, the survey showed that post-9/11 veterans are more likely to feel that people who never served could not understand what veterans experience.

Nearly six out of ten post-9/11 veterans feel a disconnect with their civilian counterparts. The all-volunteer force of today represents just a fraction of a percent of the total population.

Though we've waged war on two fronts, the general public has not been mobilized or really been asked to change their lives significantly whatsoever. A select few are carrying a heavy burden and that is taking a toll on their lives and the lives of their families.

We should be proud of the progress that we have made achieving 1.3 million members. But we must also see the value in building on that success, engaging our communities and enhancing the relationship between veterans and the American public.

One way that we've been able to build on that relationship has been through the DAV 5K Run, Walk, Roll and Ride events. Let's take a quick look at the DAV 5K here in Atlanta last November to capture the spirit of the community engagement that participants experience.

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS JESINOSKI: We're expanding once again this year, with Atlanta, Boston, Cincinnati, Newport News, and Tulsa hosting events. When the public is given an opportunity to participate and begin that relationship we find hope in a brighter future.

In 2017 it is my pleasure to announce that DAV will add San Antonio and Raleigh to our slate of 5Ks. (Applause) We're thrilled with our progress in this area and the energy it brings our organization. Of course 5Ks are not the only activities that give us reason for optimism.

Our National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic celebrated its 30th year of creating Miracles on a Mountainside. This event has never been as vibrant or as important to the veterans' community as it is today.

We are reminded through this event of the spirit of our community. The veteran participants have overcome some of the most profound disabilities one can imagine. We're inspired by their courage and positive outlook on life. And their stories are reminders that we are not defined by our disabilities but our will to overcome them. (Applause)

That's certainly true for DAV Freedom Award recipient Mariela Meylan who, as Marc mentioned yesterday, was struck by a civilian vehicle while on patrol in the Kuwaiti desert in '04. At one time doctors wanted to take her off life support, but years of determination and effort eventually enabled her to walk, to drive, to ski and to participate in our Winter Sports Clinic.

Like Mariela, our 2008 DAV Freedom Award recipient Centra "CeCe" Mazyck used the event to challenge her perceived limitations and reach new heights in her life. She was so grateful to DAV and so compelled to support her fellow DAV members that she earned a place among those profiled in our public service announcements.

(Whereupon, a video address by Centra "CeCe" Mazyck was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS JESINOSKI: Perennially, the Winter Sports Clinic shows the life-changing impact that DAV and our partners at VA can have in the lives of our nation's heroes. But every day meaningful "thank you"s are made possible through the selfless work of our DAV volunteers.

DAV remains the most prolific veterans' service organization in terms of volunteerism. It's important that each of you understand that we at the National Headquarters are truly in awe of your efforts. Since 1987 DAV volunteers have driven more than 642 million miles. Last year alone volunteers donated 1.6 million hours of their time to honor the service and sacrifices of our heroes and their families.

We never forget that, at the end of the day, the driving force behind every aspect of our mission is enabling victories for the veterans we serve. I want everyone here to know that we are doing our utmost at your National Headquarters to honor your service to this organization.

We are working to establish tools and resources that empower your efforts in your communities. We believe, based on all that you do and all that you've sacrificed, that DAV should be a household name.

This year, again, we're going to be pushing the DAV "Thank-a-Vet" initiative. Last year, with support from megastar Reba McEntire we saw incredible reach from this special program. We want more of our members to get involved. It's easy enough to do it online at DAV-thank-a-vet.org.

(Whereupon, a video explaining the "Thank-a-Vet" program was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS JESINOSKI: We are working to honor your contributions at every level. And we're working with companies to build financial support and to enhance our outreach.

We're hoping to build upon and maintain our outstanding relationships with Ford, USAA, and Golden Corral, while continuing to develop new partnerships with companies like Hankook Tires, BlueLine Rental, Quick Lane, Price Choppers, B&B Theaters, and others who see the value in brand affiliation with the best veterans' service organization in the world. (Applause)

We're building relationships with celebrities like Reba and some new relationships with celebrities like Jordan Sparks, Justin Moore, and LaDainian Tomlinson.

And this fall we'll be working with ABC to share our message through their programming. And we'll be on the big stage with "Good Morning America." And we will have a full week on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire."

On Wednesday evening we will have a special guest here whose voice is also going to help our outreach considerably.

We're starting to get the notice that we deserve for the hard work you do every day. We're in the news. And we're on the radio. We're seeing DAV billboards in our communities. And we can feel the momentum building behind our cause. And it can't happen soon enough, knowing that our nation's heroes are going to need a strong DAV for generations to come.

But, most importantly, we're focusing on victories for veterans and doing it right. Integrity remains the hallmark of DAV's brand. We're proud of what we've accomplished and we're hopeful for the future.

I'd like to thank DAV's members and leaders throughout the country for serving as a beacon of hope to our fellow veterans. May God bless each and every one of you for all that you have done to make these victories possible for DAV and the heroes that we all serve.

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

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you. Well, we have another excellent report by your Executive Directors. Thank you.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Could I have a motion to accept?

MR. RICHARD PATTERSON: Mic 2.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Mic 2.

MR. PATTERSON: Patterson, Chapter 45, Alabama, would be proud to make a motion that we accept the excellent report of Executive Director Jesinoski.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you. I have a motion. Do I hear a second? You have to go to the mic, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 1.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Mic 1.

MR. KIRK JOHNSON: Kirk Johnson, Chapter 85, District 16, second the motion.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you. We have a motion. We have a second. All in favor signify by saying aye; all opposed. The motion carried. (Applause)

Every day DAV partners with the thousands of passionate VA employees throughout this nation to work together to empower veterans and keep our promises to them. It is my pleasure to present three remarkable VA staff members the National Commander's Outstanding VA Employees of the Year. These awards recognize their leadership, success and compassion in support of our nation's ill and injured veterans.

The Outstanding VA Health Administration employee this year is Dr. Murray Altose, chief-of-staff at the Cleveland VA medical center in Ohio. (Applause) Dr. Altose has devoted his life to veterans for nearly 30 years and has served their best interests in virtually every capacity possible for a physician in academic medicine. He has led efforts in administration, education, research and clinical practice.

His systemic implementation of 131 patient-aligned care teams at 14 locations was nationally recognized and provided a seamless experience for more than 112,000 veteran patients.

Dr. Altose also has developed a physical medicine and rehabilitation program to include care for combat-injured veterans with poly-trauma and traumatic brain injuries.

Further, he established a 16-bed inpatient blind rehabilitation center, a 28,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility that serves veterans throughout the region.

He also instituted the 30-bed long-term spinal cord injury care unit dedicated to veterans with spinal cord injuries who need long-term care. The Cleveland VA medical center also houses ten Clinical Centers of Excellence which is more than any other VA medical center and exceeding the VHA's patient satisfaction goal. This led to Cleveland's unique status of being just one of only two VHA facilities to maintain a five-star quality rating for five consecutive years. (Applause)

Dr. Altose's knowledge and experience is invaluable and his dedication in serving veterans is unmatched.

I'd like to invite VA Under-Secretary for Health Dr. David Shulkin and National Legislative Director Joy Ilem to the stage for this presentation.

(Whereupon, Commander McIntosh was joined on the stage.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Dr. Murray Altose. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Dr. Altose advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MURRAY ALTOSE, M.D.: Thank you all very much. And thank you, in particular, to DAV for this wonderful honor. For me, I've served as the chief-of-staff of the Cleveland VA for just 28 years. And for me it's been a labor of love. And it's been a fantastic honor to be able to serve the veterans of Northeast Ohio.

But the fact of the matter is that it takes a village. And so I need to—(Applause) I need to also thank all of the wonderful, dedicated, hardworking doctors and nurses and actually the entire staff of the Cleveland VA for all of the work that they have done because the fact of the matter is none of these things could have been accomplished without their help, without their hard work, without their commitment. (Applause)

But most important, I need to thank all of the veterans of Northeast Ohio who come to the Cleveland VA medical center for their care and for the privilege that they have given me to be able to provide them with the care that they need and that they deserve.

The veterans who have served and sacrificed allow me the privilege to support their health care, to try to make them as healthy as possible, to manage their illnesses when they get sick, and to work hard to ensure that they have the very best quality of life.

And, finally, I want to again thank the DAV for their tremendous support and advocacy for veterans and particularly for the VA. The VA is still the very best health care organization in the country. (Applause) We all need to work together to keep it strong and to make it grow from strength to strength. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: What a major accomplishment. Congratulations, Ohio. (Applause) The 2016 DAV National Commander's Award for Outstanding Department of Veterans Affairs employee within the VA Benefits Administration is Bobby Hall of the VA Regional Office in Louisville, Kentucky.

Bobby, a decorated combat veteran, retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2007 after 20 years of honorable service. He began his career with the VA in January 2014, serving as a veteran's service

representative. Bobby would remain in that position until taking over his current role as terminal veterans' coordinator in June of 2015.

As the Louisville VA Regional Office's terminal coordinator he has visited veterans in the local VA medical centers, sometimes on his own, to ensure a claim has been properly filled out. Bobby also works with veterans' families and physicians in developing the facts necessary for proper adjudication of claims.

Bobby works energetically in this mission to assist the terminal and severely-injured veterans of Kentucky and Southern Indiana. And it is my privilege to honor a true professional who works consistently to improve the lives of his fellow veterans.

I will ask VA Acting Under-Secretary for Benefits Tom Murphy and National Service Director Joy I mean National Service Director Jim Marszalek to the stage for this important presentation.

(Whereupon, Commander McIntosh was joined on stage.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Mr. Bobby Hall. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Bobby Hall advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. BOBBY HALL: First, I would just like to—I'd like to thank Rick Viccari and all the guys back home at the Louisville DAV office for submitting me for this award. It's truly humbling and an honor to stand in front of you to be recognized for something that I just love to do. I love helping people, especially my fellow veterans.

I'd like to thank my wife, Christy, that—she has enabled me to run faster and climb higher than I could have ever, ever dreamed. (Applause) And, lastly, most of all, I'd like to thank God because (Applause) it is through Him that has given me strength to do what I do every day. And just know that every day that I work for the VA my mind has been trained to be a VSR but my heart beats for the veterans and their families because I care. Thank you and God bless you. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you.

MR. HALL: Thank you.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Bobby, for all you do in service to our nation's heroes. DAV member and Army veteran Srey M. Austin is this year's VA National Cemetery Administrative Employee of the year.

She serves veterans, their families and survivors as director of Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis, South Dakota, where she is responsible for all burial, maintenance and administrative operations.

Srey took over as the cemetery director in May 2014 and has daily contact with her local community. She addresses their concerns, resolves complaints, and assists visitors to ensure a high level of customer service and satisfaction.

She is directly involved with the oversight of several current and upcoming construction service contracts, including the Raise and Realignment project at Black Hills and Hot Springs national cemeteries. This includes more than 14,000 headstones, new turf and renovation of well over 75 acres.

She is simultaneously creating and establishing the budget for Yellowstone National Cemetery, the first of eight new smaller national burial grounds in rural states, located in Laurel, Montana.

She is committed to ensuring her fellow veterans are aware of their eligibility to be buried at a national cemetery free of charge.

Day-in and day-out Srey works diligently to make sure that families know that this final resting place will honor their hero's service and sacrifice.

I'll ask our Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine to the stage for this one presentation.

(Whereupon, Washington Headquarters Executive Director Augustine advanced to the stage.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Ladies and gentlemen, let's give a warm welcome to Ms. Srey Austin. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Austin advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MS. SREY AUSTIN: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. AUSTIN: I have to admit this is probably my least favorite part, making a speech. From a personal standpoint, leading to my professional service to our veterans, having the insight of growing up in war-torn Cambodia during the Pol Pot regime my appreciation of our service members goes well beyond just a paycheck and/or a job.

Without the ideal of the "Land of the Free, Home of the Brave" my family and I would not be here today. Our men and women who have sacrificed day-in, day-out are the reason my family and I know what life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness truly means.

I served 10 years in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve and continue my public service in the National Cemetery Administration today because no amount of thanks will ever replace the sacrifices our veterans have made.

I am truly and forever indebted to all of those who have worn the cloth of this great nation. And I am very, very honored to be the recipient of this award. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, again, to our Outstanding VA employees. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in giving them a round of applause on behalf of all employees who work each day to fulfill our nation's promise to the men and women who served. Let's give them a round of applause. (Applause)

Now it is now my pleasure to recognize the Outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist recipients for 2016. These awards recognize the commitment and compassion of two individuals who are dedicated to serving our nation's ill and injured veterans.

The recipients being recognized are shining examples of veterans helping veterans and we are proud to honor them for their selfless service. The award for Outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative will be presented to Robert Hetzel of Temple, Texas, who, unfortunately, could not attend today.

This year's Outstanding Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist Award recipient is Robert Singer, an employment specialist with the Virginia Employment Commission. In this capacity Robert ensure that every veteran who seeks his support receives the answers and assistance they are looking for.

Robert, a fellow disabled veteran, with 30 years of service in the United States Marine Corps (Cheers) no comment (Laughter) and DAV life member has demonstrated a unique zeal for supporting fellow veterans.

In 2015 alone Robert had nearly 3,000 individual acts of service obtained for veterans spread across 268 clients. Just in January to February of this year that's just one month he had already directly assisted 34 clients.

Robert has also made it a point to engage the problem of veterans' homelessness head on. His local DAV chapter's Committee on Veteran Homelessness said they have yet to encounter a homeless or at-risk veteran who has not already spoken to Robert or been referred to DAV by him.

His sense of duty does not stop once he has obtained the individual assistance a veteran may need. For instance, Robert came across a young veteran who relocated to Virginia from California so she could escape an abusive relationship.

Robert quickly connected her to community resources, helped her obtain training for employment, and continually follows up to ensure she is not lost through this challenging transition. That's just one of many examples of his passion for helping fellow veterans.

Ms. Priscilla Stinson, the Employment Coordinator with the VA Vocational and Rehabilitation Office in Richmond, Virginia, said—and I quote, "Veterans leave the initial meeting with Mr. Singer with an increased resolve and confidence that they will be able to secure employment, which has been inspired by Mr. Singer."

Robert's network includes contacts in nine veterans' service organizations, four professional military associations, and eight military historical associations.

I'll ask Jeff Hall to come to the stage for this important presentation.

(Whereupon, Mr. Hall advanced to the stage.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in recognizing Robert Singer. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Singer advanced to the podium to accept the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. ROBERT SINGER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. SINGER: Comrades, as a second-generation DAV member it is certainly an honor and a privilege to be here today. And I salute all of you that help us take care of America's disabled American veterans in their transition to civilian life.

As I stand up here as a DVOP for the Commonwealth of Virginia, I'd like to say I recognize all the DVOPs out there in all 50 states that do the best that they can to help American's disabled veterans transition to employment in the civilian community.

I would also be negligent if I didn't recognize the agency I work for, the Virginia Employment Commission, and all the civilians that help us take care of veterans, also.

Also, I am a proud member of Chapter 7 of the Fredericksburg DAV, General George Washington. And all of this could not have taken place without three people: my commander Lisa Gregory; Rita Alberegg, and Stephen Combs.

We all know on active duty nothing gets done, nobody gets recognized, until somebody does the paperwork. They saw what I did. They took the time. And I will tell you what, it's very humbling.

In the end I'd just like to tell you it's an honor and a privilege to wear this cover. And I'm damned proud to stand in formation with all of you today. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Robert. He is definitely a veteran's veteran.

Each year DAV recognizes companies who go out of their way to recruit and hire disabled veterans. It is my pleasure to announce the DAV Employer of the Year Awards for three outstanding organizations who recognize the value of hiring American veterans. Smart employers know that veterans are an invaluable asset to any team. They are highly trainable, dependable, adaptable, and they come ingrained with an extraordinary work ethic.

Veteran Energy is a Houston-based company that makes it part of their business strategy to recruit, hire, train, and develop veteran employees in addition to its support of veterans in the community.

Their president and founder is a veteran, himself, so he's very aware that when you hire veterans, it's not philanthropy, it is smart business.

Additionally, Veteran Energy actively seeks transitioning military personnel by attending universities and military recruitment fairs. Ninety-two percent of Veteran Energy's workforce are veterans. (Applause) And another one you are going to like—and 85 percent of team members are disabled veterans. (Applause)

The company sets aside one weekend a month for volunteering in community-level veteran and active duty causes with one of their 14 affinity partners, all dedicated to meeting the needs of veterans and their families.

Finally, Veteran Energy provides free or reduced electricity to local DAV chapters. And military veterans receive a discount when enrolling for service with Veteran Energy. If the veteran is at-risk financially, Veteran Energy waives their deposit fee and ensures the electricity to the veteran's home is not turned off. (Applause) Give it. (Applause)

It is my distinct pleasure to invite Kevin Barber on the stage to receive the DAV Outstanding Small Employer of the Year Award. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Kevin Barber advanced to accept the DAV Outstanding Small Employer of the Year Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. KEVIN BARBER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. BARBER: Thank you very much. It's an honor to be here in front of so many qualified veterans. It's humbling in a lot of respects. My company's mission statement since Day 1 has been to positively effectuate the live of veterans, active duty members and their families on a daily basis. That's how we judge ourselves at the end of the day. And I'm proud to say that our mission is being accomplished on a daily basis.

Personally, as a DAV life member and a U.S. Army, former U.S. Army military police K-9 handler it's my mission to empower veterans. It's about advocacy for the self-empowerment of veterans for me. It's not about handouts. It's about putting that hand down.

I know DAV does that every day as well. So we want to change that narrative out here and I challenge each and every one of you to join me in that, being an advocate for the self-empowerment of veterans.

Also, your enthusiasm and passion is motivating. I had an opportunity to meet with a lot of people yesterday. And today I see it. And, again, congratulations on your mission. Much success on a go-forward basis. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you. Thank you Veteran Energy and I thank the State of Texas. (Cheers) That's more like it. That's a good program and it benefits the veterans of Texas.

Our next recipient is also adamant about having veterans in their ranks and is awarded the inaugural DAV Medium-Sized Employer of the Year Award.

Z Systems Corporation, based in Killeen, Texas, (Applause) Texas, you are on a roll is a professional service company that specializes in logistics, engineering, information technology, and international development.

A Department of Defense contractor, 63 percent of their total workforce are veterans and 25 percent of those are disabled veterans. (Applause) Give it. The company works closely with Fort Hood's transition assistance office as well as the Heart of Texas Goodwill Industries, Texas Veterans Commission, local VA offices, Texas Workforce Commission and Texas Veteran Leadership Program.

Through these strategic partnerships Z System Corporation seamlessly connects with veteran talent to add to their workforce. One of the many things that make this organization unique is that they recognize the power of transferring military skills into the workplace.

This is why when promotion opportunities become available in the company Z System Corporation considers military career experience along with the experience within the company when they consider advancement opportunities. This illustrates steadfast dedication to the career progression of a veteran employee.

Would Mike McCoy, Z System's CEO, please join me to accept the DAV Outstanding Medium Employer of the Year Award. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. McCoy advanced to the podium to accept the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. MIKE McCOY: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. McCOY: I am grateful and humbled to receive this award. Z System has been in business a little over 20 years. And Day 1, the very first person I hired was a veteran. It became clear to me (Applause) thank you.

It became clear to me that if you are going to be in the business of defense contracting, you need to hire those individuals who understood the business and those are the veterans. (Applause) Thank you.

So I thank you so much for this award. I appreciate it. And good morning. God bless you. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, sir. Well, Texas, give yourself a round of applause.

(Applause) I guess the old saying is true. Everything is bigger in Texas. You all got it. (Applause)

Yes, we've got Georgia on our mind but Texas is leading the way right now. (Laughter)

The 2016 Large Employer of the Year is First Data based right here in Atlanta. (Applause) First Data developed a program called First Data Salutes which includes a military and veteran affairs team who actively recruit veterans and their spouses.

Since the establishment of the team two years ago, the amount of military-affiliated new hires jumped from 2 percent to 15 percent. Nearly 8 percent of all U.S. employees are veterans or spouse of veterans.

In 2015 alone, First Data hired 99 women veterans (Applause) and 29 disabled veterans (Applause). They maintain a military and veterans affairs team as well. (Applause)

And you've got to understand, they love DAV because—I'm going to give you one fact that some of you don't know. In fact, DAV's own First Junior Vice-Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster serves on that team. Give her a round of applause. (Applause) Stand up, Delphine.

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice-Commander Metcalf-Foster stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: The organization is very keen on not only recruiting and hiring veterans but retaining them as well. This is why the company has training twice per month for hiring managers who have recently hired a veteran or a spouse.

The training includes reminding the managers of First Data's commitment to their support of Guard and Reserve employees, the challenges associated with transitioning from military services, and the many strengths veterans and spouse bring to the workforce.

Recognizing that education often plays a role in career development, First Data established a partnership with the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University where veterans and spouses can pursue higher education at no cost to them. (Applause)

The organization also supports the men and women who are still in uniform. Last year First Data employees contributed more than 18,000 handwritten cards offering messages of support and encouragement to service members, veterans, and their families.

The organization's senior leadership team and more than 50 other owner-associates marched in the Veterans' Day Parade in New York City last year, showcasing the company support for military members, veterans and families.

It is my distinct pleasure to invite Tom Higgins, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer from First Data to join me on the stage to accept the DAV Outstanding Large Employer of the Year Award. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Tom Higgins advanced to the podium to accept the DAV Outstanding Large Employer of the Year Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TOM HIGGINS: Good morning, DAV.

(Response of "Good morning.")

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER HIGGINS: And good morning, Atlanta.

(Response of "Good morning.")

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER HIGGINS: It's a pleasure to be before you today. And I humbly accept the award on behalf of the folks at First Data.

As the chief administrative officer and a veteran myself, I understand very clearly the value of hiring veterans. I think that the Commander and the speakers prior to myself have laid all that out very clearly so I don't need to go into that.

But I just wanted to thank each and every one of you in the room for everything you do. I think that as a group, as a coalition moving forward together we, as a group, can improve the state of veteran employment in this nation. And we know what that means to the individual and to the family.

I also accept on behalf of the military and veterans team good morning, Delphine at First Data. Delphine you have met already and we have a couple of other folks over by the door. Wave.

(Whereupon, the people from First Data waved.)

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER HIGGINS: There we go. Thank you. But, again, it is I who thank you. Commander, thanks so much. DAV, thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you. Let's give these outstanding companies another round of applause. (Applause)

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 with dignity. Not all volunteers live in close proximity to a VA medical center or other VA facilities. And others have special skills or prefer non-traditional volunteerism. LVAP allows volunteers to provide needed services to veterans and their families as DAV volunteers. It honors our organization and encourages and recognizes volunteerism.

Opportunities abound for individuals to empower veterans and their families. And since the inception of this program more than 7,100 volunteers have donated over 2.7 million hours of service through LVAP.

We invite all Departments and Chapters to get involved and make a difference.

Volunteer incentives apply to all of our programs. LVAP volunteers are eligible for the same benefits and recognition as others. Youth volunteers who serve through LVAP will also be eligible to apply for the DAV Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program.

LVAP activities may include Chapter and Department Service Officer work, DAV outreach efforts, and approved fundraisers.

Volunteers can use their time to provide direct assistance to the veterans, survivors or families by doing yard maintenance, home repairs or taking veterans on errands. They can also use special skills to assist veterans or DAV by managing social networking efforts for Chapters, providing classes to enhance the lives of veterans, or any other initiatives that provides a direct service.

I'll ask John Kleindienst and National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski to the stage to assist in this presentation.

(Whereupon, Commander McIntosh was joined on the stage.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Ladies and gentlemen, it is my utmost pleasure to recognize our top DAV state-level Departments in the area of LVAP service, the 2016 LVAP division winner.

(Whereupon, Past Commander Frank Brown advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Let me go back. Frank, you are a little early but that's okay. We know it was going to be Virginia. (Laughter) I don't have to introduce it. This is Virginia's, what, fifth year?

PAST COMMANDER FRANK BROWN JR.: Yes. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Brown received the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

PAST COMMANDER BROWN: Just a little clue to everybody keeps asking why Virginia wins every year. Our state motto is Virginia is for Lovers. And we love what we do, which is service to veterans. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Well, that was Division 1. And I'm a member of that Chapter, Chapter 10 so I'm part of this. (Laughter) Division 2, the Department of Oklahoma, Past Department Commander Craig E. Vance with 94,720 hours. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Vance advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

PAST COMMANDER CRAIG E. VANCE: On behalf of the hardworking and dedicated members of Oklahoma DAV, Auxiliary, and Juniors I accept this award on their behalf. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you. Don't worry about it, Virginia. You had about 170,000 hours. (Applause) Division 3, the Department of Missouri, Past Department Commander Alex J. Hernandez with 21,514 hours. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Hernandez advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

PAST COMMANDER ALEX J. HERNANDEZ: Commander, on behalf of the Department of Missouri, the Auxiliary, our Juniors I want to thank you for this award. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you. Good job. Division 4, the Department of Nebraska, Past Department Commander Roger Franklin with 11,603 hours. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Department Commander Franklin advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

PAST COMMANDER ROGER FRANKLIN: Department of Nebraska, thank you very much for all you do. I'm proud to accept this award for you, you and the Auxiliary. You made our day. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Division 5, the Department of South Dakota, Past Department Commander Rodney Parks, with 16,982 hours. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Parks advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

PAST COMMANDER RODNEY PARKS: On behalf of the Department of South Dakota I'd just like to extend thanks to Lacey Van Emmerik who is our LVAP chair person. And without her efforts we wouldn't be here today so thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you. We thank all of our volunteers in VA hospitals, Transportation Network drivers, and participants of the Local Veterans Assistance Program for their compassionate service to the disabled veteran. Thank you for your helping hands and kind hearts. Please join me again. Let's give them a warm round of applause. (Applause)

Our next presentation is a gentleman that I always admired. I spent ten days with him and I thoroughly enjoyed his company. And at this time it gives me great honor to make this special presentation to honor a man who has been a part of our organization for 40 years and has touched more lives than we can keep track of.

In 1964, at just 18 years old, Larry Barnett attended the Al Somers Umpire School in Daytona Beach, Florida. Despite never having umpired before, he graduated first in his class.

In 1969, just two seasons into his career in the minor league baseball, he was called up to "the show." He would go on to umpire the American League for three decades, including: four World Series, six American League Championship Series, and five All-Star games before his retirement in 1999.

He was respected by players, managers, and fans, alike. Well, maybe not always, but more often than not. Let me put it this way, as long as you don't do a Google search for the "game three of the 1975 World Series," or "catcher's interference," he has a sterling record. (Laughter) So we've got those cell phones out there. Let's Google it. (Laughter)

In all seriousness, though, the respect baseball has for him may be best represented by Baltimore Orioles' great Cal Ripken, Junior. It was September 1995 and Ripken was on the verge of breaking Yankee great Lou Gehrig's longstanding record of playing 2,131 consecutive games.

Ripken personally requested Larry Barnett to be behind the plate and call the balls and strikes for his record-breaking night. That was truly an honor. Larry said it was probably the biggest thrill of his baseball career—and that's saying a lot.

To those who know him and have seen him in action, baseball is just a part of his life, so is his heartfelt commitment and passion to our nation's veterans.

Over the past 40 years Larry has visited every single VA hospital in the country, most numerous times. He has made well over 3,000 total visits lifting the spirits of injured veterans. Many of the veterans Larry visits are receiving terminal or inpatient care and rarely receive visitors.

He has received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Bowling Green State University in Ohio for his public service.

In 1982 he was nominated for the Medal of Freedom by then President Ronald Regan.

In 1993 he won the Referee Magazine Golden Whistle Award, signifying outstanding achievement in professional officiating.

He stated that—he started the Larry and Sharon Barnett Scholarship at Bowling Green State University in 1996, and is a partnership owner of the Jim Evans Academy of Professional Baseball Umpiring.

Furthermore, on top of all of this, in 2014 he played a significant role in adding a veteran's memorial to his community park in Prospect, Ohio. And, of course, DAV's seal is prominently displayed there.

I'll ask National Director of Voluntary Service John Kleindienst and National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski to the stage for this special presentation.

(Whereupon, National Director of Voluntary Service Kleindienst and National Headquarters Executive Director Jesinoski joined the Commander on the stage.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Ladies and gentlemen, without any further ado, DAV would like you to welcome Larry Barnett to the stage to receive his lifetime achievement award. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Mr. Barnett advanced to the stage to receive the Commander's Lifetime Achievement Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. LARRY BARNETT: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. BARNETT: Thank you, Commander McIntosh, National Adjutant Burgess, and thanks to the DAV members. I would like to personally thank the DAV, the Auxiliary, and the more than 1.3 million DAV members around the country—and in my opinion the greatest veterans' organization in this country. (Applause)

I would like to reflect back, if I may, a few years and thank National Adjutant, Past National Adjutant Dale Adams who got me started on this journey 40 years ago. So I would like to say thank you to Dale Adams.

To Past National Commander (sic) Art Wilson, I would like to give a huge thanks, too, and also to our present National Commander (sic) Marc Burgess. Three great men, one great organization. (Applause)

In baseball I had the best job in the world for 37.5 years. And, as people say, I had the best seat in the house but I had to stand up. (Laughter) Now, I must tell you one baseball joke and that's going to be all I'm going to tell you.

On a hot Saturday afternoon I was working in New York City with the Yankees in the Bronx. (Applause) I knew that would get a cheer out of New York. I had the great catcher in front of me, Thurman Munson. And for the first three innings of the game Thurman and I were back and forth. If I called it a strike, he said it was a ball. If I called it a ball, he said it was a strike.

At the top of the fourth inning I went out to dust off home plate, looked up and I said, "Thurman, if you don't shut your mouth, I'm going to bite your head right off your shoulders." (Laughter) He looked me right in the eye and he said, "Larry, you know, if you do that, you'd have more brains in your stomach than you do in your head." (Laughter)

People always said that I was with superstars my whole career. And I will tell you, they were right. Most of them are sitting in this room. Most of the ones that I see at the VA hospitals and our veterans are our superstars of this country. (Applause) We should never, ever forget that. (Applause)

All of the things that I have done in my life—and I can honestly say at 71 my "bucket list" is full. You're looking at a very blessed person and I'm very happy for that. Other than my family—Sharon, our oldest daughter Susan, my son-in-law John, and the greatest little guy in all of our lives, our grandson Carson and our youngest daughter Katie—the best thing that I have done in my life has been my association with the Disabled American Veterans. It's not even close. (Applause)

To Garry, to Barry, to Marc, and also to John I say thank you. I just want to thank the organization for this great honor. And I also—may God bless the DAV. May God bless the veterans. And may God continue to bless the United States of America. DAV, keep up the fight for what you're doing. You're winning so keep it going.

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

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Well done. The demographics within DAV's membership ranks are ever-changing. We are, sadly, seeing losses among World War II veterans as the needs among our Vietnam-era veterans are growing.

Meanwhile, we are welcoming home a new generation of warriors who have fought through multiple deployments in two years (sic). This all-volunteer force represents a small fraction of the population. And although they survive horrific injuries, we know that war has changed them and that their needs are great.

Fortunately, we can be proud to announce that DAV continues to do an outstanding job bringing in new members to ensure the legacy of our voice in the nation's capital.

This year our organization surpassed an important milestone. We now have a sustained membership of over 1.3 million. (Applause)

Without further ado I'd ask National Membership Director Doug Wells up here as we recognize our top Departments and recruiters whose contributions have made this tremendous success possible.

(Whereupon, National Membership Director Doug Wells joined Commander McIntosh on the stage.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Division I, Departments with more than 35,000 members. For Division I, our top recruiting Department happens to be the largest Department in the organization. Please give a round of applause for California J.R. Wilson who will be accepting the award on behalf of the Department of California. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. J.R. Wilson advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Division II, Departments with 18,000 to 34,000 members. For Division II we honor the great recruiting skills of our veterans. Please give a warm welcome for Past Department Commander Gregory D. Remus, the Department of Minnesota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Remus advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Division III, Departments with 10,000 to 17,000 members. Division III, please give a rousing reception for Past Department Commander Kevin J. Walkowski, the Department of Minnesota—correction, Wisconsin. I'm a member of Minnesota so I wanted to get it twice. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Walkowski advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Division IV, Departments with 5,000 to 9,999 members. For Division IV, let's give a round of applause for Past Department Commander Katherine A. Baran, DAV Department of Nevada. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Baran advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Departments with 5,000 members or less. For Division V, let's recognize Eric Van Emmerik, the Department of South Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice-Commander Van Emmerik advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: The next award is the General Jonathan M. Wainwright Award. This award is presented to the Department that closes the year with the largest increase in new members.

The DAV Department who will receive this year's award has taken this trophy home for the past nine consecutive years. And this now marks a full decade. Yes, Texas. (Applause) You have earned this honor. Will the Reverend Dr. Charles W. Edwards Jr. step forward to receive this award. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Reverend Dr. Edwards advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: The Robert S. Marx Award is presented to the Department that completes the year with the highest percentage increase of fully-paid life members over the goal. This year's winner is the Department of Minnesota, (Applause) represented by Greg Remus. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Remus advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: You're doing a good job there, Butch. The Membership Recruiter Hall of Fame Award has been given since 1994. DAV recognizes the success of recruiters who have signed 100 or more new members for three consecutive membership years with a gold lapel pin.

Please give a round of applause for this year's inductee, Romaine Barnett. (Applause)

(Whereupon Romaine Barnett advanced to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Our top recruiter from our membership ranks is a current Chapter Service Officer and past Department commander in Alabama. Through his dedication and leadership his chapter is one of the largest in the department, out-recruiting chapters in much more populated areas.

He is credited with recruiting 121 members to join DAV. Please give a warm reception for this proud member from Chapter 9 in Enterprise, Alabama, William "Bill" Baker. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Baker advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: One of the reasons—and it's a primary reason—why DAV has continued to build and maintain its membership for so many years is that veterans who experience DAV's free services understand the life-changing value of our organization.

The work of our service officers at every level is amazing. But equally amazing is their ability to communicate the value of membership to the veterans who have benefited from our assistance. The work of our National Service Officers have been critical to the health of our membership for many years and is greatly appreciated.

It is important that we recognize the contributions of these professionals and the added passion they bring that makes people want to be a part of our organization. Therefore, it is with great pride that I present the top recruiter from our NSO corps who, remarkably, recruited 291 veterans to join our ranks.

Ladies and gentlemen, please put your hands together for Derek W. Norman, DAV National Service Office in Saint Louis, Missouri. (Applause)

(Whereupon, NSO Derek W. Norman advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Family, please remember when you introduce a veteran to DAV you are providing a great service to them and our organization. You never know who will join until you ask. Please keep up the great work in this area. It's critical to our success.

I'd like to call on Board of Directors' Treasurer Rolly Lee for his report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TREASURER ROLLY LEE: Good morning, DAV.

(Response of "Good morning.")

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TREASURER LEE: National Commander McIntosh, DAV members and guests, the members of the Board of Directors join me in this report and they are Chairman Ron F. Hope from the State of North Carolina; Vice-Chairman David W. Riley from Alabama; Secretary J. Marc Burgess; Directors Frank Maughan from Utah; Johnny N. Stewart from Arizona, and Richard L. Tolfa of Florida; along with National Commander McIntosh and National Judge Advocate Dobmeier who served as advisors.

It is my honor and privilege to present a report on the financial affairs of our organization for the six-month period ending June 30th, 2016. DAV's total solicited support through that date was \$50.5 million.

Direct mail contributions were \$38.6 million, primarily from mailing 38.1 million solicitation pieces. Bequests were \$7.7 million.

Under the Department Fundraising Program payouts to Departments in December 2015 and June 2016 totaled \$2.8 million and, in addition, to the supplemental payment of \$1.4 million in November of 2015. Since the program began in 1994, \$93.3 million have been distributed to Departments for their service programs. The Board would like to thank all of our Departments for their continuing participation in this program, and especially our members for their generosity.

As of June 2016, DAV received total support and revenue from all sources of \$86.5 million. Through June of 2016, DAV had a total expenditure of \$101.3 million, of which \$75.5 million were for service programs. That's 70.4 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 of \$20.7 million decreased by 4.4 percent from those incurred for 2015. Administrative outlays were \$5.1 million, compared to those at this time last year.

As of June 30th, 2016, the market value of our general fund long-term investment portfolio is \$362.8 million, a 3.8 percent decrease from June 30th, 2015.

DAV's unrestricted net assets or its net worth have decreased from \$283.5 million at this time last year to \$269.2 million. However, since our year-end low of \$194.9 million during the 2008 recession, the value of our net assets has grown by \$74.3 million or 38 percent.

DAV's hardworking staff nationwide and at both headquarters has been investing in new areas of assistance, public outreach and IT systems to provide more service to the veterans. They are also devoting resources to the new fundraising opportunities. They will continue to closely monitor expenses and use our resources wisely.

We are pleased to report that at the June 30th, 2016, the Life Membership Fund Reserve was \$59.3 million.

Commander, it is my privilege to present DAV's proposed 2017 Annual Budget for ratification by the Convention. At the May 17th, 2016, meeting of the Board of Directors held at National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Kentucky, the Board was presented the 2017 proposed budget.

The budget was assembled by the DAV Accounting and Finance Department with the assistance of Department Directors and was reviewed by our National Adjutant Burgess, and our Executive Directors Jesinoski and Augustine. The Board unanimously approved the proposed budget at that time, a copy of which was provided to all Convention attendees at registration.

I would like to thank National Adjutant Marc Burgess and his staff for their hard work which makes this report possible. Let me thank you, Commander McIntosh, for the support I received in my role as the Board of Directors' Treasurer. It has been a privilege to hold this position.

Commander, this concludes my report to the National Convention, a report I feel honored to offer to all of our delegates.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you, Rolly, for your service and that informative report. May I have a motion to accept Rolly's financial report?

MR. MIKE STEINBAUGH: Mic 1.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Mic 1.

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mike Steinbaugh, Chapter 7, District 16, so moves.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you. We have a motion. Can I get a second?

MR. OLIVER: Mic 2, Danny Oliver, Chapter 88, District 21, second.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you, Danny. All in favor signify by saying aye; all opposed. So ordered.

At this time I would like to call on Chairman Rob Reynolds for his report of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. (Applause)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERT REYNOLDS: Good morning, Comrade Commander and delegates. The National Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws was called to order on July 31st, 2016, by the Committee Advisors, Rob Reynolds and Ed Hartman.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Rob Reynolds was elected as the chairman and J. R. Wilson was elected as secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I now will report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention. For the purposes of saving time I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolution.

Resolution Number 216, amend the third sentence of Article 3, Section 3.10, Paragraph 2, Rule 21(d) to read as follows:

"All proposed amendments shall be presented to the Convention no later than the second day prior to the scheduled day of adjournment of the Convention. And voting thereon shall begin the following business day."

Resolution Number 217, add as Article 6, Section 6.4, Paragraph 8:

"If a department, chapter, county or a district council, former DAV entity, voluntarily or involuntarily ceases to operate as a DAV-related entity all assets that were held or should have been held by former DAV entity or the actual date if such cessation, regardless of when finalized or formalized, belong to DAV. Such assets shall be transferred as provided herein.

"In the case of the cessation of a department assets shall be transferred to the national organization.

"In the case of the cessation of a chapter or county or a district council, assets shall be transferred to the state department having jurisdiction, or, if there is no state department, to the national organization.

"This provision shall not apply in the case of chapter mergers approved by the National Executive Committee.

"This provision shall apply regardless of whether former DAV entity continues to exist as a legal entity subsequent to its association with DAV."

Resolution Number 218, delete the last sentence of Article 12, Section 12.3, Paragraph 2, which reads: "Transportation expense shall be allowed in addition."

Resolution Number 219, delete the last sentence of Article 14, Section 14.5, Paragraph 1, which reads: "The Board of Directors, with the concurrence of a two-thirds majority of the National Executive Committee, shall authorize the investment and reinvestment of such portions of the life membership fund as it may determine to be in the best interest of the Membership program."

Resolution Number 220, amend the language of Article 15, Section 15.3, Paragraph 5 to allow departments, chapters, and auxiliary units to conduct their Forget-me-Not drives at any time during the year so long as the Forget-me-Not drive by each entity does not exceed seven days. Current language restricts Forget-me-Not drives to be conducted for seven consecutive days.

Resolution Number 221, amend the first sentence of Article 19, Section 19.2, to read as follows:

"The names and contact information of the members of the Disabled American Veterans and its Auxiliary, in whatever format, shall not be used for the commercial purposes of support of any partisan political action committee or for any political use or for any other purposes other than one directly connected to the approved activities of the organization."

Current language only protects names and addresses. This change will further protect email addresses and any other form of existing or future forms of contact information.

Comrade Commander, this completes the first reading of the report on the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws and the recommended changes to the Constitution and Bylaws.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REYNOLDS: Thank you.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Rob. We will hear the final report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee at Wednesday's business session.

Adjutant Burgess, any announcements?

ADJUTANT J. MARC BURGESS: Thank you, Commander. We are looking forward to the President's appearance at our special session this afternoon at 1:45. In regards to today's events, members are encouraged to be in line by 11:00 a.m. in the hotel lobby.

To be clear, lines will not begin on this floor. The entire ballroom, including a portion of the front, will need to be cleared in order to accommodate security requirements following our business session.

Seminars on the lower level will be held as scheduled. Those who planned on attending the seminars on the lower level, please know that those seminars will continue to be on schedule.

There are special arrangements with hotel restaurants to provide efficient food options in the lobby and our special session, again, will begin at 1:45 p.m. We encourage you to eat before getting in line if possible.

Please be aware of any personal medical needs you may encounter for the duration of this special session. You may bring in needed medication.

All attendees will go through airport-like security. Members should bring as few personal items as possible. No bags. No sharp objects, umbrellas, liquids or signs will be allowed in the venue. Cameras are permitted.

Join us for Fun Night this evening at 8:00 p.m. We will be treated to the Lieutenant Dan Band. This year's concert is sponsored by our good friends at TriWest who have generously donated to bring Gary and the team back to Atlanta to perform.

Our regular business session will begin Wednesday 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 reports on the Charitable Service Trust, the National Service Foundation, and an update on our Memorial in Washington, D.C.

On Wednesday afternoon we will hold our final business session and conclude with nominations and elections of officers.

And to be clear, when we recess here in just a minute this ballroom, we need to clear out of here as soon as possible so we can prepare for today's events, this afternoon.

The Nominating Committee will be meeting at 3:00 p.m. today in the Kennesaw Room, Atlanta Conference Center, LL-3. So if you are on the Nominating Committee you will meet today at 3:00 p.m. in the Kennesaw Room, Atlanta Conference Center, LL-3.

If anyone has found a lost U.S.M.C. challenge coin with U.S. Embassy Santiago, Chile on the back, please return it to the Headquarters Office or to Tim Kelly, NEC, District Number 4.

We are giving away five \$25 gift cards to delegates. You must be present to win. If I call your name please come to the stage and see Doug Wells. Richard Pescatore, Connecticut, James McNamee Number 5; James Scott, Arizona, Chapter Number 46; Chester Swift of Delaware, W.C. Phillips Memorial Number 9; Joe Litzinger, North Dakota, Andy Nomland Number 2; and John Hogan, Massachusetts, Silver Star, JFK Memorial Number 3.

That's all my announcements, Commander.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Marc. Ladies and gentlemen, please rise. I will ask Chaplain Dover to lead us in a closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Thank you, Commander. Ladies, gentlemen, let us pray. Heavenly Creator, by the light of your Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful camaraderie and fellowship. In the same spirit, help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Chaplain. The Convention stands in recess until 1:45 this afternoon.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 10:15 o'clock, a.m., on Monday, August 1, 2016.)

- - -

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES

JULY 1, 2015–JUNE 30, 2016

OFFICE: NATIONAL TOTALS			OFFICE: PHOENIX, ARIZONA			OFFICE: SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	72,124		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,234		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	105	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	54,072		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,112		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	74	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	84,152		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,821		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	95	
4. PENSION	2,235		4. PENSION	22		4. PENSION	0	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1,657		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	10		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	71,105		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	2,509		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	43	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	4,920		8. MISCELLANEOUS	30		8. MISCELLANEOUS	3	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	2,161		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	39		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	119		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	7		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	129		12. DEATH PENSION	2		12. DEATH PENSION	1	
13. INSURANCE	2,360		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	990		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	7		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	296,531		16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,788		16. TOTAL AWARDS	325	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$300,039,945.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,239,603.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$420,104.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$4,038,647,514.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$83,951,056.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$6,685,195.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$4,338,687,459.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$93,991,562.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$9,105,299.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	305,562		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,984		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	144	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	124,825		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,181		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,000	
PAPER	112,784		PAPER	1,991		PAPER	994	
ELECTRONIC	12,041		ELECTRONIC	190		ELECTRONIC	6	
22. INTERVIEWS	158,996		22. INTERVIEWS	3,792		22. INTERVIEWS	1,489	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	245,205		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,554		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	92	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	38,446		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	24		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	26		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	195,899		26. NEW CLAIMS	3,113		26. NEW CLAIMS	946	
PAPER	160,246		PAPER	2,282		PAPER	886	
ELECTRONIC	35,653		ELECTRONIC	631		ELECTRONIC	60	
27. MEMBERSHIP	3,003		27. MEMBERSHIP	45		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	1079		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	38342		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

OFFICE: MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA			OFFICE: LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS			OFFICE: OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,604		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,195		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	470	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,474		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	970		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,291	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,292		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,961		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,044	
4. PENSION	30		4. PENSION	22		4. PENSION	34	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	80		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	37		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	17	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,893		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	811		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,191	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	228		8. MISCELLANEOUS	54		8. MISCELLANEOUS	69	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	19		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	16		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	26	
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	6		12. DEATH PENSION	3		12. DEATH PENSION	7	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	5		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	13	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,631		16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,075		16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,163	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,384,413.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,698,844.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,520,983.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$100,815,086.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$77,330,487.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$57,657,818.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$108,199,509.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$83,029,331.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$62,178,801.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,575		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,114		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,949	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,833		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,025		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,687	
PAPER	2,391		PAPER	935		PAPER	1,489	
ELECTRONIC	442		ELECTRONIC	90		ELECTRONIC	198	
22. INTERVIEWS	4,200		22. INTERVIEWS	4,596		22. INTERVIEWS	2,686	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,806		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,132		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,632	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	39	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,311		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,956		26. NEW CLAIMS	2,019	
PAPER	3,096		PAPER	1,643		PAPER	1,729	
ELECTRONIC	1,215		ELECTRONIC	313		ELECTRONIC	290	
27. MEMBERSHIP	66		27. MEMBERSHIP	44		27. MEMBERSHIP	4	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	2	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	122	

OFFICE: ANCHORAGE, ALASKA			OFFICE: LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA			OFFICE: SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	151		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	780		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	4,010	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	153		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,221		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,702	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	190		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,169		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,771	
4. PENSION	1		4. PENSION	108		4. PENSION	13	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	53		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	7	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	63		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	3,608		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	3,261	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0		8. MISCELLANEOUS	279		8. MISCELLANEOUS	464	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	27		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	13	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	36	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	16		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	16		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	13	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	558		16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,277		16. TOTAL AWARDS	11,294	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$506,195.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$8,188,973.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$11,256,769.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$6,925,953.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$95,445,327.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$144,219,404.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$7,432,148.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$103,634,300.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$155,476,173.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	364		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,542		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	12,434	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	473		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,548		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,599	
PAPER	469		PAPER	2,322		PAPER	3,579	
ELECTRONIC	4		ELECTRONIC	226		ELECTRONIC	20	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,013		22. INTERVIEWS	4,700		22. INTERVIEWS	10,194	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	195		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,864		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	9,843	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	12		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	5	
26. NEW CLAIMS	737		26. NEW CLAIMS	3,400		26. NEW CLAIMS	5,373	
PAPER	712		PAPER	2,948		PAPER	5,147	
ELECTRONIC	25		ELECTRONIC	452		ELECTRONIC	226	
27. MEMBERSHIP	0		27. MEMBERSHIP	21		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	16		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	170	
29. PARTICIPANTS	565		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	5197	

OFFICE: DENVER, COLORADO

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,117
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,147
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,978
4. PENSION	46
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	15
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,815
8. MISCELLANEOUS	114
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	42
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	8
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	5
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	10
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	8,297
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,283,227.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$92,307,599.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$99,590,826.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,303
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,475
PAPER	4,196
ELECTRONIC	279
22. INTERVIEWS	3,551
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,635
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4,532
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	6,627
PAPER	4,942
ELECTRONIC	1,685
27. MEMBERSHIP	2
28. BRIEFINGS	32
29. PARTICIPANTS	1052

OFFICE: WASHINGTON, D.C.

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,110
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	788
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,814
4. PENSION	5
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	8
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	382
8. MISCELLANEOUS	11
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	7
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	1
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,128
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,845,547.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$133,947,199.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$139,692,746.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,635
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,904
PAPER	1,847
ELECTRONIC	57
22. INTERVIEWS	4,033
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	32
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3,455
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,009
PAPER	2,656
ELECTRONIC	353
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	10
29. PARTICIPANTS	222

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	0
PAPER	0
ELECTRONIC	0
22. INTERVIEWS	0
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	0
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	7
PAPER	7
ELECTRONIC	0
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,100
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	640
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,170
4. PENSION	3
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	4
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	429
8. MISCELLANEOUS	19
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	3
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	4
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,372
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,613,837.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$49,196,262.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$52,812,099.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,617
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	619
PAPER	559
ELECTRONIC	60
22. INTERVIEWS	2,173
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,380
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,795
PAPER	1,017
ELECTRONIC	778
27. MEMBERSHIP	22
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	22
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	12
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	9
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	29
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	72
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$66,412.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$874,757.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$941,169.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	9,527
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	77
PAPER	74
ELECTRONIC	3
22. INTERVIEWS	453
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	293
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	99
PAPER	81
ELECTRONIC	18
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	3,175
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,894
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,995
4. PENSION	84
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	79
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	3,863
8. MISCELLANEOUS	903
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	92
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	24
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	45
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	15,154
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$12,829,175.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$168,467,159.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$181,296,334.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	14,340
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	7,602
PAPER	6,347
ELECTRONIC	1,255
22. INTERVIEWS	6,404
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	9,843
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,432
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	3
26. NEW CLAIMS	11,795
PAPER	8,308
ELECTRONIC	3,487
27. MEMBERSHIP	80
28. BRIEFINGS	26
29. PARTICIPANTS	969

OFFICE: WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	114
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	128
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	157
4. PENSION	1
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	4
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	57
8. MISCELLANEOUS	2
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	2
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	2,355
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,820
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$456,649.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$36,440,183.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$36,896,832.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	679
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	349
PAPER	336
ELECTRONIC	13
22. INTERVIEWS	634
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	663
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	306
PAPER	232
ELECTRONIC	74
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
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	3
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	18
PAPER	0
ELECTRONIC	18
22. INTERVIEWS	7
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	0
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	21
PAPER	0
ELECTRONIC	21
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: ORLANDO, FLORIDA

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	300
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	214
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	480
4. PENSION	4
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	10
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	4
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	5
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,017
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,110,134.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$15,486,289.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$16,599,423.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,094
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	574
PAPER	568
ELECTRONIC	6
22. INTERVIEWS	1,004
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,011
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	493
PAPER	346
ELECTRONIC	147
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA			OFFICE: CHICAGO, ILLINOIS			OFFICE: WICHITA, KANSAS		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	44		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	769		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	666	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	35		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	738		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	596	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	48		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,126		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	896	
4. PENSION	1		4. PENSION	16		4. PENSION	28	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	27		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	22	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	476		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	263	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0		8. MISCELLANEOUS	42		8. MISCELLANEOUS	35	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	30		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	26	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	17		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	6	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	7		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	2		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	19	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	130		16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,251		16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,561	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$145,343.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,262,359.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,452,787.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$2,091,819.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$49,761,850.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$33,021,130.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$2,237,162.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$53,024,209.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$35,473,917.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	443		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,483		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,725	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	593		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,548		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	865	
PAPER	566		PAPER	2,066		PAPER	807	
ELECTRONIC	27		ELECTRONIC	482		ELECTRONIC	58	
22. INTERVIEWS	2,066		22. INTERVIEWS	4,911		22. INTERVIEWS	1,671	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	306		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,009		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,612	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	913		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,065		26. NEW CLAIMS	2,766		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,428	
PAPER	1,150		PAPER	1,683		PAPER	1,326	
ELECTRONIC	915		ELECTRONIC	1,083		ELECTRONIC	102	
27. MEMBERSHIP	5		27. MEMBERSHIP	435		27. MEMBERSHIP	39	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	41		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	1163		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

OFFICE: ATLANTA, GEORGIA			OFFICE: INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA			OFFICE: LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,359		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	763		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,593	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,184		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	429		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	936	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,899		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	742		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,696	
4. PENSION	8		4. PENSION	12		4. PENSION	11	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	26		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	76	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	2,835		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	58	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	31		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	823		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	73	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	13		8. MISCELLANEOUS	2		8. MISCELLANEOUS	5	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	2		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	6		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	11	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	5		12. DEATH PENSION	4	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	5	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,360		16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,795		16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,414	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,972,400.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,612,404.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,846,287.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$97,400,977.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$31,884,371.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$85,621,501.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$105,373,377.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$34,496,775.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$91,467,788.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,192		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,187		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,083	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,560		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	962		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,473	
PAPER	3,273		PAPER	883		PAPER	2,175	
ELECTRONIC	287		ELECTRONIC	79		ELECTRONIC	298	
22. INTERVIEWS	4,561		22. INTERVIEWS	3,068		22. INTERVIEWS	1,803	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,522		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,810		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,088	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2,615		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	999	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,487		26. NEW CLAIMS	2,620		26. NEW CLAIMS	5,048	
PAPER	4,927		PAPER	2,183		PAPER	4,345	
ELECTRONIC	560		ELECTRONIC	437		ELECTRONIC	703	
27. MEMBERSHIP	1		27. MEMBERSHIP	21		27. MEMBERSHIP	1	
28. BRIEFINGS	113		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	2	
29. PARTICIPANTS	2612		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	50	

OFFICE: BOISE, IDAHO			OFFICE: DES MOINES, IOWA			OFFICE: NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	597		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	637		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	493	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	396		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	317		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	654	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	485		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	652		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,368	
4. PENSION	3		4. PENSION	9		4. PENSION	10	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	3		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	4		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	53	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	562		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	208		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	508	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	8		8. MISCELLANEOUS	16		8. MISCELLANEOUS	86	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	13		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	5		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	3	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	2		12. DEATH PENSION	8		12. DEATH PENSION	4	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	11		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	8		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,081		16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,864		16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,184	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,742,475.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,783,561.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,789,279.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$22,977,725.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$26,444,385.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$51,304,136.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$24,720,200.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$28,227,946.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$55,093,415.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,787		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,164		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,030	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	555		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,020		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,677	
PAPER	537		PAPER	984		PAPER	2,367	
ELECTRONIC	18		ELECTRONIC	36		ELECTRONIC	310	
22. INTERVIEWS	2,179		22. INTERVIEWS	544		22. INTERVIEWS	1,784	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,412		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,311		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,963	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	953	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	4		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,195		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,681		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,998	
PAPER	1,054		PAPER	1,096		PAPER	1,629	
ELECTRONIC	141		ELECTRONIC	585		ELECTRONIC	369	
27. MEMBERSHIP	5		27. MEMBERSHIP	59		27. MEMBERSHIP	75	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	85	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	560	

OFFICE: TOGUS, MAINE

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,818
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	600
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,688
4. PENSION	8
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	26
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	243
8. MISCELLANEOUS	4
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	6
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,396
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,770,981.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$71,850,422.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$76,621,403.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,842
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	311
PAPER	88
ELECTRONIC	223
22. INTERVIEWS	991
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,798
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	647
PAPER	102
ELECTRONIC	545
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,588
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,274
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,423
4. PENSION	10
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	23
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	542
8. MISCELLANEOUS	88
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	15
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	14
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,982
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,581,132.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$82,284,872.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$87,866,004.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,196
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,484
PAPER	1,171
ELECTRONIC	313
22. INTERVIEWS	2,589
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,942
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,747
PAPER	1,927
ELECTRONIC	820
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	196
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	361
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	350
4. PENSION	17
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	3
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	739
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	7
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,682
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,200,983.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$17,198,232.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$18,399,215.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,949
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	913
PAPER	620
ELECTRONIC	293
22. INTERVIEWS	1,306
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,192
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	887
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,086
PAPER	757
ELECTRONIC	329
27. MEMBERSHIP	3
28. BRIEFINGS	12
29. PARTICIPANTS	330

OFFICE: BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	419
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	494
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	729
4. PENSION	3
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	12
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	27
8. MISCELLANEOUS	5
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	1,692
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,813,093.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$28,394,327.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$30,207,420.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,885
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,880
PAPER	1,565
ELECTRONIC	315
22. INTERVIEWS	3,467
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,447
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	28
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,369
PAPER	2,627
ELECTRONIC	742
27. MEMBERSHIP	201
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: DETROIT, MICHIGAN

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	990
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	828
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,088
4. PENSION	12
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	22
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,035
8. MISCELLANEOUS	108
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	11
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	4
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,103
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,875,185.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$58,983,172.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$62,858,357.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,450
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,546
PAPER	4,383
ELECTRONIC	163
22. INTERVIEWS	2,865
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,483
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	6,819
PAPER	6,722
ELECTRONIC	97
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,154
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,783
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,735
4. PENSION	57
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	77
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	18,923
8. MISCELLANEOUS	65
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	29
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	10
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	8
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	25,842
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$24,798,597.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$249,282,047.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$274,080,644.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	9,221
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,466
PAPER	4,324
ELECTRONIC	142
22. INTERVIEWS	2,818
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,234
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	6,390
PAPER	5,479
ELECTRONIC	911
27. MEMBERSHIP	613
28. BRIEFINGS	7
29. PARTICIPANTS	179

OFFICE: COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4. PENSION	1
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1
8. MISCELLANEOUS	1
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,143.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$15,180.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$16,323.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	58
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	6
PAPER	1
ELECTRONIC	5
22. INTERVIEWS	47
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	32
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	5
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	5
26. NEW CLAIMS	50
PAPER	14
ELECTRONIC	36
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	6
29. PARTICIPANTS	9

OFFICE: ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,612
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,462
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,431
4. PENSION	328
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	86
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	363
8. MISCELLANEOUS	80
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	547
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	92
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	249
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	9,250
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$9,190,666.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$128,479,445.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$137,670,111.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	14,118
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,391
PAPER	1,297
ELECTRONIC	94
22. INTERVIEWS	1,572
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	10,808
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,582
PAPER	2,084
ELECTRONIC	2,498
27. MEMBERSHIP	13
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: FORT HARRISON, MONTANA

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	531
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	326
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	608
4. PENSION	8
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	13
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	163
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	4
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	7
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,663
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,558,878.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$21,192,364.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$22,751,242.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,935
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	282
PAPER	261
ELECTRONIC	1
22. INTERVIEWS	296
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,890
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	380
PAPER	376
ELECTRONIC	4
27. MEMBERSHIP	23
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,169
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	473
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,130
4. PENSION	10
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	18
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	15
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	12
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	1
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	4
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,840
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,820,970.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$42,614,089.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$45,435,059.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,145
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	349
PAPER	312
ELECTRONIC	37
22. INTERVIEWS	360
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,449
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	450
PAPER	279
ELECTRONIC	171
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	528
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	330
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	577
4. PENSION	2
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	10
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	57
8. MISCELLANEOUS	1
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,507
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,742,927.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$26,146,630.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$27,889,557.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,076
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	383
PAPER	359
ELECTRONIC	24
22. INTERVIEWS	702
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,611
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	735
PAPER	398
ELECTRONIC	337
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: NEW YORK, NEW YORK

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	495
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	578
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	855
4. PENSION	7
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	18
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	16
8. MISCELLANEOUS	1,022
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	9
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	2
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,004
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,158,627.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$35,476,519.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$37,635,146.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,533
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,267
PAPER	2,141
ELECTRONIC	126
22. INTERVIEWS	1,604
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,135
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	6
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,800
PAPER	2,371
ELECTRONIC	429
27. MEMBERSHIP	14
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: RENO, NEVADA

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	294
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	367
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	227
4. PENSION	15
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	260
8. MISCELLANEOUS	16
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	4
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	9
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,199
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,035,148.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$15,900,174.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$16,935,322.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	755
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	823
PAPER	796
ELECTRONIC	27
22. INTERVIEWS	1,564
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	640
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	13
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,671
PAPER	1,332
ELECTRONIC	339
27. MEMBERSHIP	8
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	535
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	735
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	797
4. PENSION	11
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	10
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	117
8. MISCELLANEOUS	45
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	9
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,263
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,023,119.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$30,728,099.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$32,751,218.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,935
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	564
PAPER	179
ELECTRONIC	385
22. INTERVIEWS	1,951
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,165
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	6
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,045
PAPER	253
ELECTRONIC	792
27. MEMBERSHIP	163
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: ALBANY, NEW YORK

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	53
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	30
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	28
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	3
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	1
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	2
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	117
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$99,897.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$2,630,579.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$2,730,476.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	569
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	677
PAPER	384
ELECTRONIC	293
22. INTERVIEWS	731
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	31
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	654
PAPER	311
ELECTRONIC	343
27. MEMBERSHIP	66
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	352
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	291
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	189
4. PENSION	8
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	9
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	111
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	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	963
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$917,785.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$15,931,064.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$16,848,849.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,916
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	926
PAPER	778
ELECTRONIC	148
22. INTERVIEWS	1,733
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,826
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	16
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,668
PAPER	1,133
ELECTRONIC	535
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	795
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,255
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,566
4. PENSION	29
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	30
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	654
8. MISCELLANEOUS	10
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	20
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	9
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	10
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,382
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,784,956.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$64,808,081.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$69,593,037.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,866
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,768
PAPER	1,622
ELECTRONIC	146
22. INTERVIEWS	3,104
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,400
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	75
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	2
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,833
PAPER	1,643
ELECTRONIC	190
27. MEMBERSHIP	7
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: BUFFALO, NEW YORK

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	346
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	259
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	383
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	9
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	2,933
8. MISCELLANEOUS	11
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,943
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,079,520.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$47,294,412.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$52,373,932.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,904
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,233
PAPER	1,108
ELECTRONIC	125
22. INTERVIEWS	1,196
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,306
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,533
PAPER	882
ELECTRONIC	651
27. MEMBERSHIP	5
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	0
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$0.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$50.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$0.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	0
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	0
PAPER	0
ELECTRONIC	0
22. INTERVIEWS	0
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	0
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	0
PAPER	0
ELECTRONIC	0
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: CLEVELAND, OHIO

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	4,219
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,104
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	4,709
4. PENSION	35
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	82
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	163
8. MISCELLANEOUS	149
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	12
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	13
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	11,489
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$11,436,726.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$173,698,139.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$185,134,865.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	13,785
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	5,452
PAPER	5,236
ELECTRONIC	216
22. INTERVIEWS	2,398
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	12,476
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	769
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	10,802
PAPER	9,275
ELECTRONIC	1,527
27. MEMBERSHIP	82
28. BRIEFINGS	21
29. PARTICIPANTS	1188

OFFICE: PORTLAND, OREGON

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	312
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	576
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	686
4. PENSION	14
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	17
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	909
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	9
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	2
12. DEATH PENSION	1
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	7
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,539
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,575,414.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$32,211,271.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$34,786,685.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,067
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	737
PAPER	688
ELECTRONIC	960
22. INTERVIEWS	1,727
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	15
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	951
PAPER	707
ELECTRONIC	244
27. MEMBERSHIP	13
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,530
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,541
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,711
4. PENSION	8
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	16
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	1,003
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	2
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	8
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	4
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,826
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,409,521.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$108,657,135.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$116,086,656.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	12,705
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,560
PAPER	2,537
ELECTRONIC	2,023
22. INTERVIEWS	2,127
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	23,117
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	459
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,424
PAPER	3,095
ELECTRONIC	1,329
27. MEMBERSHIP	58
28. BRIEFINGS	13
29. PARTICIPANTS	488

OFFICE: CINCINNATI, OHIO

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	3
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	5
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	8
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,614.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$111,400.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$119,014.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	172
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	275
PAPER	241
ELECTRONIC	34
22. INTERVIEWS	402
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	47
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	10
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	504
PAPER	418
ELECTRONIC	86
27. MEMBERSHIP	58
28. BRIEFINGS	13
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	858
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	740
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,037
4. PENSION	68
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	37
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	188
8. MISCELLANEOUS	26
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	61
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	16
13. INSURANCE	2
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	165
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,198
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,265,784.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$51,294,153.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$54,519,937.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,299
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,052
PAPER	2,870
ELECTRONIC	182
22. INTERVIEWS	2,867
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	8,070
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,798
PAPER	3,024
ELECTRONIC	774
27. MEMBERSHIP	54
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	611
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	447
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	671
4. PENSION	22
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	13
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	248
8. MISCELLANEOUS	39
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	24
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	20
13. INSURANCE	2
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	33
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,131
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,104,593.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$26,916,775.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$29,023,368.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,816
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	642
PAPER	621
ELECTRONIC	21
22. INTERVIEWS	942
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,918
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,369
PAPER	902
ELECTRONIC	467
27. MEMBERSHIP	45
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,579
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,580
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	4,275
4. PENSION	48
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	28
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	671
8. MISCELLANEOUS	6
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	65
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	15
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	22
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	9,292
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$9,965,777.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$133,492,544.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$143,458,321.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,413
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,374
PAPER	4,255
ELECTRONIC	119
22. INTERVIEWS	3,681
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	8,334
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	125
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	7,815
PAPER	7,724
ELECTRONIC	91
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	155

OFFICE: PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	601
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	761
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	793
4. PENSION	11
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	15
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	301
8. MISCELLANEOUS	54
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	8
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	1
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,546
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,242,945.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$33,741,950.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$35,984,895.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,985
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,132
PAPER	1,038
ELECTRONIC	94
22. INTERVIEWS	1,158
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,119
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,920
PAPER	1,790
ELECTRONIC	130
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND			OFFICE: NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE			OFFICE: SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	895		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,958		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,000	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	390		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,864		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	968	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	671		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,944		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,554	
4. PENSION	0		4. PENSION	24		4. PENSION	13	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	28		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	21	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	256		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	371		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	3,360	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0		8. MISCELLANEOUS	100		8. MISCELLANEOUS	4	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	10		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	20	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	3	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	4		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	15	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,212		16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,309		16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,961	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,255,797.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,485,615.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,028,616.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$30,899,286.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$103,182,894.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$77,452,282.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$33,155,083.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$110,668,509.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$84,480,810.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,594		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	9,037		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,151	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	904		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,580		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,006	
PAPER	901		PAPER	4,393		PAPER	2,946	
ELECTRONIC	3		ELECTRONIC	187		ELECTRONIC	90	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,452		22. INTERVIEWS	2,422		22. INTERVIEWS	4,743	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,465		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,800		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,936	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,531		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	503	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,493		26. NEW CLAIMS	6,992		26. NEW CLAIMS	6,147	
PAPER	1,395		PAPER	5,919		PAPER	5,852	
ELECTRONIC	98		ELECTRONIC	1,073		ELECTRONIC	295	
27. MEMBERSHIP	0		27. MEMBERSHIP	117		27. MEMBERSHIP	6	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	81	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	735		29. PARTICIPANTS	648	
OFFICE: COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA			OFFICE: WACO, TEXAS			OFFICE: SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,710		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,782		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	5,203	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,446		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,379		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	753	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,789		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,683		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,522	
4. PENSION	14		4. PENSION	39		4. PENSION	12	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	11		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	35	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	1,243		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	12		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	4,322		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	821	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0		8. MISCELLANEOUS	202		8. MISCELLANEOUS	3	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	33		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	14	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	14	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	9		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	24		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,240		16. TOTAL AWARDS	11,515		16. TOTAL AWARDS	9,380	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,543,279.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$10,967,292.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$12,432,085.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$85,623,455.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$127,902,737.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$177,524,207.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$92,166,734.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$138,870,029.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$189,956,292.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,850		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	12,671		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	9,815	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,021		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	7,235		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	741	
PAPER	1,896		PAPER	6,745		PAPER	595	
ELECTRONIC	125		ELECTRONIC	490		ELECTRONIC	146	
22. INTERVIEWS	6,333		22. INTERVIEWS	2,392		22. INTERVIEWS	2,394	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,631		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	11,484		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	9,246	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	120		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2,042		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	10		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,659		26. NEW CLAIMS	10,029		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,520	
PAPER	3,265		PAPER	8,080		PAPER	1,120	
ELECTRONIC	394		ELECTRONIC	1,949		ELECTRONIC	400	
27. MEMBERSHIP	128		27. MEMBERSHIP	36		27. MEMBERSHIP	138	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	28		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	6733		29. PARTICIPANTS	30	
OFFICE: SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA			OFFICE: HOUSTON, TEXAS			OFFICE: WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VERMONT		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	617		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	879		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	12	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	413		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,279		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	8	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	777		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,352		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	6	
4. PENSION	5		4. PENSION	28		4. PENSION	0	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	17		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	28		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	202		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	2,097		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	45		8. MISCELLANEOUS	38		8. MISCELLANEOUS	1	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	20		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	2		12. DEATH PENSION	7		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	11		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	16		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,096		16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,766		16. TOTAL AWARDS	28	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,421,489.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,774,430.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$22,904.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$32,214,368.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$65,970,142.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$395,056.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$34,635,857.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$71,744,572.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$417,960.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,938		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,419		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	103	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	324		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,075		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	286	
PAPER	303		PAPER	971		PAPER	286	
ELECTRONIC	21		ELECTRONIC	104		ELECTRONIC	0	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,171		22. INTERVIEWS	3,648		22. INTERVIEWS	115	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,444		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,884		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	53	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	900		26. NEW CLAIMS	3,452		26. NEW CLAIMS	411	
PAPER	646		PAPER	3,186		PAPER	393	
ELECTRONIC	254		ELECTRONIC	266		ELECTRONIC	18	
27. MEMBERSHIP	110		27. MEMBERSHIP	24		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	1		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	46		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

OFFICE: ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,000
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,613
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,042
4. PENSION	14
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	27
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	727
8. MISCELLANEOUS	5
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	19
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,449
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,430,437.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$109,228,715.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$116,659,152.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,657
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,883
PAPER	4,487
ELECTRONIC	396
22. INTERVIEWS	1,872
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,284
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3,059
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	6,158
PAPER	5,976
ELECTRONIC	182
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	245
29. PARTICIPANTS	10518

OFFICE: MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,081
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,492
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,041
4. PENSION	821
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	182
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	304
8. MISCELLANEOUS	70
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	713
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	262
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	165
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,131
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,775,255.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$86,997,925.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$105,773,180.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,363
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,451
PAPER	1,294
ELECTRONIC	157
22. INTERVIEWS	2,406
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,946
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,408
PAPER	1,904
ELECTRONIC	504
27. MEMBERSHIP	34
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: HONOLULU, HAWAII

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	270
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	96
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	131
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,005
8. MISCELLANEOUS	1
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,503
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,130,071.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$13,997,912.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$17,127,983.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	896
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,044
PAPER	937
ELECTRONIC	107
22. INTERVIEWS	2,761
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	430
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2,741
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,306
PAPER	2,213
ELECTRONIC	93
27. MEMBERSHIP	63
28. BRIEFINGS	55
29. PARTICIPANTS	2208

OFFICE: SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,993
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,544
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,728
4. PENSION	51
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	37
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	774
8. MISCELLANEOUS	36
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	43
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	13
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	24
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,244
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,093,337.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$93,656,456.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$99,749,797.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,080
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,702
PAPER	4,605
ELECTRONIC	97
22. INTERVIEWS	3,462
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,181
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3,433
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	7,003
PAPER	6,741
ELECTRONIC	262
27. MEMBERSHIP	1
28. BRIEFINGS	97
29. PARTICIPANTS	2484

OFFICE: CHEYENNE, WYOMING

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	262
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	130
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	183
4. PENSION	3
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	47
8. MISCELLANEOUS	1
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	631
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$504,163.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$7,541,845.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$8,046,008.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	937
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	447
PAPER	443
ELECTRONIC	4
22. INTERVIEWS	827
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	910
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	767
PAPER	747
ELECTRONIC	20
27. MEMBERSHIP	13
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	64
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	187
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	358
4. PENSION	3
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	81
8. MISCELLANEOUS	53
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	1
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	749
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$818,938.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$10,780,044.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$11,598,982.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,017
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	322
PAPER	258
ELECTRONIC	64
22. INTERVIEWS	1,470
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,998
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	828
PAPER	674
ELECTRONIC	154
27. MEMBERSHIP	39
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

OFFICE: SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	381
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	210
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	822
4. PENSION	5
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	98
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	118
8. MISCELLANEOUS	191
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	2
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	15
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	2
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,844
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,866,502.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$29,024,610.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$30,891,112.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,041
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,114
PAPER	1,094
ELECTRONIC	20
22. INTERVIEWS	2,661
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,782
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	50
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,489
PAPER	1,092
ELECTRONIC	397
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	5
29. PARTICIPANTS	79

Disabled American Veterans

Financial Statements as of and for the
Year Ended December 31, 2015, and
Independent Auditors' Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Disabled American Veterans:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans ("DAV"), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2015, 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, 2015, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



April 8, 2016

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION **AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015**

ASSETS

CASH	\$ 11,643,363
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	1,573,758
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	38,370
SOLICITATION MATERIALS	1,667,241
PREPAID EXPENSES	3,142,969
INVESTMENTS	376,482,563
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT — Net	9,556,283

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

Cash	2,720,504
Investments	53,223,366

TOTAL

\$ 460,048,417

See notes to financial statements.

LIABILITIES AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES:	
Accounts payable	\$ 8,082,621
Accrued expenses	2,833,829
Pension liability	22,499,041
Postretirement benefit obligation	88,846,726
Other liabilities	975,737
Deferred dues and service fees collected in advance	3,317,911
Deferred revenue	1,891,869
Life membership:	
Accounts payable	716,776
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	55,227,094

Total liabilities

184,391,604

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

275,656,813

TOTAL

\$ 460,048,417

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

Support:

Contributions	\$ 117,761,731
Contributed services and facilities — primarily services	44,029,369
Contributed media and materials	<u>22,045,257</u>
Total support	<u>183,836,357</u>

Revenue:

Membership dues and fees	6,797,671
Income from investments — net	11,844,408
List royalties	714,414
Miscellaneous revenue	<u>582,983</u>
Total revenue	<u>19,939,476</u>

Realized investment losses	<u>(1,112,932)</u>
----------------------------	--------------------

Total support and revenue	<u>202,662,901</u>
---------------------------	--------------------

EXPENSES:

Program services:

Service program	48,250,855
Employment program	1,225,382
Legislative program	2,802,462
Voluntary service program	44,469,958
State services and disaster relief	5,305,810
Communications program	30,158,742
Membership program	6,979,847
Public awareness outreach	<u>28,537,627</u>
Total program services	<u>167,730,683</u>

Supporting services:

Fundraising costs	38,878,196
Administrative and general	<u>9,212,109</u>
Total supporting services	<u>48,090,305</u>

Total expenses	<u>215,820,988</u>
----------------	--------------------

EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER SUPPORT AND REVENUE	(13,158,087)
---	--------------

CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	<u>(12,914,655)</u>
--	---------------------

EXCESS OF EXPENSES AND CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS OVER SUPPORT AND REVENUE	(26,072,742)
---	--------------

PENSION LIABILITY AND OTHER POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATION ADJUSTMENT	<u>12,484,849</u>
--	-------------------

CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	(13,587,893)
-----------------------------------	--------------

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	<u>289,244,706</u>
---	--------------------

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS — End of year	<u>\$ 275,656,813</u>
---------------------------------------	-----------------------

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	Service Program	Employment Program	Legislative Service Program	Voluntary Service Program	State Services and Disaster Relief	Communications Program	Membership Program	Public Awareness Outreach	Total Program Services	Fundraising Costs	Administrative and General	Total Supporting Services	Total
Scholarships	\$ 21,854,149	\$ 248,945	\$ 849,010	\$ 358,296	\$	\$ 893,235	\$ 1,313,121	\$ 144,371	\$ 35,698,119	\$ 3,676,758	\$ 4,899,897	\$ 8,567,645	\$ 31,426,764
Employee benefits	12,892,480	1,89,014	760,077	335,835		431,439	891,183	69,934	15,529,962	2,735,773	3,201,536	5,937,309	21,467,771
Payroll taxes	1,755,111	22,766	64,291	42,031,119		701,116	97,427	11,032	2,051,307	307,479	422,045	729,524	2,780,331
DAV transportation network and LVP volunteers				180,857					42,103,119				42,103,119
HSC & Transport Network Grants				655,405					180,857				180,857
Winter Sports Clinic				68,727					68,727				68,727
Columbia Trust				12,000		10,000	100		88,727		4,248	4,248	93,702
Other grants	51,245		5,500		801,344				88,727				90,271
Disaster relief					313,450				313,450				313,450
State service program					4,189,824				4,189,824				4,189,824
Scholarships				59,488					59,488				59,488
Expense of national convention							823,605		823,605				823,605
Travel, training and relocation	2,196,457	78,176	176,406	75,377		115,552	583,674	17,732	2,866,594	110,915	148,153	259,068	3,125,662
Facilities	1,926,250						206,894		1,926,250				1,926,250
Postage and shipping	2,822,019					19,173,544		189,466	2,234,234				2,234,234
Postage and shipping	822,019	5,315	1,880	35,174	1,192	1,227,086	134,407	7,131	2,234,234	12,150,436	318,042	12,468,478	14,702,712
Equipment rental and maintenance	402,402	933	12,406	30,008		44,183	187,945	21,253	699,130	512,293	910,568	1,442,861	2,141,991
Supplies	737,258	45,758	83,387	11,841		372,537	103,254	40,877	1,394,912	799,677	164,495	964,172	2,359,084
Insurance	92,287		1,614	388		28,854	1,194	3,304	127,621	3,112	143,711	146,823	274,444
Telephone	133,622	2,950	4,634	1,678		9,882	8,384	1,438	162,568	12,802	152,629	165,431	327,999
Outside services							965		981,716	96,229	425,176	1,403,121	1,486,121
Project costs	960,751	568,250				4,009,976			4,979,026	1,707,521	2,588	1,707,709	6,686,335
Program management						857,053			857,053				857,053
Cost of mailing materials						86,416	195,627	874	328,773	41,179,906	551,914	41,731,820	42,060,993
Heat, light, water, and power	44,123	3	1,122	608					158,553		280,795	280,795	439,348
Security service	158,553								158,553				158,553
Depreciation of property and equipment	159,414			29,822			387		488,734	135,317	140,628	140,628	390,429
Legal fees	410,193	1,162	944			14,293	13,6310		488,734		864,663	999,980	1,488,714
Professional fees	51,697					1,024,093	19,827		188,007		152,689	152,689	340,696
Conventions from two to one participants	85,469	142	1,178	54,918		2,652,528	2,691,103		2,652,528		1,115,046	1,115,046	5,355,577
	839,007	54,988	744,818	435,951		959,865	2,091,103	27,527,683	32,653,415	(25,904,634)	(67,48,781)	(32,652,415)	1,314,664
Total	\$ 48,250,855	\$ 1,225,382	\$ 2,802,462	\$ 44,469,958	\$ 5,305,810	\$ 30,158,742	\$ 6,979,847	\$ 28,537,627	\$ 167,730,683	\$ 38,878,196	\$ 9,212,109	\$ 48,090,305	\$ 215,820,988

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Change in unrestricted net assets	\$ (13,587,893)
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Noncash investment contributions	(168,257)
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	15,519,852
Pension liability and other postretirement benefit obligation adjustment	(12,484,849)
Depreciation	1,458,714
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	5,974
Realized investment gains	465,964
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
Accounts receivable	344,119
Interest and dividends receivable	(6,219)
Solicitation materials	(506,341)
Prepaid expenses	1,679,445
Other assets	313,900
Accounts payable	4,954,254
Accrued expenses and other	10,101,638
Other liabilities	(192,815)
Deferred dues and service fees collected in advance	28,485
Deferred revenue	(1,137,984)
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	(5,782,515)

Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>1,005,472</u>
---	------------------

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Payments for property and equipment	(3,152,452)
Proceeds from the sale of property and equipment	4,284
Purchases of investments	(187,133,321)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	<u>193,758,893</u>

Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>3,477,404</u>
---	------------------

NET INCREASE IN CASH	4,482,876
----------------------	-----------

CASH — Beginning of year	<u>9,880,991</u>
--------------------------	------------------

CASH — End of year	<u>\$ 14,363,867</u>
--------------------	----------------------

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

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 a 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 in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

New Accounting Standards — In January 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued ASU 2016-01, Financial Instruments Overall (Subtopic 825-10) — Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities. ASU 2016-01 revises the accounting related to the classification and measurement of investments in equity securities and the presentation of certain fair value changes for financial liabilities measured at fair value. The ASU also amends certain disclosure requirements associated with the fair value of financial instruments. The effective date of ASU 2016-01 is for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018. The ASU has not yet been adopted. Management is currently evaluating the impact to the financial statements.

In May 2014, FASB issued ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers. ASU 2014-09 requires an entity to recognize revenue in a way that depicts the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods and services. ASU 2014-09 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018 and is to be applied retrospectively; early adoption is permitted. The ASU has not yet been adopted. Management is currently evaluating the impact that this ASU will have on the financial statements

Cash and Cash Equivalents— 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, 2015, are composed of the following:

	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Book Value
Land and improvements	\$ 1,015,314	\$ 485,210	\$ 530,104
Buildings and improvements	11,093,738	8,709,274	2,384,464
Machinery and other equipment	23,110,101	20,105,297	3,004,804
Construction in process	<u>3,636,911</u>		<u>3,636,911</u>
Total	<u>\$ 38,856,064</u>	<u>\$ 29,299,781</u>	<u>\$ 9,556,283</u>

Depreciation is computed generally on the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of assets, which ranges from three to 20 years.

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

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

Contributed Services and Facilities — DAV operates extensive programs through which volunteers contribute many hours of service to veterans; the hours that are donated to veterans at medical facilities of the VA and donated hours of Department and Chapter Service Officers through the Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) are used to tabulate Contributed Services. Of the 1,877,538 hours accounted for in 2015, 1,825,016 are hours for the DAV’s Nationwide Transportation Network and LVAP Program. Using a value per hour of \$23.07 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 and LVAP program is \$42,103,119. This value, together with the value of certain contributed facilities, is recorded as support and expenses in the accompanying statement of activities and statement of functional expenses.

Contributed Media and Materials — DAV produces public service announcements through various mediums (television, radio, digital, social media) of which approximately \$22.0 million was donated through independent third parties. The value of the donated media is provided through an independent third party utilizing an estimated market value for each type of medium. The value of contributed media and materials is recorded as support and expenses in the accompanying statement of activities and statement of functional expenses.

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

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

Use of Estimates — The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with 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 2015, DAV incurred joint costs of \$55,026,145 for informational materials and activities that included fundraising appeals. Of those costs, \$27,527,683 was allocated to public awareness outreach (program services) and \$27,498,462 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 2015 in the reserve for future distribution of life membership dues are summarized below:

Balance — January 1, 2015	<u>\$61,009,609</u>
Additions:	
Membership dues received	5,658,059
Earnings on invested assets — net	1,813,488
Gain on sale of investments	<u>646,968</u>
Total additions	<u>8,118,515</u>
Distribution of membership dues:	
National headquarters	6,826,156
Local chapters	2,228,110
State departments	2,148,095
Other expense	<u>93,472</u>
Total distribution of membership dues	<u>11,295,833</u>
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>(2,605,197)</u>
Balance — December 31, 2015	<u>\$55,227,094</u>

Life membership net earnings on invested assets of \$1,813,488 are comprised of gross interest and dividends of \$1,837,652— net of investment fees paid of \$24,164.

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 total support and 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, 2015, are summarized below:

	Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,863,305	\$ 5,863,305	\$
Certificates of Deposit	1,232,851	1,230,299	(2,552)
Commercial Paper	2,178,800	2,179,516	716
U.S. Government agency notes	2,738,701	2,740,960	2,259
Municipal Bonds	1,761,235	1,763,440	2,205
Common stocks	15,648,816	19,372,099	3,723,283
Mutual bond funds	138,323,914	135,466,164	(2,857,750)
Mutual equity funds/ETF's	173,250,737	207,866,780	34,616,043
Total	\$ 340,998,359	\$ 376,482,563	\$ 35,484,204

The General fund income from investments — net, \$11,844,408, is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$12,029,459, reduced by investment management and custody fees of \$185,051.

The cost and fair value of life membership fund investments in securities and the net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2015, are summarized below:

	Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 68,753	\$ 68,753	\$
Common stocks	1,691,338	2,140,310	448,972
Mutual bond funds	17,187,743	16,748,387	(439,356)
Mutual equity funds/ETF's	28,789,686	34,265,916	5,476,230
Total	\$ 47,737,520	\$ 53,223,366	\$ 5,485,846

As of December 31, 2015, the amount of securities in the general fund or life membership fund in a continuous unrealized loss position for a duration of greater than twelve months is not material.

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 2015.

DAV's policy is to recognize significant transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no transfers between Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 during 2015.

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, 2015.

Cash and 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 DAV's shares in a registered investment company's fund.

U.S. Government Securities (U.S. Treasury Notes) and Common stocks, categorized as Level 1, are valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the individual security is traded.

Certificates of Deposit, categorized as Level 2, are valued at fair value, which approximates amortized cost.

Commercial Paper, categorized as Level 2, is valued using broker quotes that utilize observable market inputs. Commercial paper represents the DAV's share in an unsecured promissory note, issued by a corporation, with a fixed maturity of less than one year.

U.S. Government agency notes, Municipal and Corporate bonds, categorized as Level 2, 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), categorized as Level 1, are valued at quoted market prices that represent the net asset value of shares held at year-end.

The major categories of general fund financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2015, 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	\$ 5,863,305	\$	\$ 5,863,305
Certificate of Deposit		1,230,299	1,230,299
Commercial Paper		2,179,516	2,179,516
U.S. Government agency notes		2,740,960	2,740,960
Municipal Bonds		1,763,440	1,763,440
Common stocks	19,372,099		19,372,099
Mutual funds/ETF's:			
Domestic fixed-income funds	121,641,545		121,641,545
International fixed-income funds	13,824,619		13,824,619
Domestic equity funds/ETF's	128,918,687		128,918,687
International equity funds	70,833,095		70,833,095
Real estate equity funds	8,114,998		8,114,998
Total mutual funds/ETF's	<u>343,332,944</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>343,332,944</u>
Total general fund assets	<u>\$ 368,568,348</u>	<u>\$ 7,914,215</u>	<u>\$ 376,482,563</u>

The major categories of life membership fund financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2015, 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	\$ 68,753	\$	\$ 68,753
Common stocks	2,140,310		2,140,310
Mutual funds/ETF's:			
Domestic fixed-income funds	14,502,601		14,502,601
International fixed-income funds	2,245,786		2,245,786
Domestic equity funds/ETF's	20,021,141		20,021,141
International equity funds	12,904,970		12,904,970
Real estate equity funds	1,339,805		1,339,805
Total mutual funds/ETF's	<u>51,014,303</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,014,303</u>
Total life membership fund assets	<u>\$ 53,223,366</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 53,223,366</u>

6. PENSION PLAN AND POSTRETIREMENT BENEFITS

Pension Plan — DAV has a defined benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees and certain employees of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary (DAVA). Benefits are based on years of service and employees' compensation. Contributions are intended to fully fund, over a period of seven years, the benefits attributed to service to date based on market interest rates established by the IRS. In 2015, DAV funded amounts in accordance with the recommended actuarially determined contribution amount. Contributions to the plan are based on the 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 2020 would apply and has been valued.

The measurement date for the plans is December 31, 2015. Summarized information for the plans is as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
Accumulated benefit obligation	<u>\$ 65,149,815</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Projected benefit obligation	\$ 73,476,114	\$ -
Accumulated postretirement benefit obligation (APBO)		\$ 88,846,726
Fair value of plan assets	<u>(50,977,073)</u>	<u></u>
Unfunded status recognized	<u>\$ 22,499,041</u>	<u>\$ 88,846,726</u>

Summarized information of the plans for the year ended December 31, 2015, is as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
Components of net periodic benefit cost:		
Service cost	\$ 2,774,761	\$ 3,607,446
Interest cost	2,751,743	3,693,041
Expected return on assets	(3,709,096)	
Amortization of net loss from earlier periods	1,333,541	1,151,196
Amortization of prior service cost (benefits)	31,964	(122,991)
Recognized settlement loss	<u>2,428,971</u>	<u></u>
Net periodic benefit cost	<u>\$ 5,611,884</u>	<u>\$ 8,328,692</u>
Components of pension and postretirement obligation adjustment:		
Amortization of prior service cost (benefit)	\$ 31,964	\$ (122,991)
Amortization of net loss from earlier periods	1,333,541	1,151,196
Actuarial net (gain)/loss during the year	(3,968,414)	11,630,582
Pension settlement loss	<u>2,428,971</u>	<u></u>
Pension and postretirement obligation adjustment	<u>\$ (173,938)</u>	<u>\$ 12,658,787</u>

Amounts not yet recognized as a component of periodic pension cost at December 31, 2015, are as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
Prior service cost (benefit)	\$ 223,747	\$ (824,035)
Net actuarial loss	<u>21,958,917</u>	<u>12,838,669</u>
Amounts recognized as reduction in unrestricted net assets	<u>\$ 22,182,664</u>	<u>\$ 12,014,634</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 2016 are \$1,297,573 and \$31,964, respectively. The estimated net actuarial loss and prior service benefit for the postretirement plan that will be amortized from unrestricted net assets and into net periodic benefit cost in 2016 will result in a cost of \$318,447 and gain of \$122,991, respectively.

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
For the year ended December 31, 2015:		
Benefit expense (net periodic benefit cost of \$5,611,884 offset by \$56,358 reimbursed by DAVA)	\$ 5,555,526	\$ 8,328,692
Actual return /(loss) on plan assets	(1,061,919)	
Employer contribution	2,308,640	1,822,158
Plan participants' contributions		212,029
Benefits paid	9,384,740	2,034,187

Weighted-average rate assumptions used for the December 31 valuation:

For year-end benefit obligation:

Discount rate	4.0 %	4.5 %
Rate of compensation increase	3.0 %	3.0 %

For annual benefit cost:

Discount rate	3.8 %	4.0 %
Rate of compensation increase	3.0 %	3.5 %
Expected return on plan assets	6.5 %	N/A

The APBO and related benefit cost are determined through the application of relevant actuarial assumptions. DAV anticipates the increase in its healthcare cost-trend rate to slow from 8.0% in 2015 to 4.5% in 2022, after which the trend rate is expected to stabilize.

The mortality assumption was updated in 2015 to the RP-2014 Employee Mortality Tables and RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Tables for males and females projected generationally with Scale MP-2015. The updated mortality table did not have a significant impact on our financial statements as our qualified plan assumes benefits will be paid in the form of lump sums which for the most part are not expected to be impacted by a change in the mortality assumption.

DAV expects to contribute \$3.1 million to its pension plan in 2016.

DAV's pension plan investment allocation at December 31, 2015, is as follows:

Asset Category	Percentage of Plan Assets
Equity based securities	55 %
Fixed-income securities	24
Alternative and Other	14
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>7</u>
Total	<u>100 %</u>

The primary objective of the investment policy is preservation of capital with an emphasis on long-term growth without undue exposure to risk and in recognition of the cash flow needs of the plan. The asset allocation ranges are: 38% to 65% total equity based securities (including 3% to 10% in the real estate sector), 22% to 42% total fixed-income securities and 10% to 20% alternative and other funds.

Approximately 0% to 10% of the combined investments are to be in money market or other liquid funds (cash requirements).

Pension plan financial assets are recorded at fair value using the measurement techniques outlined in Note 5. The major categories of pension plan financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2015, 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	\$ 3,514,346	\$	\$ 3,514,346
U.S. Government securities	2,576,348		2,576,348
U.S. Government agency notes		1,322,336	1,322,336
Municipal bonds		181,115	181,115
Corporate bonds		4,980,991	4,980,991
Common stocks:			
International Developed	105,236		105,236
Domestic Large Cap	5,573,800		5,573,800
Domestic Small & Mid Cap	2,093,356		2,093,356
Real Estate	1,640,405		1,640,405
Total common stocks	9,412,797	-	9,412,797
Mutual funds/ETF's:			
Domestic fixed-income funds	1,828,167		1,828,167
International fixed-income funds	1,252,556		1,252,556
Domestic equity funds/ETFs	10,648,140		10,648,140
International equity funds	8,137,243		8,137,243
Alternative and Other	7,123,034		7,123,034
Total mutual funds/ETF's	28,989,140	-	28,989,140
Total pension plan assets	\$ 44,492,631	\$ 6,484,442	\$ 50,977,073

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
2016	\$ 3,581,424
2017	3,370,958
2018	4,078,996
2019	2,784,289
2020	3,812,071
2021–2025	24,821,537

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
2016	\$ 3,418,943	\$ (251,111)	\$ 3,167,832
2017	3,492,176	(274,825)	3,217,351
2018	3,627,663	(305,008)	3,322,655
2019	3,763,813	(330,298)	3,433,515
2020	3,852,842	(355,320)	3,497,522
2021–2025	22,294,068	(2,141,872)	20,152,196

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 2015 were \$2,430,805 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, 2015, net assets of the Foundation were \$115,999,158. During 2015, DAV personnel assisted the

Foundation on a limited basis in administering its business operations and fundraising program. For these services, DAV charged the Foundation \$103,896. DAV provides the Foundation with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge. Additionally, in 2015, DAV contributed \$68,727 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 2015, DAV returned a \$105,000 grant awarded by NSF in 2013.

In 2015, the Foundation appropriated the following in support of DAV programs and services:

- \$50,000 - National Service Office Furniture and Equipment Fund
- \$16,610 - National Service Office Copier Fund
- \$25,000 - National Service Office Reference Manuals
- \$127,583 - National Service Office Scanners

At December 31, 2015, the Foundation owed \$24,021 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, 2015, net assets of the Trust were \$20,208,734. DAV personnel assisted the Trust on a limited basis in administering its business operations, fundraising, and grant programs. For these personnel services, DAV charged the Trust \$158,648. DAV provides the Trust with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge.

In 2015, the Trust appropriated the following in support of DAV programs and services:

- \$322,193 - National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic
- \$10,000 - Mobile Service Office Program
- \$45,000 - Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program
- \$200,000 - National Transportation Network
- \$1,173,000 - DAV Employment Initiative
- \$100,000 - DAV “Just B Kids” Scholarship
- \$14,750 - DAV 5k Program
- \$10,000 - National Service Officer Programs-other
- \$125,970 - Assistance to disabled veterans and their families

At December 31, 2015, the Trust owed \$252,191 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, 2015, net assets of DAVA were \$7,016,817. 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 \$10,387 in 2015. 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, 2015, DAVA owed approximately \$172,171 for such costs, which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position. As of December 31, 2015 DAV owed approximately \$35,588 for dues collected, which is recorded as an accounts payable from the DAV Life Membership.

Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation — Some members of DAV's Board of Directors also serve on the Board of Directors for the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial (DVLMF). DAV also provides services to the DVLMF, which puts DAV in the position to influence operating policies of the DVLMF. The accompanying financial statements do not include the net assets (or changes therein) of the DVLMF. The DVLMF is a separate entity from DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Based upon the unaudited financial statements at December 31, 2015, net assets of the DVLMF were \$1,677,505. During 2015, DAV personnel assisted the DVLMF on a limited basis in administering its business operations, as well as providing the use of facilities and equipment at no charge.

In February 2016, the DVLMF contributed commemorative coin inventory with a value of \$7,789 at no cost to DAV.

8. COMMITMENT AND CONTINGENCIES

DAV executed an irrevocable standby letter of credit for \$1,300,000 on June 30, 2015 that expires July 1, 2016. The expiration date automatically extends for additional periods of one year unless DAV provides 30 days notice of non-extension. In no event will the expiration date be automatically extended beyond July 1, 2018. No funds have been drawn down as of December 31, 2015.

DAV executed an irrevocable standby letter of credit for \$1,443,411 on December 17, 2015 that expires December 15, 2016. The expiration date automatically extends for additional periods of one year unless DAV provides 30 days notice of non-extension. In no event will the expiration date be automatically extended beyond December 15, 2018. No funds have been drawn down as of December 31, 2015.

9. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No events have occurred after December 31, 2015 but before April 8, 2016, the date the financials were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

* * * * *

Committee on Credentials

Advisor: Douglas K. Wells, Jr. and Michael Dobmeier

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	McGee, Stephan	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Pratt, Stanley	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	29
2	Gibney, William	Delegate	NEW YORK	38
	Sander, George	Alternate	NEW YORK	15
3	Fournier, Richard	Alternate	MAINE	1
4	Opatovsky, John	Delegate	NEW JERSEY	32
	Countryman, Raymond	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
5	Fiumara, Philip	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	76
	Noel, Kevin	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	8
6	Westbury, Morris	Delegate	D C	3
	Simmons, John	Alternate	VIRGINIA	22
7	Ayala, Thomas	Delegate	FLORIDA	1
	Graham, Jackie	Alternate	FLORIDA	13
8	Waugh, Charles	Delegate	ALABAMA	66
	Partlow, Clarence	Alternate	MISSISSIPPI	43
9	Roberts, Jeremy	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	16
	Knowlton, J.	Alternate	NORTH CAROLINA	84
10	Cutler, Jo Linda	Delegate	MICHIGAN	20
	Hughes, Albert	Alternate	MICHIGAN	1
11	Stith, Michael	Delegate	OHIO	35
	Hanneman, Dennis	Alternate	OHIO	77
12	Meier, Eugene	Delegate	WISCONSIN	55
	Hiley, Michael	Alternate	ILLINOIS	16
13	Rollins, George	Delegate	KENTUCKY	171
	Johnson, Penny	Alternate	INDIANA	52
14	Tobin, Warren	Delegate	NORTH DAKOTA	31
	Karg, Van	Alternate	MINNESOTA	37
15	Jakub, James	Delegate	NEBRASKA	20
	Oliver, Jennifer	Alternate	IOWA	20
16	Plante, Joel	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	23
	Fuenger, Joseph	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	73
17	Francis, Cynthia	Delegate	COLORADO	11
	Snavey, Dale	Alternate	COLORADO	21
18	Slade, Carey	Delegate	ARIZONA	8
	Cellini, Michael	Alternate	ARIZONA	1
19	Marker, Brigitte	Delegate	OREGON	12
	Alegrete, Robert	Alternate	OREGON	1
20	Massey, Geri	Delegate	TEXAS	36
	Davis, Jo-Ann	Alternate	TEXAS	42
21	Giles, Leroy	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	29
	Miller, Linda	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	29
99	Kaminsky, Paul	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

Committee on General Resolutions and Membership

Advisor: S. Scott Hope and Shurhonda Love

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Hoey, William	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	10
	Devine, Dennis	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
2	Barradas, Shannon	Delegate	NEW YORK	15
	Fredericks, Rachel	Alternate	NEW YORK	38
3	Laverdiere, James	Delegate	MAINE	1
	Zibrida, Michael	Alternate	RHODE ISLAND	21
4	Werlich, Ronald	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	47
	Wischmann, Herman	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
5	Arnold, Philip	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	81
	Smith, William	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	1
6	Miller, Nachee	Delegate	D C	3
	Hurley, Dennis	Alternate	WEST VIRGINIA	56
7	Chicollo, Frank	Delegate	FLORIDA	4
	Johnson, Jack	Alternate	FLORIDA	150
8	Kalk, Edward	Delegate	LOUISIANA	20
	Smith, Becky	Alternate	TENNESSEE	45
9	Pagan, Danny	Delegate	GEORGIA	90
	Coffee, Wilhemenia	Alternate	GEORGIA	90
10	Hajek, Brandi	Delegate	MICHIGAN	105
11	Parker, John	Delegate	OHIO	35
	Cunningham, Aaron	Alternate	OHIO	15
12	Arens, Robert	Delegate	ILLINOIS	36
	Polk, John	Alternate	WISCONSIN	19
13	Syberg, Mark	Delegate	INDIANA	60
	Neal, Michael	Alternate	KENTUCKY	89
14	Saddoris, Robert	Delegate	MINNESOTA	7
	Aguirre, Michael	Alternate	MINNESOTA	2
15	Carr, Ronald	Delegate	MISSOURI	11
	Ogle, William	Alternate	NEBRASKA	14
16	Raba, Mariana	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	6
	Mack, Thomas	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	7
17	Prescott, Gary	Delegate	NEW MEXICO	5
	Allam, Paul	Alternate	COLORADO	7
18	Walker, Richard	Delegate	NEVADA	12
	Parocua, Ramiro	Alternate	NEVADA	12
19	Garcia, Dena	Delegate	WASHINGTON	5
	Bond, Richard	Alternate	WASHINGTON	2
20	Barber-Diaz, Damara	Delegate	TEXAS	3
	Ellingboe, Brian	Alternate	TEXAS	17
21	Egan, Richard	Delegate	ARKANSAS	10
	Hudson, Donald	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	9
99	Hogan, James	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1
	Kaminsky, Paul	Alternate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights

Advisor: Joy Ilem and Paul Varela

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Sullivan, Michael	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	27
	Whitty, Francis	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
2	La Mora, Edward	Delegate	NEW YORK	38
	Noble, Albert	Alternate	NEW YORK	92
3	Anderson, Michael	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	9
	Zibrida, Michael	Alternate	RHODE ISLAND	21
4	Dziemaskiewicz, Jakub	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	5
	Rachuba, Robert	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	11
5	Smith, William	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	1
	Arnold, Philip	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	81
6	Procurier, James	Delegate	VIRGINIA	10
	Brown, Betty	Alternate	MARYLAND	4
7	Linden, Albert	Delegate	FLORIDA	90
	Johnson, Denise	Alternate	FLORIDA	32
8	Deatherage, James	Delegate	TENNESSEE	20
	Bratton, Jerry	Alternate	MISSISSIPPI	48
9	Wilner, Brian	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	44
	DeBramaletta, Mattie	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	4
10	Dempsey, James	Delegate	MICHIGAN	13
11	Plahovinsak, John	Delegate	OHIO	63
	Cvelbar, William	Alternate	OHIO	42
12	Labelle, Al	Delegate	WISCONSIN	57
	Aaron, Mark	Alternate	ILLINOIS	1
13	Peek, Donald	Delegate	INDIANA	52
	Purcell, Ralph	Alternate	INDIANA	3
14	Van Emmerik, Eric	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
	Helmbrecht, Gaylord	Alternate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
15	Brader, David	Delegate	KANSAS	5
	Rieger, Carl	Alternate	MISSOURI	2
16	Valdez, Richard	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	12
	Villanueva, Jeremy	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	20
17	Mitchell, Edward	Delegate	NEW MEXICO	5
	Espinosa, Nancy	Alternate	UTAH	14
18	Titus, Keith	Delegate	ARIZONA	20
	Hedrick, Edward	Alternate	NEVADA	12
19	Georgoff, Gregory	Delegate	OREGON	1
	Dixon, Harvey	Alternate	IDAHO	22
20	Squyres, Robert	Delegate	TEXAS	139
	Barber, Cynthia	Alternate	TEXAS	3
21	Rende, Christopher	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	88
	Sellers, Tommy	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	44
99	O'Connell, Dennis	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

Advisor: Edward Hartman and Robert Reynolds

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Zilka, Michael	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Latham, Sheretta	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	90
2	Travis, Bettie	Delegate	NEW YORK	15
	Montes, Diane	Alternate	NEW YORK	120
3	Burrows, James	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	9
	Schatz, Richard	Alternate	RHODE ISLAND	12
4	Kopley, James	Delegate	NEW JERSEY	41
	Whitfield, Mabel	Alternate	NEW JERSEY	4
5	Cudworth, Robert	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	1
	Kelly, Lawrence	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	3
6	Reynolds, Robert	Delegate	VIRGINIA	10
	Cooper, Stephanie	Alternate	D C	3
7	Tyson, Wallace	Delegate	FLORIDA	11
	Kise, Dale	Alternate	FLORIDA	94
8	Sensat, Davis	Delegate	LOUISIANA	17
	Johnston, Rebecca	Alternate	TENNESSEE	22
9	Coffee, Wilhemenia	Delegate	GEORGIA	90
	Lynch, Tincie	Alternate	GEORGIA	91
10	Alexander, Terrice	Delegate	MICHIGAN	1
11	Bailey, James	Delegate	OHIO	117
	Robertson, Reynolds	Alternate	OHIO	63
12	Walkowski, Kevin	Delegate	WISCONSIN	34
	Huckaby, Eric	Alternate	ILLINOIS	15
13	Bell, Richard	Delegate	KENTUCKY	6
	Higgins, Robbin	Alternate	KENTUCKY	19
14	Grantier, Kevin	Delegate	MONTANA	3
	Berndt, Scott	Alternate	MINNESOTA	39
15	Ortiz, Linda	Delegate	KANSAS	3
	Hicks, Kenneth	Alternate	MISSOURI	2
16	Wilson, Gerald	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	154
	Goldberg, Michael	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	117
17	Grieb, Andrew	Delegate	COLORADO	21
	Squyres, Jerry	Alternate	COLORADO	7
18	Chadwell, Robert	Delegate	ARIZONA	8
	Girard, Cathryn	Alternate	NEVADA	15
19	Gray, Oval	Delegate	WASHINGTON	29
	Clark, Tal	Alternate	OREGON	1
20	Massey, Donald	Delegate	TEXAS	36
	Jameson, Daniel	Alternate	TEXAS	14
21	Alterman, Frank	Delegate	ARKANSAS	7
	Brown, Clinton	Alternate	ARKANSAS	7
99	Pope, Leonard	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

Committee on Finance

Advisor: Rolly D. Lee and Barry Jesinoski

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Fitzgerald, David	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	6
	McKinney, Darrell	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
2	Finnerty, Robert	Delegate	NEW YORK	118
	Buccilli, Corinna	Alternate	NEW YORK	120
3	Grass, Christopher	Delegate	MAINE	1
	Andrade, Kenneth	Alternate	RHODE ISLAND	21
4	Church, Albert	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	5
	Newell, Harry	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	47
5	Morelli, Richard	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	11
	Simpson, Walter	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	75
6	Hunter, Andrew	Delegate	WEST VIRGINIA	8
	Brown, Matthew	Alternate	VIRGINIA	26
7	Bristol, Fred	Delegate	FLORIDA	90
	Cleghorn, Robert	Alternate	FLORIDA	11
8	Patterson, Richard	Delegate	ALABAMA	45
	Davis, Carroll	Alternate	MISSISSIPPI	11
9	Causey, John	Delegate	GEORGIA	1
	Bell, Franklin	Alternate	GEORGIA	10
10	Sarnacki, Evan	Delegate	MICHIGAN	114
11	Weeks, David	Delegate	OHIO	9
	Caine, William	Alternate	OHIO	116
12	Peters, Edward	Delegate	ILLINOIS	34
	Hill, Larry	Alternate	WISCONSIN	27
13	Warren, Deborah	Delegate	KENTUCKY	6
	Lougee, Rob	Alternate	KENTUCKY	19
14	Connor, Robert	Delegate	MINNESOTA	2
	Valtinson, David	Alternate	MINNESOTA	13
15	Leshner, Randall	Delegate	IOWA	29
	Wheeler, Max	Alternate	KANSAS	4
16	Gardner, Connie	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	85
	Greene, Robert	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	85
17	Welch, Jesse	Delegate	COLORADO	7
	Rahorst, Dwight	Alternate	COLORADO	7
18	Brzezinski, William	Delegate	NEVADA	13
	Haines, Marvin	Alternate	ARIZONA	8
19	Gavin, JoAnn	Delegate	WASHINGTON	5
20	Foxx, Janie	Delegate	TEXAS	128
	Hicks, John	Alternate	TEXAS	17
21	Edwards-Luckey, LaShaun	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	7
	White, Fred	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	7

Committee on Employment

Advisor: Jeffrey Hall and LeRoy Acosta

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Olson, Debora	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	85
	Santy, Lori	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	41
2	Bueno, Eduard	Delegate	NEW YORK	126
	DeLeon, Elizabeth	Alternate	NEW YORK	126
3	Boisvert, Ernest	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	12
	Burns, Gary	Alternate	MAINE	1
4	Cortese, Dominick	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	47
	Velez, Abraham	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
5	Darcangelo, Vincent	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	55
	Stratos, Wayne	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	55
6	Mills, Mark	Delegate	MARYLAND	18
	Collazo-Rivera, Delvis	Alternate	PUERTO RICO	3
7	Bouters, Bradley	Delegate	FLORIDA	16
	Mohan, Catherine	Alternate	FLORIDA	13
8	Cobb, Gary	Delegate	ALABAMA	98
	Boulton, Jane	Alternate	TENNESSEE	28
9	Childers, James	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	16
	Stancel, Richard	Alternate	NORTH CAROLINA	1
10	Barenbrugge, Ricky	Delegate	MICHIGAN	19
11	Marcum, Kenneth	Delegate	OHIO	89
	Connelly, Leo	Alternate	OHIO	2
12	Thompson, Dennis	Delegate	ILLINOIS	103
	Helgeson, Rodney	Alternate	WISCONSIN	27
13	Fivecoate, Gerald	Delegate	INDIANA	28
	Burt, Christopher	Alternate	KENTUCKY	89
14	Hall, Joseph	Delegate	NORTH DAKOTA	3
	Dobmeier, Michael	Alternate	NORTH DAKOTA	2
15	Jakub, Jamie	Delegate	NEBRASKA	20
	Thornburg, Audie	Alternate	IOWA	20
16	Vandiver, Edward	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	6
	Bravo, Jazmin	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	2
17	Schow, Terry	Delegate	UTAH	4
	Schievelbein, Michael	Alternate	COLORADO	7
18	Smith, Aunjel	Delegate	ARIZONA	20
	Janke, Terry	Alternate	NEVADA	15
19	Young, Bruce	Delegate	OREGON	1
	Turrel, Brandy	Alternate	WASHINGTON	18
20	Stewart, Teresa	Delegate	TEXAS	14
	Zomalt, Vernice	Alternate	TEXAS	233
21	Donovan, John	Delegate	ARKANSAS	10
	Vance, Craig	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	66

Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services

Advisor: Adrian Atizado and John Kleindienst

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Leonard, Patrick	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Boyd, David	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	27
2	Conklin, Richard	Delegate	NEW YORK	120
	Bush, Vaughn	Alternate	NEW YORK	126
3	Nicodemus, Robert	Delegate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	19
	Bennett, David	Alternate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	7
4	Walsh, Elizabeth	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	15
	Salminen, Tammy	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	17
5	Homme, Franklin	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	7
6	Cruz, Jose	Delegate	PUERTO RICO	3
	Clark, Charles	Alternate	MARYLAND	15
7	Keckler, Mary Ann	Delegate	FLORIDA	110
	Turk, Jonathan	Alternate	FLORIDA	16
8	Belew, Kenneth	Delegate	TENNESSEE	56
	Causey, Mason	Alternate	LOUISIANA	20
9	Tyes, Jacqueline	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	10
	Graham, Michael	Alternate	NORTH CAROLINA	35
10	Zielke, Jason	Delegate	MICHIGAN	114
11	Hutchinson, Raymond	Delegate	OHIO	63
	Cunningham, Thomas	Alternate	OHIO	3
12	Couture, Kenneth	Delegate	ILLINOIS	42
	Perkins, James	Alternate	WISCONSIN	44
13	Ginn, Cheryl	Delegate	KENTUCKY	6
	Roberts, Larry	Alternate	KENTUCKY	169
14	Walker, John	Delegate	MINNESOTA	2
	Medhaug, Michael	Alternate	NORTH DAKOTA	1
15	Buckley, Jack	Delegate	MISSOURI	11
	Shuey, James	Alternate	NEBRASKA	7
16	Johnson, Kirk	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	85
	Colletti, Gary	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	46
17	Larsen, Penny	Delegate	UTAH	6
	Mitchell, Elaine	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	5
18	Baran, Katherine	Delegate	NEVADA	7
	Burden, John	Alternate	ARIZONA	24
19	Janus, Wanda	Delegate	OREGON	1
	Miller, Wilson	Alternate	IDAHO	13
20	Montgomery, Lillie	Delegate	TEXAS	128
	Jackson, William	Alternate	TEXAS	20
21	Nunez, Sonya	Delegate	ARKANSAS	7
	Dunning, William	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	32
99	Hogan, James	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

Committee on Nomination of National Officers

Advisor: Richard Marbes and Gene Murphy

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Stack, Daniel	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Bowers, Alan	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	46
2	Sioss, Donald	Delegate	NEW YORK	76
	Brittain, Howard	Alternate	NEW YORK	135
3	Jernigan, Shawn	Delegate	MAINE	6
	Grass, Christopher	Alternate	MAINE	1
4	Pescatore, Richard	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	5
	Overton, Alvin	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	19
5	Kauffman, Joseph	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	25
	McNew, Brian	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	15
6	Cabaza, Ruben	Delegate	PUERTO RICO	11
	Fishel, Wesley	Alternate	WEST VIRGINIA	8
7	Joyner, Dennis	Delegate	FLORIDA	16
	Wolfe, Kenneth	Alternate	FLORIDA	101
8	Wenthe, Kevin	Delegate	LOUISIANA	20
	Fletcher, Clyde	Alternate	LOUISIANA	20
9	Walls, Thomas	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	4
	Jones, Paul	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	72
10	Gonzales, Beth	Delegate	MICHIGAN	102
	Reeves, Edward	Alternate	MICHIGAN	130
11	Davis, Will	Delegate	OHIO	144
	Dibble, Timothy	Alternate	OHIO	39
12	Schuenke, Michael	Delegate	WISCONSIN	3
	Reynolds, Alfred	Alternate	ILLINOIS	17
13	Sanders, Terry	Delegate	INDIANA	2
	Ewing, Lee	Alternate	KENTUCKY	89
14	Murphy, Eugene	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
	Litzinger, Joseph	Alternate	NORTH DAKOTA	2
15	Bauer, Adam	Delegate	IOWA	6
	Ortiz, Blas	Alternate	KANSAS	3
16	Powers, Frederick	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	20
	Bogan, James	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	85
17	Maughan, Frank	Delegate	UTAH	4
	Lucus, Gary	Alternate	WYOMING	11
18	Di Girolamo, Robert	Delegate	ARIZONA	1
	Dolan, Bill	Alternate	NEVADA	15
19	Stewart, Douglas	Delegate	IDAHO	6
20	Spence, Percy	Delegate	TEXAS	17
	Johnson, Ray	Alternate	TEXAS	42
21	Scott, James	Delegate	ARKANSAS	46
	Brandt, Robert	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	32
99	Lester, Ronnie	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

Columbia Trust Advisory Board

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Hogan, John	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Tanner, James	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	10
2	Sioss, Donald	Delegate	NEW YORK	76
	Day, Donald	Alternate	NEW YORK	28
3	Reilly, Ron	Delegate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	4
4	Velez, Abraham	Delegate	DELAWARE	1
	Pescatore, Richard	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	5
5	Smith, Catherine	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	55
6	Sabree, Joan	Delegate	MARYLAND	36
	Gregory, Lisa	Alternate	VIRGINIA	7
7	Reed, Brenda	Delegate	FLORIDA	4
8	Wenthe, Kevin	Delegate	LOUISIANA	20
9	Roberts, Jeremy	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	16
	Booker, Leon	Alternate	GEORGIA	1
10	Lee, Rolly	Delegate	MICHIGAN	129
11	Caine, William	Delegate	OHIO	116
12	Helgeson, Rodney	Delegate	WISCONSIN	27
	Meier, Eugene	Alternate	WISCONSIN	55
13	Coley, William	Delegate	INDIANA	72
	Kaminski, Robert	Alternate	KENTUCKY	8
14	Valtinson, David	Delegate	MINNESOTA	13
	Remus, Gregory	Alternate	MINNESOTA	38
15	Holloway, Gregory	Delegate	NEBRASKA	7
17	Watson, Floyd	Delegate	WYOMING	2
18	Brzezinski, William	Delegate	NEVADA	13
19	Marker, Brigitte	Delegate	OREGON	12
	Dixon, Harvey	Alternate	IDAHO	22
20	Archer, Tommy	Delegate	TEXAS	89
21	Oliver, Danny	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	88

National Executive Committee

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Stack, Daniel	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Richards, Raymond	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	6
2	Wisnesky, Chester	Delegate	NEW YORK	182
	Robinson, Keith	Alternate	NEW YORK	15
3	Fournier, Richard	Delegate	MAINE	1
	Nicodemus, Robert	Alternate	VERMONT	3
4	Kopley, James	Delegate	NEW JERSEY	41
	Velez, Abraham	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
5	Kelly, Lawrence	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	3
	Blow, Samuel	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	15
6	Marquez, Idalis	Delegate	PUERTO RICO	16
	Cox, Robert	Alternate	VIRGINIA	60
7	Tolfa, Richard	Delegate	FLORIDA	16
	Raber, John	Alternate	FLORIDA	18
8	Carver, Johnnie	Delegate	TENNESSEE	94
	Samuels, Donald	Alternate	TENNESSEE	3
9	Bryant, Cleveland	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	1
	Tucker, Rodney	Alternate	GEORGIA	91
10	Dempsey, James	Delegate	MICHIGAN	13
	Hughes, Albert	Alternate	MICHIGAN	1
11	Bertschy, Robert	Delegate	OHIO	47
	Uetterling, David	Alternate	OHIO	36
12	Reynolds, Alfred	Delegate	ILLINOIS	17
	Huckaby, Eric	Alternate	ILLINOIS	15
13	Bratcher, Thomas	Delegate	INDIANA	27
	Arambula, Carlos	Alternate	INDIANA	42
14	Valtinson, David	Delegate	MINNESOTA	13
	Remus, Gregory	Alternate	MINNESOTA	38
15	Tatham, Kimberly	Delegate	MISSOURI	51
	Shuey, James	Alternate	NEBRASKA	7
16	Steinbaugh, Michael	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	7
	Johnson, Kirk	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	85
17	Maughan, Frank	Delegate	UTAH	4
	Hogue, Richard	Alternate	COLORADO	21
18	Walker, Richard	Delegate	NEVADA	12
	Carson, Jeffrey	Alternate	NEVADA	13
19	Royse, Sarah	Delegate	OREGON	5
	Dixon, Harvey	Alternate	IDAHO	22
20	Spence, Percy	Delegate	TEXAS	17
	Parker, Thomas	Alternate	TEXAS	3
21	Stake, Charles	Delegate	ARKANSAS	57
	Smith, Grace Marilyn	Alternate	ARKANSAS	51

SPECIAL SESSION

August 1, 2016

- - -

A Special Session of the Disabled American Veterans 95th National Convention convened in the Centennial Ballroom on the Ballroom Level, Lower Level I, of the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, on Monday afternoon, August 1, 2016, and was called to order at 1:35 o'clock, p.m., by Past National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERTO "BOBBY" BARRERA: Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARRERA: Honored guests and especially my fellow veterans, families and survivors, our 26th President, Commander-in-Chief, Theodore Roosevelt, a seasoned soldier and a Rough Rider, understood the importance of honoring the sacrifice of service. He said that anyone who is good enough to shed blood for our country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards.

Therefore, it is indeed a privilege and a great honor to have been asked to introduce this afternoon's most distinguished guest at the DAV's 95th National Convention.

The current President, the First Lady, and his Administration have put those words of President Roosevelt into action. President Barack Obama's leadership and steadfast commitment to our nation's heroes is a matter of public record.

He has demonstrated that he is a strong supporter of our nation's veterans and their families. He has fought for the resources and the reforms the VA needs to keep its promise to the men and women who have so valiantly served.

He has shown himself willing to listen to all points of view on vital veterans' issues. But, more importantly, he actually has taken our views to heart. He used them to make pivotal policy changes on many of DAV's key priorities.

One of the most integral areas is increased funding and advance appropriation for veterans' health, including a focus on improving services for the signature wounds of today's wars—wounds such as traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury

President Obama has also made it a priority to expand and to improve health care for one of the fastest growing segments of the veterans' population, women veterans, in order to meet their unique needs, including maternity care and targeted suicide prevention programs.

Under his leadership the VA has also reduced the disability claims backlog that peaked over 600,000 just three years ago to less than 100,000 today. (Applause) He has taken on veterans' unemployment, signing the Vow to Hire Heroes Act, offering tax credits to businesses hiring unemployed veterans and extending vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits for disabled veterans.

Lastly, he has directed unprecedented support to our most vulnerable brothers and sisters which resulted in a sharp decrease in veterans' homelessness. (Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my distinct honor to introduce our special guest and first ally, the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama. (Standing Ovation)

THE HONORABLE BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA: Thank you, DAV. Thank you so much. Thank you. (Applause) Thank you. Thank you. Please, everybody have a seat. What an honor to be with you today. (Applause) Thank you. And thanks to Bobby.

You know I will never forget the time Bobby came to the Oval Office carrying a baseball bat. (Laughter) The Secret Service got a little bit nervous. (Laughter) But it was a genuine Louisville Slugger (Cheers), "I thank you for going to bat for our veterans." And I want to thank Bobby for your devotion to our veterans, especially your fellow Vietnam Vets. Thank you. Give Bobby a big round of applause. (Applause)

(Whereupon, someone called out "We love you.")

PRESIDENT OBAMA: I love you back. (Applause) I do. I want to thank our outstanding leadership team for welcoming me today, including National Commander Moses McIntosh, (Applause) Senior Vice-Commander Dave Riley, (Applause) National Adjutant Marc Burgess, (Applause) Executive Director Barry Jesinoski, (Applause), your voice in Washington, Garry Augustine, (Applause), and don't forget Pat Kemper and all the spouses and families of the DAV Auxiliary. Thank you. (Applause)

I also want to acknowledge Mayor Kasim Reed and County Chairman John Eaves for welcoming us to the great State of Georgia and the beautiful City of Atlanta. (Applause)

I am pleased to be join by our tireless Secretary of the VA, Bob McDonald. (Applause) I know he spoke to you yesterday. He is working hard—hard—every single day to transform the VA to serve our veterans better. He still gives out his cell phone number and his email.

Not many people know this but so far he has received more than 45,000 calls, emails and texts. (Laughter) And you know, I don't know what his phone bill is looking like. (Laughter) I hope he has a good plan. (Laughter)

But Bob and his team work to deal with each one of those texts or emails or phone calls he receives because every single veteran matters and he knows that. So thank you, Bob, for the great work you are doing. (Applause)

So it is good to be back with the Disabled American Veterans. And what a journey that we have had together. It's great to be here. We worked together back when I was a senator. You were one of the first veterans' organizations I called when I ran for President. I welcomed you to the White House as a partner.

I came to your convention in my first term and my second, along with Michelle. And so it is fitting that my final major address to our nation's veterans as President is here at the DAV. (Applause)

And as I reflect on these past eight years, some of the most unforgettable experiences that I have had have been moments I've spent with you, America's veterans and your families.

We stood together at Arlington to honor Corporal Frank Buckles, 110 years old, our last veteran from the First World War, as he was laid to rest. I ordered our flags to be flown at half-staff because even after 100 years we will never stop saluting those who served in our name. (Applause)

We stood together at Normandy to thank an entire generation—among them my grandfather who was in Patten's Army—a generation that literally saved the world. There was Harry Kulkowitz who returned to the beaches he helped liberate and told he could have anything he wanted said, with the humility of a soldier, "A hamburger will do just fine." (Laughter)

I think of Luna McGrath, this past Veterans' Day, just before her 108th birthday, then the oldest-known female veteran of World War II, which was a reminder that women have always served to keep America strong and free. (Applause)

We stood together at the Memorial to our Korean War veterans and recalled how a soldier marching through the snow had a tiny pair of baby booties hanging from his rifle, a reminder of his unborn child, a story that had been lost to history. But we tracked him down. We found him.

And we shared the story of Korean War Veteran Dick Shank who made it home to that baby boy and lived out his life—at 84 years old he was still roller skating—because no war should ever be forgotten and no veteran should ever be overlooked.

(Response of "That's right.")

PRESIDENT OBAMA: We stood together (Applause)—we stood together at The Wall and remembered the lessons of Vietnam, that even when Americans may disagree about a war we have to stand united in support of our troops. (Applause)

And that for mothers like Sarah Shay, who honored her missing son for more than 40 years, we will never stop working to bring home our prisoners of war and our missing in action. We leave nobody behind. (Applause) No one.

And we've come together to welcome our newest veterans into your ranks, from Desert Storm, the Balkans, Afghanistan, and Iraq, our proud 9/11 generation.

This is a time of transition. When I came into office we had nearly 180,000 American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Today that number is less than 15,000. Most of our troops have come home. (Applause)

To all of you who served in Afghanistan, you can take enormous pride in the progress you helped achieve driving Al Qaeda out of its camps, toppling the Taliban, delivering justice to Osama Bin Laden, helping Afghans improve their lives.

There are millions of boys and girls in school and democratic elections and a democratic government, training Afghan forces to take responsibility for their own security so that we are no longer engaged in a major ground war in Afghanistan. That is your legacy.

And today we salute our forces serving there on a more limited mission—supporting Afghan forces and going after terrorists because we must never allow Afghanistan to be used as a safe haven for terrorists to attack our nation again.

To all of you (Applause)—to all of you who served in Iraq, we saw your heroism in pushing out a dictator whose brutality must be condemned, never praised, and defeating an insurgency, and giving the Iraqi people a chance. And no matter what has happened since, your valor in the deserts, in fierce urban combat, will be honored in the annals of military history.

And let me say something else about this generation. As Commander-in-Chief I'm pretty tired of some folks trash talking America's military and troops. (Applause) You know our military is somewhat smaller after two major ground wars come to a close. That's natural. And we're going to keep doing everything we need to do to improve readiness and modernize our forces.

But let's get some facts straight. America's Army is the best trained, best equipped land force on the planet. (Applause) Our Navy is the largest and most lethal in the world. (Applause) The precision of and reach of our Air Force is unmatched. (Applause)

Our Marines are the world's only truly expeditionary force. (Applause) We have the world's finest Coast Guard. (Applause) We have the most capable fighting force in history and we're going to keep it that way. (Applause)

And no ally or adversary should ever doubt our strength and our resolve. And we will keep pounding ISIS and taking out their leaders and pushing them back on the ground. And united with a global coalition we will destroy this barbaric terrorist group. They will be destroyed. (Applause)

In the face of Russian aggression we're not going to turn our back to our allies in Europe. We're going to stay united in NATO, which is the world's strongest alliance. (Applause)

From the Asian-Pacific to Africa to the Americas, the United States and our Armed Forces will remain the greatest force for freedom and security and peace that the world has ever known. That is your legacy. That is what we have to protect. And that is what we have to defend. (Applause)

And let me say this. No one—no one—has given more for our freedom and our security than our Gold Star families. (Applause) Michelle and I have spent countless hours with them and we have grieved with them. There is a reason why last week in Philadelphia I was humbled to be introduced by Sharon Belkofer from Ohio, a Gold Star mom whose son Tom, a lieutenant colonel in the Army, gave his life in Afghanistan.

I requested Sharon to introduce me because I understood that our Gold Star families have made a sacrifice that most of us cannot even begin to imagine. They represent the very best of our country. They continue to inspire us every day, every moment. They serve as a powerful reminder of the true strength of America. And we have to do everything we can for those families and honor them and be humbled by them.

DAV, I know that your service has also been defined by another battle. This is a group that understands sacrifice. (Applause) You've been defined by the battle here at home. You've been defined by the battle here at home to persevere through wounds and disabilities.

I think of a veteran from Iraq who lost her arm but who said she decided to focus "not on what I have lost but on what I still had." I see that same spirit in you. Maybe it was there in the hospital bed fighting for your life you learned what it really means to have faith. Maybe it was during rehab, learning how to live without a leg or both you learned what it really means to persevere.

About a month ago I went to Walter Reed—I do this periodically—and was in the rehab unit watching some of these folks work out and I decided—you might have seen this. I was doing some push-ups with them and trying to keep up with them and I was sweating and getting all tired. (Laughter) They took it easy on me. (Laughter) But it gave me a sense of, just a small sense of what perseverance really means.

Maybe it was during the night when the memories came rushing back and you summoned the courage to reach out and get help and stay strong. And I was proud to help recognize your patriotism and resilience in the heart of our nation's capital when we dedicated the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial. (Applause)

This organization shows us, shows this nation, what it means to be strong. But as strong as you are—and nobody is stronger than our disabled vets—I know you didn't make this journey alone. You are here because of the love and support of your families and your caregivers and your neighbors and your communities and your fellow veterans. (Applause)

They are the shoulder you leaned on, who carried you when you couldn't walk, who picked you up when you stumbled, who celebrated your victories with you, who sometimes just made you laugh and reminded you how good life could be.

And that brings me to what I want to talk about here today. For more than two centuries this country that we love hasn't just endured, we have thrived, we have overcome challenges that would have broken a lesser nation. And not thanks to any one person or one group of people but because, like you learned in the military, we're all one team.

We believe in taking care of each other and in lifting each other up and leaving no one behind and in meeting the collective responsibilities that we can only meet together—the security of our nation, the education of our children, dignity for our seniors, equal rights for all of our citizens, health care, which

is now a right for everybody, and the care and wellbeing of our veterans and your families. That is a responsibility for all of us, not just a few.

We all have to do our part. And as I have said before, America's commitment to our veterans is not just lines in a budget. And it can't be about politics. It's not even really about policy. Our commitment to our veterans is a sacred covenant—and I don't use those words lightly. (Applause)

It is sacred because there is no more solemn request than to ask someone to risk their life, to be ready to give their life on our behalf. It's a covenant because both sides have responsibilities.

Those who put on the uniform, you took an oath to protect and defend us while the rest of us, the citizens you kept safe, we pledged to take care of you and your families when you come home. That's a sacred covenant. That's a solemn promise that we make to each other. And it is binding and upholding it is a moral imperative. (Applause)

And at times our nation has not always upheld this covenant. Our Vietnam vets, they sure know this. You know? When you came home you deserved better. (Applause) Veterans who at times have struggled to get care at the VA, you deserve better, too.

If there is ever a breach in the covenant, then leaders in this country have to work hard to regain trust. That's what Bob and so many hardworking people at the VA are doing. But upholding this covenant has to be the work of all of us. It's not just the VA's job. It's everybody's job.

Government has to deliver the care and benefits and support that you have earned. Veterans' service organizations have to hold us accountable and be our partners, like the 1.3 million members of the DAV are doing every day. And citizens have to step up, too, which is why Michelle and Dr. Jill Biden through Joining Forces have rallied the American people to honor and support our military families and our veterans.

Now we've got a lot more work to do. But working together over these past eight years we've delivered real progress for our veterans. And we can't let up. It's not a reason for complacency, but we should understand that when we really put our sweat and tears and put our shoulder to the wheel we can make things better.

About 200,000 service members are becoming veterans every single year. And America's going to have to be there for you for a lifetime in five important ways.

Number 1. We have to keep fighting for the resources you need. Now, since I took office we've made historic increases in veterans' funding, the biggest boost in decades. (Applause) That's a fact. And I have proposed another increase for next year. (Applause)

So altogether, altogether during my presidency we will have increased funding for veterans by more than 85 percent. (Applause) With advance appropriations we're protecting veterans' health care from the annual Washington budget battles.

But I do have to point this out. Republicans in Congress have proposed cutting my VA budget. And when they return in the fall they should pass the budget our veterans need and fund it fully. Don't just talk about standing with veterans. Don't just talk about me. Do something to support our veterans. (Applause) That's what you need to do. (Applause)

Number 2. We've got to keep fighting to deliver the health care you have been promised. Today more of our Vietnam vets are getting your disability benefits because of your exposure to Agent Orange. That's a change that we made. So, too, for our Desert Storm veterans because of the illnesses tied to the Gulf War. Those are changes we made.

Altogether we have made VA benefits available to more than 2 million veterans who didn't have them before. (Applause) Sometimes—let's face it, sometimes folks don't know that. But it's a fact. And I have to say thanks to the Affordable Care Act—ObamaCare—veterans—veterans not covered by the VA now have access to quality affordable health care and insurance companies can't discriminate against you because of preexisting conditions like post-traumatic stress. (Applause) And more veterans are getting access to health insurance.

So we need to keep making it easier to access care. That's why we recruited some of the best talent from Silicon Valley and the private sector. In one of the very first innovations veterans can now finally apply for VA health care anytime, anywhere, from any device, including our smart phone simple, easy—in as little as 20 minutes. Just go to vets.gov.

The days of having to wait in line at a VA office or mailing it in, those days are over. (Applause) We're finally moving into the 21st Century when it comes to helping our veterans. It's about time. (Applause)

We are reaching more veterans, including rural veterans, with telemedicine so you can see someone at the VA without leaving your home. We now have a designated women's health provider

at all VA clinics to make sure our women's veterans get the tailored care and the dignity and the respect that you deserve. (Applause)

And for our disabled vets we have increased funds for prosthetics, eliminating copays if you are catastrophically disabled. Made progress on concurrent receipt so more severely-disabled retirees can now receive your military retired pay and your VA disability benefits. (Applause)

And we are doing more than ever to make sure your devoted families and caregivers get the skills and support they need to stay strong as well.

And here I want to thank veterans across our country for being part of another mission, our precision medicine initiative to revolutionize health care with treatments that are tailored for each patient. As of today more than 500,000 veterans—maybe some of you—have stepped forward and donated your health and genetic data for research which brings us halfway to our goal of 1 million veterans that are doing so.

And what this does is it gives us a better understanding of genetics, which will allow us to improve treatments for things like traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress and diabetes and cancer. And that won't just help veterans, it will help all Americans. And it's just one more example of how our veterans keep serving our country even after they have come home. (Applause)

We need to keep improving mental health care. You know I will never forget the soldiers I met at Fort Bliss. They were proud of their service but they were struggling with issues like post-traumatic stress. So for veterans with PTS we made it easier for you to qualify for the VA care that you need, no matter when you served.

We've increased funding for veterans' mental health care by more than 75 percent—billions more dollars. More awareness and outreach because we have to end any shame or stigma that comes with going and getting help. (Applause)

We have put in place more clinicians, more counselors, more peer support, veterans helping veterans, more research—\$100 million for new approaches to PTS and TBI. And today we are delivering more mental health care to more veterans than ever. We are saving lives. (Applause)

But, when too many veterans still aren't getting the care that they need, we all have to be outraged. We all have to do better. And when 20 veterans a day are taking their own lives that is a national tragedy. We all have to do better.

Most of those 20 vets taking their lives each day are not in the VA but we know that when vets do get VA care they are more likely to survive. So we need to get more vets connected to the VA. And when you have an urgent need for mental health care, you shouldn't have to wait days. You shouldn't have to wait weeks. You should get those services the very same day. (Applause)

And Congress, Congress can help by providing the funding and flexibility we need to hire highly-qualified mental health professionals. And medical schools can help us recruit and train more psychiatrists.

And every American, military and civilian, can help as well by learning those five signs that somebody is hurting so we can reach out and help our veterans stay strong. We're one team, one American family. When any member of our family is suffering we've got to be there for each other.

Now, we also need to keep fixing the problems that came to light—long wait times, veterans denied care, people manipulating the books. Inexcusable. I know Bob gave you an update but I want to repeat—we've hired thousands more doctors, nurses, staff, opened more clinical space. And with the Choice program we're helping more veterans get care outside of the VA. It all adds up to millions more appointments delivering more benefits to more veterans than ever before. That is progress.

But even as we've improved access more veterans than ever are seeking care so we are putting more and more resources in but you've got more and more demand for care at the same time. And this surge in demand means there are now more veterans waiting for appointments, even though we've done a lot more.

So I know I'm not satisfied. Bob's still not satisfied. And we will not let up. Bob and his new leadership team are going to keep pushing to transform the VA. And he will keep holding people accountable. This is somebody who cares deeply about our veterans getting what they deserve and what they have earned. (Applause)

And when whistle-blowers expose misconduct they need to be protected, not punished. We need Congress to make it easier for the VA to help veterans get care in your communities.

But I have to say—here is one thing I want to be very clear about. Here is one thing we will not do. We cannot outsource and privatize health care for America's veterans. (Applause) There are folks there are folks who keep pushing this. They don't always come out and say the word "privatize" but you read what they say, that's what they mean.

And these radical proposals would begin to dismantle the VA health care system that millions of veterans depend on every day. And that would hurt veterans. Study after study shows that in many areas like mental health the quality of care at the VA is often better than in private care. So let's listen to our veterans who are telling us don't destroy VA health care. Fix it and make it work but don't break our covenant with our veterans. (Applause)

This brings me to the third area where we have to stay focused. We have to keep cutting the disability claims backlog. Now, from its peak we've slashed that backlog by nearly 90 percent. My chief-of-staff and I, there was a chunk of time when that backlog was high, where every day no matter what else was happening around the world—he and I, we would take these walks around the south lawn just to keep our exercise, keep our steps up, and every day we talked about how are we going to get that backlog down.

And each week we would look and see what kind of progress we are making. That's how we reduced it by 90 percent. The backlog is now lower than when I came into office, even though there are a lot more people who are eligible for claims. And claims' decisions are more accurate the first time.

And on both these fronts we are keeping at it. (Applause) But, as we all know, when veterans appeal a decision you are put into an appeals system that right now is broken. (Applause) And you shouldn't have to fight for years to get a straight answer.

Now we've proposed major reforms. And I want to thank the DAV and all the other veterans' groups for raising your voice on this. We've got to keep up the pressure. Congress needs to pass comprehensive reform of the claims appeals process because if we don't fix the appeals process even when we get the backlog down on the original claim, too many folks are waiting on the backend. (Applause)

We've got to fix it. And we can. But we're going to have to push Congress. And I don't know if you've noticed, that's hard. (Laughter)

Fourth, we've got to keep fighting for the dignity of every veteran. And that includes ending the tragedy, the travesty, of veterans' homelessness. (Applause) Now, this is something that within my administration we said this is all-hands-on-deck across government. Everybody has got to be involved in this. And we're joining forces. Michelle and Jill have helped galvanize hundreds of mayors in communities across the country.

Two states, Virginia and Connecticut, as well as 27 cities and towns across the country have effectively ended veterans' homelessness. (Applause) So today, today, I can announce that nationally we have now reduced the number of homeless veterans by 47 percent, nearly half. (Applause)

We have just about cut veterans' homelessness in half. We have helped bring tens of thousands of veterans off the streets. But we're not slowing down. We are going to keep up the momentum.

This fall Michelle will bring our partners from across the country together at the White House to share best practices, to figure out what has worked, what hasn't worked, because we will not stop until every veteran who fought for America has a home in America. This is something we've got to get done. (Applause)

And, finally, we've got to keep fighting to give our troops and veterans and your families every opportunity to live the American Dream that you helped defend. With our overhaul of the transition assistance program, hundreds of thousands of departing service members and their spouses have received training to plan their next career and find a job or start a business.

We expanded the Post-9/11 GI Bill to Reservists and National Guard members and families, including Gold Star spouses and children. And then we expanded it to vocational training and apprenticeships. We've empowered veterans with new tools to find the schools that are right for you or to get the support you need to succeed on campus, to make sure you don't get ripped off, to cap your student loans, to make sure you and your families get "in-state" tuition, which is true now in all 50 states. (Applause)

And so far we have helped more than 1.6 million veterans and their families realize their dream of an education—an investment in you and America that will keep us strong and keep paying off for generations to come. (Applause)

So we're doing more to help you find jobs worthy of your incredible talents because if you could lead a team and run logistics and manage a budget or save a life in a war zone you sure as heck can do it right back here at home. (Applause)

I called for states to recognize the training and skills of veterans when issuing credentials for civilian jobs, licensing. Now all 50 states do it. Before less than half the states made it easy for military spouse to get credentials and licenses. Today all 50 states do it. (Applause)

Starting this fall we will close loopholes to protect our troops and military families from predatory payday lenders. (Applause) So today all across America more veterans are at work, on the job, beginning the next chapter of your service to our country.

For veterans who are physicians and nurses and been hired by community health centers, cities and towns are hiring veterans as teachers and police officers, firefighters and first responders because we made it a priority in the federal government, hiring hundreds of thousands of veterans, including disabled veterans. Nearly one in three federal workers is now a veteran. (Applause)

I challenged America's companies to hire veterans. And then in case they weren't listening to me I sicked Jill and Michelle on them through Joining Forces. And companies now have hired or trained more than 1.2 million veterans and military spouse. So all told we have cut veterans' unemployment by more than half, down to 4.2 percent, which is actually lower than the already low national average. And it's way down for Post-9/11 veterans, too. (Applause)

That's one of the reasons we've been able to help more than 3.6 million veterans buy or refinance a home of their own. So I'm going to keep saying to every company in America, if you want talent, if you want dedication, if you want to get the job done, then hire a vet. (Applause) Hire a military spouse. They know how to get the job done. They don't fool around. (Applause)

So DAV, we've made a lot of progress. It's not always focused on because, understandably, the news a lot of the time focuses on what is still not working. That's okay. That keeps us on our toes, keeps us working. But every once in a while it's good to remember the progress we have made because that tells us when we focus on it we can do right by our veterans.

And as this new generation of veterans joins your ranks we've got to keep on stepping up our game, giving veterans the resources you need, transforming the VA, delivering the health care you have earned, reducing the backlog, reforming appeals, standing up for your dignity, and helping you share the American dream.

And I know we can because over the past eight years I've seen the spirit of America and I have seen time and time and time again the strength of our veterans, the unbreakable will of our disabled vets. You teach us better than anybody that we may take a hit sometimes, we may get knocked down, but we get back up. We carry on. (Applause) And when we take care of each other and uphold that sacred covenant there is nothing we cannot do.

Like that soldier I told you before, Army Ranger veteran Cory Remsburg, nearly killed in Afghanistan, who learned to talk again and walk again and who recently stood up and walked into the Oval Office and shook my hand. (Applause)

We all have to keep on rising. Like Medal of Honor recipient Staff Sergeant Ty Carter who struggled with post-traumatic stress and who is now helping others stay strong.

Troops, veterans, civilians, we all have to keep on healing, like the wounded warriors and disabled vets who are out there running and jumping and swimming and biking and climbing, including Marine Corps veteran Charlie Linville who just became the first combat amputee to reach the top of Mount Everest. (Applause)

We all have to keep on striving, like the veterans taking care of each other, including here at the DAV, Army Veteran Oscar Olguin, Navy Reserve veteran Charity Edgar, Marine Corps veteran Carmen McGinnis who says, "Helping veterans gives me a sense of purpose." That's something we all have to recognize.

We all have to keep on serving, like Air Force Technical Sergeant Jason Miller who considered taking his own life but who wrote me a letter. And after I put him in touch with Team Rubicon went to work rebuilding communities after disasters, found a new purpose in life. Well, we all have to keep building this country we love.

And like the ranks of our military and our veterans, whether they are black or white or Latino or Asian or Native American or they are young or old, whether they are gay or straight, whatever their faith, men, women, Americans with disabilities, we have to keep on uniting as one team, as one people, as one nation. (Applause)

That's what you have taught us. That's what you are an example of. The disabled veterans of America knows what it means to be one team. We draw inspiration from you.

I am grateful for everything that you have done for this country. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to work with you. God bless you. Thank you for your service. Thank you for your sacrifice. Thank you for your patriotism. We honor and appreciate you. God bless our veterans and God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 2:19 o'clock, p.m., on Monday, August 1, 2016.)

- - -

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

August 3, 2016

The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 95th National Convention convened in the Centennial Ballroom on the Ballroom Level, Lower Level 1, of the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel Atlanta, Georgia, on Wednesday morning, August 3, 2016, and was called to order at 8:30 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Moses A. McIntosh, Jr..

COMMANDER MOSES A. McINTOSH, JR.: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Convention will now come to order. As a reminder to everyone, please turn off your cell phones or portable devices or put them in vibrate. Please join me in the Pledge of the Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Two. I would like to call on Chaplain Dover to lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN MICHAEL DOVER: Good morning, Commander.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Good morning.

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Let us pray. Heavenly Creator, we pray for your guidance in the matters at hand and ask that you would clearly show us how to conduct our work with a spirit of joy and enthusiasm. Give us the desire to find ways to excel in our work. And help us work together and encourage each other to excellence. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Chaplain. 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 his or her name, Chapter number, and the state that they represent.

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

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOBIN: Comrade Commander and delegates, the Credentials Committee met this morning in the Dunwoody Room at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta. The roll call showed 1,123 delegates and 79 alternates have registered. This includes 37 Departments and 397 Chapters which are registered. There are 7 National Officers, 14 National Executive Committeemen, and 14 Past National Commanders registered for a total of 7,933 votes.

This partial report is for informational purposes only and it reflects the registration at the close of business at 7:00 p.m. on August 3, 2016. This completes the partial report of the Credentials Committee, Commander.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Warren. This is a reminder that registration will close this morning at 10:00 a.m.

DAV is a non-partisan organization. Based on our congressional charter we do not endorse candidates. However, we do want to know their opinions on issues that are important to all veterans.

This year we invited the Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump campaigns to participate in our National Convention. While both candidates declined our invitation, the Clinton campaign provided this video message for our delegates and members nationwide.

(Whereupon, a video address by Hillary Clinton was viewed.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: At this time I would like to call upon Chair Rob Reynolds for the final report on the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REYNOLDS: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REYNOLDS: Comrade Commander and delegates, I will now proceed with the second reading of the proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws, which are recommended for adoption. In the interest of time, again, I will read only the number and purpose of the resolutions.

Resolution Number 216, amend the third sentence of Article 3, Section 3.10, Paragraph 2, Rule 21(d) to read as follows:

"All proposed amendments shall be presented to the Convention no later than the second day prior to the scheduled day of adjournment of the Convention. And voting thereon shall begin the following business day."

Resolution Number 217, add as Article 6, Section 6.4, Paragraph 8:

"If a department, chapter, county or a district council, former DAV entity, voluntarily or involuntarily ceases to operate as a DAV-related entity all assets that were held or should have been held by former DAV entity on the actual date of such cessation, regardless of when finalized or formalized, belong to DAV. Such assets shall be transferred as provided herein.

"In the case of the cessation of a department assets shall be transferred to the National Organization.

"In the case of the cessation of a chapter or a county or a district council, assets shall be transferred to the state department having jurisdiction, or, if there is no state department, to the National Organization.

"This provision shall not apply in the case of chapter mergers approved by the National Executive Committee.

"This provision shall apply regardless of whether former DAV entity continues to exist as a legal entity subsequent to its association with DAV."

Resolution Number 218, delete the last sentence of Article 12, Section 12.3, Paragraph 2, which reads: "Transportation expense shall be allowed in addition."

Resolution Number 219, delete the last sentence of Article 14, Section 14.5, Paragraph 1, which reads: "The Board of Directors, with the concurrence of a two-thirds majority of the National Executive Committee, shall authorize the investment and reinvestment of such portions of the life membership fund as it may determine to be in the best interest of the Membership program."

Resolution Number 220, amend the language of Article 15, Section 15.3, Paragraph 5 to allow departments, chapters, and auxiliary units to conduct their Forget-me-Not drives at any time during the year so long as the Forget-me-Not drive by each entity does not exceed seven days.

Current language restricts Forget-me-Not drives to be conducted for seven consecutive days.

Resolution Number 221, amend the first sentence of Article 19, Section 19.2, to read as follows:

"The names and contact information of the members of the Disabled American Veterans and its Auxiliary, in whatever format, shall not be used for the commercial purposes in support of any partisan political action committee or for any political use or for any other purpose other than one directly connected to the approved activities of the organization."

Current language only protects names and addresses. This change will further protect email addresses and any other form of existing or future forms of contact information.

Comrade Commander, on behalf of the Committee I move that the Committee recommendations be accepted and that the resolutions be adopted and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mic 1.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Mic 1.

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mike Steinbaugh, Chapter 7, District 16, seconds.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish read? Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carries.

I would like to call on Chairman Al Church for the Committee on Finance report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ALBERT CHURCH: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Finance was called to order July 31st, by the Commander Advisors Rolly D. Lee, Senior, and Barry Jesinoski.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Al Church was elected as chairman and Rick Patterson was elected as secretary. There were no resolutions submitted to the Committee and, therefore, none recommended for adoption.

The Committee has expressed its thanks to the Committee Advisors, Rolly D. Lee, Senior, and Barry Jesinoski, and Comptroller Anita Blum for their assistance in performing the work of this important committee.

I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their service. Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Finance. On behalf of the Committee I move for the adoption of the report and ask that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention. Thank you very much.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mic 1.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Mic 1.

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mike Steinbaugh, Chapter 7, District 16, seconds.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: You heard the motion. We have a second. All in favor signify by saying aye; all opposed. So ordered. Thank you, AI.

Next, I would like to call upon Chairman Terry Schow for the report on the Committee on Employment.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TERRY SCHOW: My Leige. Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Employment was called to order on July 31st by the Committee advisors Jeff Hall and LeRoy Acosta.

The first order of business the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Terry Schow as elected as chairman and Deborah Olsen was selected as secretary. The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted and I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by the National Convention Committee on Employment.

For the purposes of saving time I will read only the resolution number and the resolved portion.

Number 51, provide educational benefits for dependents of service-connected veterans rated 80 percent or more disabled;

52, support veteran preference in public employment;

146, support outreach and employment of women veterans;

148, eliminate the 12-year rule to request VA voc rehab benefits under Chapter 31, leaving the date to apply for that benefit open-ended;

149, provide adequate funding and permanency for veterans employment and/or training programs;

150, increase staffing levels at the VA voc rehab and employment service;

151, monitor activities of the mandatory transition GPS program;

152, eliminate the delimiting date for the eligible spouses and surviving spouses for benefits provided under Chapter 35, Title 38 of the United States Code;

153, support licensure and certification of active-duty service personnel;

173, transfer the veterans employment training service to the VA;

176, support legislation to provide reasonable transition periods for all service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses to retain their federal protected status following the death of a disabled veteran;

214, remove requirement for tax-free VA compensation to ill and injured veterans as income but rather a monthly benefit as not to affect the financial aid for dependents of veterans;

259, support legislation to exempt veterans rated as permanently and totally disabled due to service-connected disabilities from taxes on forgiveness of student loan indebtedness;

260, protect veterans from employment discrimination when seeking health care for service-connected conditions;

261, support disabled veteran owned small businesses;

262, support legislation enhancing a government-wide goal for participation by small businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans;

263, oppose using DVOP/LVER personnel for food stamp or public assistance programs;

264, support fraud prevention controls over service-disabled veteran-owned small business program;

265, eliminate annual submission of employment verification questionnaire by veterans in receipt of individual unemployed benefits;

266, support verification employment for veteran businesses within the 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 be discharged with the vote of thanks of the National Convention.

And also thanks to Jeff Hall. Jeff has done a great job as the chair of the Employment Program for the DAV and hats off to them.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 051—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, many service-connected veterans are 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2016, 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 service-connected disability ratings of 80 percent or more.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 052—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT VETERANS' PREFERENCE IN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

WHEREAS, DAV strongly supports federal, state, and local veterans' preference laws; and

WHEREAS, under section 2108, title 5, United States Code, 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, numerous special hiring authorities exist 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 employment of 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 re-employment 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports veterans' preference in federal, state and local employment, greater enforcement provisions and increased accountability for veterans' hiring compliance; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports appropriate enforcement against systemic veterans' preference discrimination; broader utilization of veterans and service-disabled veterans hiring preference; and substantive improvement of recruitment and hiring of veterans generally and service-disabled veterans specifically.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 146—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 therefore are less likely to obtain employment and training assistance than their male counterparts; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade a significant increase has occurred in the number of women veterans 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2016, 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 Innovation and Opportunity 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. 148—LEGISLATIVE
ELIMINATE THE 12-YEAR RULE TO REQUEST DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION BENEFITS UNDER CHAPTER 31,
LEAVING THE DATE TO APPLY FOR THAT BENEFIT OPEN-ENDED**

WHEREAS, 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 enable veterans to be awarded chapter 31 benefits; and

WHEREAS, not all disabled veterans are under the impression that they need vocational rehabilitation until later, often after the current 12-year rule excludes them from the benefit they need and would otherwise have been entitled to; and

WHEREAS, the VA puts no time limit on when a veteran may claim his or her disability, and 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, seeks legislation to eliminate the 12-year limitation to apply for VA vocational rehabilitation, leaving a veteran's date of entitlement open ended without time limit.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 149—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 of 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, seeks and supports adequate funding and permanency for all veterans' employment and training programs.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 150—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 VR&E 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 and timely rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, to increase emphasis on employment, the VR&E Service has begun an initiative entitled "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 Service has drastically changed to career development and employment, it is not clear, despite VR&E's additional 80 employment coordinators, whether VA is able to meet the current and future demand for employment services; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the current 60 days of employment as the standard for a veteran to be considered fully employed is insufficient given that employers typically require longer probationary employment timeframes; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports strengthening of VA's VR&E Service to meet the demands of service-disabled veterans by providing increased staffing and funding, a more timely and effective transition into the workforce, and placement follow-up with employers for at least six months.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 151—LEGISLATIVE MONITOR ACTIVITIES OF THE MANDATORY TRANSITION GOALS, PLANS, SUCCESS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, current law authorizes comprehensive transition assistance benefits and services for separating service members and their spouses, and requires that the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP), now known as the Transition Goals, Plans, Success (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, 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 from five to seven days (or longer in some instances) 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 its component TAP and DTAP workshops, are 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, as mandated in Public Law 112–56; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges Congress to monitor the review of Transition GPS program, its workshops, training methodology and delivery of services, and the collection and analysis of course critiques; and to ensure the inclusion of DAV and other veterans service organizations in workshops, in order to confirm the program is meeting its objective, and to follow up with participants to determine if they found gainful employment following such training.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 152—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 10 years in which to apply for and complete programs of education; and

WHEREAS, this 10-year period begins either from the date a veteran is evaluated by the VA as permanently and totally disabled from service-connected disabilities or 10 years from the date of such veteran's death due to service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, in many instances, because of family obligations or the need to provide care to the veteran, spouses and 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, seeks the enactment of legislation to eliminate the delimiting date for spouses and surviving spouses for purposes of benefits provided under chapter 35, title 38, United States Code.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 153—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 certification and licensure requirements of applicable civilian equivalent occupations by all of the states; and

WHEREAS, many former military personnel, certified as proficient in their military occupational specialty are not certified or licensed to perform a comparable job in the civilian workforce once they leave the military; and

WHEREAS, many occupational career fields in the armed forces could translate to civilian occupations 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 do so; and

WHEREAS, once DoD expands its training approaches to meet the requirements of civilian equivalent career paths, service members could take certification or licensure equivalency examinations to gain journeyman status on 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 service member plans to reside could then confer the appropriate journeyman equivalent status; and

WHEREAS, as military service members continue to serve, additional training or education could be counted as continuing training or education credits, thereby allowing them to retain certification and/or licensure status; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 112–56, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act, mandates the Department of Labor's (DoL) Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training to carry out a demonstration project on credentialing to facilitate the seamless transition of members of the armed forces to civilian employment by selecting up to five military occupational specialties with a skill or set of skills that are required for civilian employment in industries with high career demand; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports the elimination of employment barriers that impede the transfer of military occupations 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, Department of Veterans Affairs and DoL specifically, as well as state governments, employers, trade unions, and licensure and credentialing entities, to establish a clear process so that military training meets civilian certification and licensure requirements for the states in which veterans choose to live once they leave military service.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 173—LEGISLATIVE
TRANSFER THE VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE FROM
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, recommends that Congress transfer the entire staff and funding of the Veterans Employment and Training Service from DoL to VA and that it should be appropriately funded and administered by an Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 196—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE TRANSITION
PERIOD FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES
TO RETAIN FEDERAL PROTECTED STATUS FOLLOWING THE DEATH
OF THE DISABLED VETERAN OWNER**

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, which provides enhanced opportunities for SDVOSBs to compete for federal projects and subcontracting opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the SDVOSB 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, in enacting Public Law 111–240, 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

WHEREAS, section 8127 (h)(2)(C), Public Law 109–461, (applicable only to VA) allows for a ten-year transition period to the surviving spouse of a 100-percent service-disabled veteran owner of a SDVOSB or a veteran owner who dies as a result of a service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, allowing the surviving spouses or heirs of service-disabled veterans to gain a reasonable transition period for the SDVOSB program would help to maintain the jobs created by the SDVOSB for service-disabled veterans, veterans and other employees, and will not 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports the enactment of legislation to provide 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 owner via a surviving spouse, children or heirs, and thus allowing the business to restructure over time without necessarily downsizing, laying off workers or closing.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 214—LEGISLATIVE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMPENSATION TO SERVICE-
CONNECTED VETERANS SHOULD NOT BE COUNTED AS INCOME FOR
PURPOSES OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID DETERMINATIONS**

WHEREAS, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) monthly disability compensation is a tax-free benefit awarded to ill and injured veterans and is not considered income under the Internal Revenue Code; and

WHEREAS, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) requires dependents of service-connected disabled veterans in receipt of VA disability compensation to disclose their parents' compensation as income under penalty of perjury; and

WHEREAS, this requirement is contrary to the intent of the VA disability compensation award and contrary to tax law; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to counter this arbitrary and capricious victimization of ill and injured veterans and their dependents, which can render the dependent child of a service-disabled veteran ineligible for federal student aid; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this requirement is unjust to service-disabled veterans and their dependents.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 259—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO EXEMPT A VETERAN RATED AS PERMANENTLY
AND TOTALLY DISABLED DUE TO SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES FROM
FEDERAL TAXES ON FORGIVENESS OF STUDENT LOAN INDEBTEDNESS**

WHEREAS, veterans rated permanently and totally disabled due to service-connected disabilities are entitled under existing laws to have the principal of their outstanding federally insured student loans forgiven; and

WHEREAS, these veterans are not among those exempted from paying taxes on the amount of the student loan debt that is forgiven; and

WHEREAS, these disabled veterans are placed at a significant economic disadvantage based on the limitations imposed upon them by the wounds, illnesses and injuries incurred during the performance

of their military duties, placing an unreasonable burden on them and their families to pay taxes on forgiven federal loans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports the enactment of legislation that would exempt from taxes the amount forgiven for federal student loans to veterans rated as permanently and totally disabled.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 260—LEGISLATIVE PROTECT VETERANS FROM EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION WHEN RECEIVING 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges Congress to extend protection under USERRA to encompass treatment of service-connected disabilities at VA health care facilities or other private health care facilities.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 261—LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT PROMPT PAYMENT OF CONTRACTS TO SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED 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 nonpayment 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 262—LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT LEGISLATION ENHANCING GOVERNMENT-WIDE GOALS FOR PARTICIPATION BY SMALL BUSINESSES OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, section 502, Public Law 106–50, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999, codified “the Government-wide goal for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans shall be established at not less than 3 percent of the total value of all prime contract and subcontract awards for each fiscal year;” and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization has the Center for Veterans Enterprise, which maintains VA’s database of veteran-owned small businesses (VOSB) and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSB), as well as serving as an advocate for VOSBs, SDVOSBs, historically underutilized business (HUB) zone businesses and women-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, women-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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, calls on 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 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 be goals, and should require underperforming federal agencies to make up shortfalls in achieving these goals 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 the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization 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 would serve as an annual report card of which agencies need the most assistance in the development and implementation of stronger contracting compliance.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 263—LEGISLATIVE OPPOSE USING DISABLED VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS AND LOCAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO WORK WITH OR PROCESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS UNRELATED TO VETERANS

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 (LVER) work with nondisabled veterans, informing them of employment opportunities, and 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 other public assistance-related programs, 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges Congress to reverse its decision from Public Law 112-56, and return the duties of DVOPs and LVERs to concentrate their work to aid veterans.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 264—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT FRAUD PREVENTION CONTROLS OVER SERVICE-DISABLED
VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Program (SDVOSB), designed to steer \$4 billion in government contracts to businesses owned by service-disabled veterans, has allowed over \$90 million to be fraudulently awarded to ineligible companies; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Administration failed to properly check applicants before awarding contracts and failed to take action on service-disabled veterans' complaints of abuse; and

WHEREAS, testimony presented by the United States Government Accountability Office identified millions of dollars of SDVOSB contracts awarded to ineligible firms; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, seeks and strongly supports the investigation, prevention and monitoring controls and to ensure that fraud is aggressively prosecuted or companies having committed fraud are suspended, debarred or otherwise held accountable.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 265—LEGISLATIVE
ELIMINATE ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION QUESTIONNAIRE BY
VETERANS IN RECEIPT OF INDIVIDUAL UNEMPLOYABILITY BENEFITS**

WHEREAS, veterans receiving individual unemployability (IU) benefits must complete required Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Form 21–4140–1 (employment verification questionnaire) fully and accurately on an annual basis, and return the form to the VA within 60 days of receipt; and

WHEREAS, the veteran is required to turn in the VA Form 21–4140–1 annually for up to 20 years; and

WHEREAS, if veterans do not return the form within 60 days or receipt, their benefits are reduced; and

WHEREAS, it would provide a great justice to the disabled veterans of this nation who are currently in receipt of IU to not have the burden of submitting to the VA an income verification on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, a majority of such veterans are incapacitated in some way; and

WHEREAS, this impedes such veterans from filing paperwork appropriately as they age and their disabilities progress through the years; and

WHEREAS, the VA, as well as the Internal Revenue Service, are better equipped to communicate employment verification of veterans agency to agency as opposed to veteran to VA; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges VA to amend its policy on the annual employment questionnaire so that veterans in receipt of IU benefits are relieved of this burden.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 266—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT VERIFICATION IMPROVEMENTS FOR VETERAN-OWNED
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, and thousands of former military personnel who have honorably served their country could become 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 (SDVOSB) and then with Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSB); 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, recommends VA simplify its verification process for SDVOSBs and VOSBs interested in participating in the VA's Veterans First Contracting Program.

* * *

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you very much. You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. JOEL JIMENEZ: Comrade Commander, Joel Jimenez from the great State of Texas, I second that motion.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: In accordance with Rule 9 now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions that you wish read? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

I would like to call upon Chairman Al Linden for the report on the Committee on Legislation and Veterans' Rights.

LEGISLATION AND VETERANS RIGHTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ALBERT H. LINDEN, JR.: The National Convention Committee on Legislation and Veterans' Rights was called to order on August 1st, 2016, by the Committee advisors Joy Ilem and Paul Varela.

The first order of business was the election of convention committee chairman and secretary. I, Al Linden, was elected as chairman. And Al Labelle was elected as the secretary. The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted and I will report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by the National Convention.

For the purposes of saving time I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolution.

Number 8, oppose reduction, taxation and elimination of veterans' benefits;

Number 9, support legislation to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of SBP and DIC;

Number 10, support legislation to provide for service connection for disabling conditions resulting from toxic and environmental exposures;

Number 11, support legislation to allow all veterans to recover amounts withheld as tax on disability severance pay;

Number 12, expand POW presumptions and eligibility for DIC to surviving spouses of certain former prisoners of war;

Number 13, support legislation to provide for realistic cost-of-living allowances;

Number 14, support legislation to exclude veterans' disability compensation from accountability income for purposes of eligibility to benefits and services under other government programs;

15, oppose any proposal that would offset the payments of Social Security Disability Insurance benefits or any other federal benefit by VA compensation;

Number 16, oppose subjecting compensation to means testing;

Number 17, oppose the permanent rounding down of COLAs in veterans' benefits;

Number 18, support legislation to clarify the service in waters offshore of Vietnam, establish a presumption of exposure to Agent Orange; Number 19, oppose any recommendations by any commission to reduce or eliminate benefits for disabled veterans; Number 20, support a change in the regulatory requirements for temporary total rating;

Number 21, support legislation to reduce the ten-year rule for dependency and indemnity compensation;

Number 22, support legislation to provide a temporary total rating for the period that an amputee has a new prosthetic device constructed;

Number 23, support legislation to award special monthly compensation R(1), to veterans with anatomical loss or loss of use of three extremities;

24, support interest payments for disabled veterans' Department of Veterans Affairs retroactive awards of one year or more;

Number 25, support legislation to provide a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to address loss of quality of life;

Number 26, support reasonable presumption period for undiagnosed illnesses of Gulf War veterans;

27, support VA's new practices in evaluating disability claims for residuals of military sexual trauma;

28, support legislation that would exempt the service-connected benefits from the pay-go and cut-go and any caps on sequestration legislation; Number 29, amend the law to provide ten-year protection for service-connected disabled evaluation;

Number 30, support legislation authorizing the presumption of service connection for all radiological diseases and elimination of dose exposure estimates;

Number 31, extend eligibility for mortgage protection life insurance for 100 percent service-connected veterans;

Number 32, support an increase in the Department of Veterans' Affairs burial allowance for service-connected veterans;

Number 33, increase benefit rate for the Home Improvement and Structural Alterations, HISA, grant;

Number 34, oppose regional dispersion of the Board of Veterans' Appeals;

Number 35, support legislation to cap attorneys' fees for benefits, consulting and claims service before the VA;

65, provide an open period to apply for service-connected veterans' insurance, RH; Support

Number 66, support legislation to reduce premiums for service-disabled veterans insurance to more, be more consistent with life expectancy;

Number 67, support legislation to provide for waiver of premiums for Supplemental Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance, RH;

Number 68, support meaningful accountability measures but with due process for employees of the VA; and

109, support legislation to increase disability compensation;

110, support legislation to allow concurrent receipt of longevity retired pay and veterans' disability compensation;

111, support legislation to provide for presumptive service connection for tinnitus and hearing loss;

Number 112, support legislation providing that SSB payments not be withheld from VA disability compensation payments;

Number 113, oppose any change that would redefine service connected disability or restriction or restrict the conditions or the circumstances under which it may be established;

Number 114, consider treatment for presumptive service-connected conditions as a claim for VA compensation; 115, oppose lump sum payments of service-connected disabilities;

117, oppose the imposition of time limits for filing disabled compensation claims;

155, support elimination of a link between consistency and continuity of chronic diseases listed in Title 38, C.F.R., Section 3.301 09;

Number 157, support legislation for presumptive service connection for diseases related to contaminated water at Camp Lejune;

Number 161, support legislation to clarify that service at air bases in Thailand during the Vietnam War establishes a presumption of exposure to Agent Orange;

Number 199, include service connected amputees whose amputation is at or above the wrist or ankle and who subsequently develops ischemic or other cardiovascular disease;

Number 215 eliminate the requirement that Persian Gulf veteran disabilities must become manifested no later than December 31, 2016;

Number 222, support meaningful claims and appeals process reform;

Number 223, amend the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities for Mental Disorders;

Number 224, support sufficient, timely, and predictable funding for all VA programs, benefits, and services;

Number 225, provide a compensable rate for hearing-impaired veterans required to use a hearing aid;

Number 226, support a more liberal review of other-than-honorable discharges in the cases of PTSD, TBI, MST, and other trauma for the purposes of eligibility for VA benefits;

Number 227, support legislation to require the Court of Veterans Appeals for Veteran Claims to decide each of the appellate assignment of errors;

Number 228, oppose all attempts to change the basis of the Department of Veterans' Affairs Rating Schedule from average impairments of earnings capacity standard;

Number 229, compensate Persian Gulf veterans suffering from illnesses circumstantially linked to their service in the Persian Gulf War;

230, support legislation that provides VA to consider private medical evidence provided by a licensed private health care provider;

231, increase the face value of Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance, RH;

Number 232, increase the grant and special adaptive equipment reimbursement rates for automobiles and other conveyances for certain disabled veterans and authorize the reimbursement for new adaptive equipment technologies;

233, amend provisions regarding eligibility for automobile adaptive equipment to include any veteran whose service-connected disability inhibits his or her ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights. On behalf of the Committee I move for the adoption of these resolutions and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 008—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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, vigorously opposes reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans benefits.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 009—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 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; and

WHEREAS, under current law SBP payments are reduced by the amount of DIC received; and

WHEREAS, this offset is extremely unfair to the spouses whose service members faithfully paid premiums in anticipation of a fair annuity; and

WHEREAS, there should not be a delimiting date to apply for SBP as the current six-year statute of limitations has severe and adverse consequences on survivors; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to repeal the offset between SBP annuity payments and DIC payments; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the six-year statute of limitations should be waived if the offset between DIC and SBP is removed.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 010—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, chemicals, 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 to which 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 including specific research studies 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, vigorously supports the VA's expeditious handling of veterans claims and the payment of fair and just compensation for conditions associated with all veterans service and related exposures to toxic and environmental hazards.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 011—LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ALLOW ALL VETERANS TO RECOVER TAXES ON DISABILITY SEVERANCE PAY

WHEREAS, certain funds received by military service members determined to be unfit for duty as a result of personal injury or disability are not taxable; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) continues to tax military disability severance pay as regular income; and

WHEREAS, a United States District Court held that such military disability severance pay is nontaxable income; and

WHEREAS, the IRS has subsequently acquiesced to the District Court holding; and

WHEREAS, a three-year statute of limitation prevents individuals who have been discharged for more than three years from recovering the taxed funds taken by the IRS; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, strongly supports legislation which would allow all veterans to recover taxes from their disability severance pay.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 012—LEGISLATIVE EXPAND PRISONER-OF-WAR PRESUMPTIONS AND ELIGIBILITY FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF CERTAIN FORMER PRISONERS-OF-WAR

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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 013—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 United States economy on a very broad basis; stagnant economic activity does not mean disabled veterans' cost of living is flat; in fact, as they age and suffer from associated illnesses of aging, their costs increase; and

WHEREAS, the COLA formula has been adjusted to remove items such as groceries and fuel from such calculations; and

WHEREAS, it is unfair that disabled veterans are denied necessary increases in disability payments due to a formula that actually has little to do with the costs they bear; and

WHEREAS, there have been recent attempts to adjust the COLA downward in various methods such as "Chained CPI;" 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 keep pace with their current living expenses; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to provide a realistic cost-of-living allowance for our nation's disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 014—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO EXCLUDE VETERANS
DISABILITY COMPENSATION FROM COUNTABLE INCOME
FOR PURPOSES OF ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS AND SERVICES
FROM 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 eligibility for services generally available to citizens who did not serve, and thus the veteran receives nothing for his or her disability and is thus not compensated; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, seeks legislation to exclude veterans disability compensation from countable income for purposes of eligibility for benefits or services under other government programs.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 015—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE ANY PROPOSAL THAT WOULD REDUCE PAYMENTS
OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DISABILITY COMPENSATION
BY PAYMENTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE OR
ANY OTHER FEDERAL BENEFIT PAID TO A VETERAN**

WHEREAS, consideration has been given to offsetting Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits from any other federal benefit; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of such a measure would reduce the overall income provided to veterans who have a compensable service-connected disability and who also are determined to be permanently and totally disabled for purposes of SSDI by 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 compared to eligibility for SSDI benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, opposes any measure that proposes to offset the payment of any other federal benefit or earned benefit entitlement from VA compensation payments made to service-connected disabled veterans.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 016—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE SUBJECTING DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY
AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO MEANS TESTING**

WHEREAS, the citizens of our nation heretofore have honorably recognized their indebtedness to those who sacrificed in military service by providing disability compensation as restitution for injuries, illnesses or diseases suffered in such service; and

WHEREAS, a disabled veteran is rightfully entitled to compensation for the effects of service-connected disability, without regard to any good fortune or income of the veteran or spouse from sources 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 compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation, efforts have been made to deploy a means test to reduce or eliminate them in cases in which the veteran, spouse or survivor has obtained 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 for personal injury or illness, thereby disassociates compensation from that which merits it and associates it with factors that govern purely gratuitous benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, opposes any proposal to means test disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 017—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 erodes the value of these benefits over time and thus does not keep pace with the rise in the cost of living; and

WHEREAS, permanently rounding down veterans' cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) unfairly targets disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors for cost savings to the government; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, opposes permanent rounding down of COLAs for veterans disability compensation, and compensation to their dependents and survivors.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 018—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT SERVICE IN THE WATERS
OFFSHORE VIETNAM ESTABLISHES A PRESUMPTION
OF EXPOSURE TO AGENT ORANGE**

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 exist; and

WHEREAS, the dispersion, 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 provided that, for purposes of establishment or presumption of service connection for a disability or death related to herbicide exposure, a veteran who, during active military, naval or air service, must have “served in the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, [and] 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 has arbitrarily interpreted “served in the Republic of Vietnam” to mean only service on the land mass of Vietnam and not in offshore waters 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 current 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 to such waters; and

WHEREAS, various illnesses have been linked to and are presumed to be 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 are ineligible for presumption of service connection for herbicide-related disabilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to expressly provide that the phrase “served in the Republic of Vietnam” includes service in the territorial waters offshore.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 019—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE ANY RECOMMENDATION BY ANY COMMISSION OR OTHER SOURCE
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 to be exposed 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, owe 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 minimize or ignore the suffering of disabled veterans, despite this debt and this national responsibility; and

WHEREAS, any effort on the part of legislators to find ways to avoid compensating disabled veterans, especially in time of war, is unconscionable; and

WHEREAS, honorable and great nations of conscience do not abandon their wounded, injured or ill wartime veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, reminds our elected officials of our indebatable responsibility to fairly and fully compensate veterans for all the effects of disabilities incurred or aggravated in the line of duty as provided for 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 and their families.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 020—LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT A CHANGE IN REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR TEMPORARY TOTAL DISABILITY RATINGS

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 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, instances occur in which a veteran's treatment does not involve surgery or casting of a major joint, but the veteran undergoes 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 contraindicates work or other activities for periods of one month or more; and

WHEREAS, in such instances, a therapeutic course, convalescence or restriction from work for one month or more would occur in the home in lieu of hospitalization; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports a change in section 4.30, title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide a temporary total rating of a veteran 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. 021—LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REDUCE THE 10-YEAR RULE FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, section 1318 (b) (1), title 38, United States Code, provides Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits for survivors of deceased veterans who were 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 caregiver spouse; and

WHEREAS, the veteran's spouse, acting as a caregiver, must in many cases limit, give up or put careers and other activities on hold; and

WHEREAS, it is inherently unfair that the spouse should carry this additional burden for 10 years or more before qualifying for DIC; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to reduce the 10-year rule for DIC qualification to a more reasonable period of time.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 022—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A TEMPORARY TOTAL DISABILITY
COMPENSATION RATING FOR AN AMPUTEE VETERAN WHILE A NEW
PROSTHETIC DEVICE IS DEVELOPED AND DELIVERED**

WHEREAS, four to six weeks are required to manufacture a prosthetic device; and

WHEREAS, the veteran amputee without an artificial limb can be incapacitated and unable to obtain or retain gainful employment; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Schedule for Rating Disabilities does not contain any provision for temporary total disability rating for a service-disabled veteran amputee during the period of waiting for delivery of a new prosthetic limb; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to amend the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities to provide a temporary total rating for a service-connected veteran amputee during the period required to replace a prosthetic device.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 023—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO AWARD SPECIAL MONTHLY
COMPENSATION 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 conduct activities of daily living; 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 clean and presentable, or to perform frequent adjustment of special prosthetic or orthopedic appliances, or to attend to bowel and bladder self-care, 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 024—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 income, which could have been avoided had they received their earned benefits in a timely fashion; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, seeks the enactment of legislation that would require the VA to pay interest on all retroactive benefit awards in excess of one year after these claims are filed.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 025—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 to 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 (now the National Academy 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 rates be enacted; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports the enactment of legislation to provide a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to address loss of quality of life.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 026—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT REINSTATEMENT OF REASONABLE PRESUMPTIVE PERIOD
FOR UNDIAGNOSED ILLNESSES IN GULF WAR VETERANS**

WHEREAS, thousands of Gulf War veterans still suffer from chronic and 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 obscure for some time; and

WHEREAS, little significant research is being conducted on long-term health effects of many of the agents to which veterans were potentially exposed 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 (now the National Academy 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges that legislation be enacted to extend the presumptive period for service connection for ill-defined and undiagnosed illnesses from September 30, 2011 to a reasonable period in the future.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 027—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 military service; 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 ever more 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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 re-evaluate 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. 028—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD EXEMPT THE BENEFITS PAID
TO WARTIME SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS FROM THE
“PAYGO/CUTGO” 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 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 "PAYGO/CUTGO" 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, the adoption of budget caps and sequestration have often limited the ability of Congressional appropriations committees to fully fund all veterans programs, services and benefits; and

WHEREAS, veterans suffering from ailments associated with their service in the military are compensated from funds generated by cutting the benefits of other service-connected veterans and their survivors; and

WHEREAS, the benefits and services provided to wartime disabled veterans are unique and not a gratuitous benefit; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to exempt VA benefits and services provided to service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors from the PAYGO/CUTGO provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act as well as from any budget caps or sequestration legislation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 029—LEGISLATIVE AMEND THE LAW TO PROVIDE A 10-YEAR PROTECTION PERIOD FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY RATINGS

WHEREAS, section 110, title 38, United States Code, now provides for the protection of all disability compensation ratings 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports amendment of section 110, title 38, United States Code, to provide that disability ratings in effect be permanently protected after a period of 10 continuous years.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 030—LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE CONNECTION FOR ALL RADIOGENIC DISEASES AND ELIMINATE DOSE ESTIMATE REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, members of the United States armed forces participated in test detonations of nuclear devices, served in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan, following the detonation of nuclear weapons, including "clean-up" operations at test sites and have conducted other activities exposing them to ionizing radiation; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government knew or should have known the potential harm to the health and well-being of these service members, but did not consistently keep adequate records on radiation exposure; and

WHEREAS, those described as "atomic veterans" served our nation 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, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has indicated only about 50 claimants have been awarded disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation pursuant to Public Law 98–542, the Veterans' Dioxin and Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act; and

WHEREAS, title 38, Code of Federal Regulations §3.311 requires dose estimate exposure levels for claims based on radiation, and is a higher standard than for other disabilities associated with exposure such as claims based on herbicide exposure during the Vietnam war; and

WHEREAS, the government has spent tens of millions of dollars to provide dose reconstruction estimates that do not accurately reflect actual radiation dose exposure of these veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that DAV in the National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, calls on Congress to enact legislation to provide presumptive service connection to atomic veterans for all recognized radiogenic diseases; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any veteran involved in clean-up operations following a detonation of a nuclear device hereinafter be considered an atomic veteran for purposes of eligibility for benefits and services provided by VA; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress to support the elimination of dose exposure estimates required for diseases presumptive to ionizing radiation exposure and presume exposure to ionizing radiation for any radiation-exposed veteran with proof of radiation risk activities to include atmospheric and underwater detonations.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 031—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 specially 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 survivors and dependents must bear an undue hardship upon the death of such veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VMLI program provides mortgage life insurance to severely disabled veterans and service members who have also received a specially adapted housing grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend VMLI to service-connected veterans who are rated as permanently and totally disabled.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 032—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
BURIAL ALLOWANCE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, in 1973, the National Cemetery Administration established a burial allowance that provided partial reimbursement for eligible funeral and burial costs, with a payment of \$2,000 for service-connected burial allowance, \$300 for nonservice-connected burial allowance and \$747 for nonservice-connected plot allowance; and

WHEREAS, passage of Public Law 111–275, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2010, resulted in an increase in both plot allowance and burial allowance from \$300 to \$700 for nonservice-connected deaths in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities, effective October 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, this same law does not increase the \$2,000 for burial and funeral expenses for service-connected deaths outside of VA facilities, nor is it indexed to the Consumer Price Index for annual adjustments; and

WHEREAS, the plot allowance introduced in 1973 was an attempt to provide a plot benefit for veterans who did not have reasonable access to a national cemetery, but 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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 whether the death occurs in a VA facility or another place.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 033—LEGISLATIVE
INCREASE THE HOME IMPROVEMENT AND
STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS GRANT**

WHEREAS, under section 1717, title 38, United States Code, the Home Improvement and Structural Alterations (HISA) program, veterans with service-connected disabilities or veterans with nonservice-connected disabilities may receive assistance for any home improvement necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities; and

WHEREAS, a HISA grant is available to veterans who have received a medical determination indicating that improvements and structural alterations are necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of the veteran; and

WHEREAS, a veteran may receive both a HISA grant and either a Special Home Adaptation grant or a Specially Adapted Housing grant; and

WHEREAS, the HISA improvement benefit provides up to \$6,800 to service-connected veterans, and up to \$2,000 to nonservice-connected veterans as a result of the Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, calls for a reasonable increase in HISA benefits for veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 034—LEGISLATIVE OPPOSE REGIONAL DISPERSION OF THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS

WHEREAS, veterans and other claimants for veterans benefits may appeal rating and other 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, 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, categorically opposes any decentralization of the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 035—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 payments without taxation and with protections that ensure they are not diverted to 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 065—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, do not apply for this insurance within the two-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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, seeks the enactment of legislation that would authorize an open period for eligible service-connected disabled veterans to apply for coverage under the S-DVI program.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 066—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 S-DVI 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 insurance coverage for their own service-connected disabilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to amend section 1922, title 38, United States Code, to provide that S-DVI premiums will be based on current mortality tables.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 067—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 S-DVI for totally disabled veterans constitutes an inequity based on prior established standards; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to allow for waiver of premiums, for any supplemental S-DVI for totally disabled veterans that may be authorized by future legislation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the criteria for total disability waiver of premiums, as mandated in section 1912, title 38, United States Code, be maintained.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 068—LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT MEANINGFUL ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES, BUT WITH DUE PROCESS, FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, in order to assure that veterans receive the benefits and services they have earned, every Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employee, manager and leader must faithfully fulfill their duties and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, when VA employees fail veterans due to poor performance or misconduct, these individuals must be held accountable for such failures; and

WHEREAS, accountability constitutes a range of actions, including remedial training, demotion, suspension and, when justified, termination; and

WHEREAS, VA's long-term future must foster an environment in which the best and brightest individuals choose VA employment over other federal or private employers; and

WHEREAS, poor performance and misconduct cannot be tolerated, but all VA employees must be confident that fairness and due process govern selection, promotion, demotion, sanction or termination; and

WHEREAS, without such assurances of fairness and due process in the workplace, talented individuals may not entertain working in or remaining at VA; and

WHEREAS, pending legislative proposals before Congress would heighten accountability; however, any bill enacted by Congress should include standards by which accountability can be measured while ensuring due process and fairness for VA employees subject to such standards; and

WHEREAS, civil service protections enacted decades ago came about as a consequence of cronyism, politicization and ill treatment of civil servants, including terminations for almost any reason or no reason; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that the civil service remains free of political influence is a principle that must be protected to guarantee that VA employees are neither appointed, demoted nor terminated for political or personal reasons; and

WHEREAS, sanctions against VA employees based on performance must be made only if measurable performance standards have been clearly communicated but still violated; and

WHEREAS, VA managers must be empowered to use existing policies in a timely manner to sanction employees who fail to meet their documented performance standards; and

WHEREAS, applying sanctions exclusively to VA employees in the wake of a scandal is in contravention of civil service rules that regulate the entire federal workforce; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DAV in National Convention, assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, insists any legislation changing the existing employment protections in VA must strike a balance between holding civil servants accountable for their performance, while maintaining VA as an employer of choice for the best and brightest.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 109—LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO INCREASE DISABILITY COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, it is the historical policy of DAV that this Nation's first duty to veterans is to provide for the rehabilitation of its wartime disabled; and

WHEREAS, the percentage ratings for service-connected disabilities represent, as far as can be practicably determined, the average impairment in earning capacity resulting from such disabilities in civil occupations; and

WHEREAS, compensation increases should be based primarily on the loss of earning capacity; and

WHEREAS, disabled veterans who are unable to work because of service connected disabilities should be entitled to compensation payments commensurate with the after-tax earnings of their able-bodied contemporaries; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports the enactment of legislation to provide a realistic increase in Department of Veterans Affairs compensation rates to bring the standard of living of disabled veterans in line with that which they would have enjoyed had they not suffered their service-connected disabilities.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 110—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 disabled who retire from the armed forces based 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to repeal the offset between military longevity retired pay and VA disability compensation.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 111—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR PRESUMPTIVE
SERVICE-CONNECTION FOR TINNITUS AND HEARING LOSS**

WHEREAS, veterans of the armed services who served in combat or in certain occupational specialties have a high incidence 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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 veteran participated in combat or worked in a position or military occupational specialty likely to cause acoustic trauma.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 112—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 funds 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to clarify that SSB payments are not disability payments and therefore should not be recouped from VA disability compensation payments.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 113—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 dissociate 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, opposes changes in current law so as to redefine and restrict the conditions under which service connection may be established.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 114—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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 115—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 re-evaluation 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 re-evaluating 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 more intended for government savings and convenience; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, opposes any change in law to provide for lump-sum payments of Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 117—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE THE IMPOSITION OF TIME LIMITS FOR
FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS**

WHEREAS, some veterans suffer lifelong impairments from disabilities incurred in connection with military service; and

WHEREAS, disability compensation is a benefit available to 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, the Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission, created by Congress to study the Department of Veterans Affairs 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, opposes any change in law to limit the time for filing compensation claims.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 155—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT ELIMINATION OF THE LINK BETWEEN CHRONICITY
AND CONTINUITY WITH THE CHRONIC DISEASES AS LISTED IN
38 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, SECTION 3.309(a)**

WHEREAS, title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, section 3.303(b) chronicity and continuity, as written, provides alternate avenues for service connection, is not restricted or linked to any specific diseases; and

WHEREAS, the precedent decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Walker v. Shinseki, 708F.3d 1331 (Fed. Cir. 2013), opined that the chronic diseases listed in title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, section 3.309(a) are implicitly linked to title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, section 3.303(b); and

WHEREAS, the Federal Circuit Court and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) acknowledge that there is no explicit cross reference to the diseases in title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, section 3.309(a) noted in title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 3.303(b); NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports the enactment of legislation to supercede the Court's opinion of an implicit link between chronicity and continuity with the chronic diseases listed in title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, section 3.309(a).

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 157—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION FOR PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION FOR
DISEASES RELATED TO CONTAMINATED WATER AT CAMP LEJEUNE**

WHEREAS, title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, section 17.400, authorizes Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care for specific diseases for veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for 30 consecutive days from January 1, 1953 to December 31, 1987; and

WHEREAS, the specific diseases associated with such contamination are esophageal cancer, breast cancer, kidney cancer, multiple myeloma, renal toxicity, female infertility, scleroderma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, lung cancer, bladder cancer, leukemia, myelodysplastic syndromes, hepatic steatosis, miscarriage, neurobehavioral effects, as well as other conditions that may be determined that are known to be related to exposure; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports the enactment of legislation to add such diseases to be presumptive for service connection based on consumption of and exposure to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 161—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING PRESUMPTIVE
SERVICE-CONNECTION FOR CERTAIN DISEASES BASED ON
HERBICIDE EXPOSURE OF MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO SERVED
AT AIR BASES IN THAILAND DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.**

WHEREAS, during the Vietnam War, American military personnel stationed at air bases in Thailand were exposed to herbicides; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) currently acknowledges certain personnel as having been exposed to herbicides who performed duties on the perimeters of these bases; and

WHEREAS, veterans who file claims related to their proximity to base perimeters are challenged to prove that they in fact performed duties resulting in exposure; and

WHEREAS, most personnel assigned to bases in Thailand were quartered in open-air barracks near perimeters where herbicides were habitually sprayed by the United States government; and

WHEREAS, the VA already presumes exposure to herbicide agents for any veteran who served in Vietnam, including some veterans who served in Vietnam's inland waterways; and

WHEREAS, spraying of herbicide agents along air base perimeters in Thailand would affect not only the service members who were assigned perimeter duties, but also other personnel stationed at these locations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that DAV in the National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31, 2016–August 3, 2016, calls on Congress to support legislation to provide presumptive service connection for illnesses and diseases related to herbicide exposure in veterans who were stationed at air bases in Thailand during the Vietnam War.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 199—LEGISLATIVE
AMEND THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE
AMPUTATIONS AT OR ABOVE THE WRIST, OR AT OR ABOVE THE ANKLE
IN CONSIDERING ENTITLEMENT TO SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY
FOR ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASE AND OTHER RELATED DISEASES**

WHEREAS, title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), §3.310 (c) currently authorizes veterans with service-connected amputations of one lower extremity at or above the knee, or service-connected amputations of both lower extremities at or above the ankles, to receive service connection for ischemic heart disease and other cardiovascular diseases; and

WHEREAS, title 38 CFR §3.310 (c) was written as a result of a study by the National Academy of Sciences to ascertain the validity of a connection between cardiovascular disease among amputees; and

WHEREAS, many amputees are susceptible to developing cardiovascular disease; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that DAV in the National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31, 2016–August 3, 2016, calls on Congress to support amending title 38, CFR, §3.310 (c), to provide for the same consideration involving ischemic heart disease and other cardiovascular diseases for veterans with service-connected amputations at or above the wrist, or at or above the ankle.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 215—LEGISLATIVE
ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT THAT PERSIAN GULF VETERANS'
DISABILITIES MUST HAVE BECOME MANIFEST NOT LATER**

THAN DECEMBER 31, 2016

WHEREAS, current law limits filing dates for illnesses and injuries in veterans from certain service during active duty periods, including the Southwest Asia theatre of military operations; and

WHEREAS, title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), §3.317(i) stipulates that diseases associated with service in the Persian Gulf must “manifest either during active military, naval, or air service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations, or to a degree of 10 percent or more not later than December 31, 2016;” and

WHEREAS, filing periods for injuries and illnesses related to service in any theater of military operations must remain open ended to assure that benefits and services are available when those conditions ultimately manifest; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in the National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges Congress to support legislation to remove the delimiting date of December 31, 2016, for injuries and illnesses sustained as a result of active duty service in the Southwest Asia theatre of operations.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 222—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT MEANINGFUL CLAIMS AND APPEALS PROCESSING REFORM**

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 and appeals for myriad benefits and services; and

WHEREAS, the number of claims filed and appealed each year is growing, the complexity of claims and appeals filed is increasing, the backlog of non-rating claims and appeals pending is too large, and the accuracy of claims must continue to be improved; and

WHEREAS, VBA's primary emphasis of reducing the disability claims backlog resulted in less attention to other work that led to significant increases in non-rating related claims and a rising backlog of appeals that now stands at roughly 450,000; and

WHEREAS, VBA has reached out to veterans service organizations accredited to represent veterans in the claims process for assistance in reforming its claims processing system, particularly DAV because of our experience and success in representing more than 300,000 veterans each year; and

WHEREAS, VBA has made measurable progress in reducing the number of disability claims pending in the backlog (defined as those pending more than 125 days), which dropped from 611,000 in March 2013 to about 80,000 in July 2016 , while also improving accuracy; and

WHEREAS, when VBA reports on the average days pending for claims, VBA does not include non-rating claims, and these claims are just as important and should be accounted for when reporting average days of pending claims; and

WHEREAS, any claims or appeals reform must preserve or enhance veterans' due process rights and ensure that adjudications are fair, accurate, timely and of acceptable quality; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in the National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, calls on Congress and VBA to support significant and meaningful claims and appeals processing reform to address VA's overall claims and appeals workloads; 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 gain access to all Disability Benefit Questionnaires (DBQs); AND

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress and VBA to 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 automated decision 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 VBA and Congress to ensure that sufficient funding is requested and provided, to complete all reform and transformation initiatives.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 223—LEGISLATIVE AMEND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES FOR MENTAL DISORDERS

WHEREAS, under section 4.130, title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, the criteria for evaluating mental disorders is 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 current edition of 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 the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports amendment of section 4.130, title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, to formulate different criteria to evaluate the various mental disorders under the appropriate standards applicable to each diagnosis.

**RESOLUTION NO. 224—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT SUFFICIENT, TIMELY AND PREDICTABLE
FUNDING FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES**

WHEREAS, DAV believes that wounded, injured and ill veterans, through their extraordinary sacrifices and service, earned the right to health care, benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, this nation's first concern should be to fulfill its obligation to those who served in the military services in defense of this country; and

WHEREAS, DAV worked for more than two decades to reform the budget process in order to assure sufficient, timely and predictable funding for VA health care programs; and

WHEREAS, DAV developed and supported new legislation to assure sufficient, timely and predictable funding for VA health care through the technique of advance appropriations, as well as through new transparency and accountability requirements covering VA health care budget requests; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of budget caps and sequestration have often limited the ability of Congressional appropriations committees to fully fund all veterans programs, services and benefits; 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 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, VA health care programs have largely been protected from the adverse effects of government shutdowns, other veterans benefits and programs remain unprotected; and

WHEREAS, the remainder 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 unrelated budget stalemates, continuing resolutions and sequestration occur; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 111–81 required the Government Accountability Office (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, GAO reported significant findings of unjustified, questionable changes VA made during the internal budget development process, limitations of budget justifications, and questionable reliability of proposed savings estimates; and

WHEREAS, recent budget requests for advance appropriations by the Administration and advance appropriations amounts provided for by Congress continue to be insufficient to meet the full demand for VA benefits and services; and

WHEREAS, DAV and Congressional sponsors of the advance appropriations concept anticipated that full implementation of Public Law 111–81 would require continued oversight from Congress, DAV and others; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to authorize advance appropriations for all of VA's discretionary and mandatory budget, which would extend advance appropriations to include IT, medical and prosthetic research, major construction, minor construction, State Home construction, state cemetery construction grants, general operating expenses (VBA and general administration), the National Cemetery Administration, the Office of Inspector General, disability compensation, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, GI Bill payments and all other mandatory benefits; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV 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 FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to permanently extend the GAO study and reporting requirements included in the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 225—LEGISLATIVE
PROVIDE FOR A COMPENSABLE RATING FOR HEARING-IMPAIRED
VETERANS REQUIRED TO USE HEARING AIDS**

WHEREAS, a significantly high number of veterans with hearing impairments have a zero percent or non-compensable rating for high-frequency hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, most veterans who have such a rating with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) experience significant difficulties with such hearing loss in ordinary daily living; and

WHEREAS, the 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

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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 226—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT A MORE LIBERAL REVIEW OF OTHER THAN HONORABLE
DISCHARGES IN CASES OF PTSD, TBI, MST AND OTHER TRAUMA
FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS AND SERVICES.**

WHEREAS, former service members who receive a non-punitive administrative discharge characterized as other than honorable (“bad paper”) are generally not considered eligible for care and treatment from the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) or other Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits; and

WHEREAS, the current rate of bad paper discharges by OEF/OIF service members with undiagnosed traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), military sexual trauma (MST) and other trauma are twice that of the Vietnam Era and nearly four times the rate of veterans in the World War II era; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Secretary of Defense provided policy guidance to the Military Department Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records (BCM/NR) to give “liberal consideration” in examining requests for discharge upgrades to evidence that PTSD may have contributed to the misconduct leading to less than honorable discharges; and

WHEREAS, former service members who have potentially suffered TBI, PTSD, MST or other trauma and are awarded bad paper discharges are likely to need medical care and benefits related to their military service; and

WHEREAS, without access to VA medical care and benefits, these former service members may be at higher risk of suicide and homelessness, along with involvement in the criminal justice system; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports a more liberal review of other than honorable discharges for purposes of receiving VA benefits and health care services in cases of former service members whose PTSD, TBI and MST or other trauma contributed to their administrative discharges characterized as other than honorable.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 227—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 United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims) (Court); and

WHEREAS, the VJRA granted the Court the authority to decide all relevant questions of law and to hold unlawful and set aside or reverse any finding of material fact adverse to the claimant, which is clearly erroneous; and

WHEREAS, due to long delays in claims processing at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), it can take veterans years to get their appeals before the Court; and

WHEREAS, in many appeals, the Court will ignore the appellants' legal arguments and remand an appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) based on the General Counsel's confession of error that the Board failed to provide adequate reasons or bases for its decision to deny the benefit; and

WHEREAS, a remand due to lack of 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation that would require the Court to decide each assignment of error made by an appellant in an appeal to the Court and to reverse any such errors found; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should enact legislation providing the Court should have the authority to modify or remand any Board decision found to contain any error or errors, that the authority to modify should include the power to order an award of benefits in appropriate cases, and that an appellant should be expressly permitted to waive confessions of error made by the appellee.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 228—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) requires that, “ratings shall be based, as far as practicable, upon the average impairments of earning capacity,” as stated in section 1155, title 38, United States Code; 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 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, the 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 made, 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 veterans who have served in our armed forces; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, opposes any attempt to change or modify the VASRD, or the statute and regulations underlying it, which would change the longstanding, accepted and successful policy that ratings shall be based, as far as practicable, upon the average impairments of earning capacity.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 229—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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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 exposures to certain chemical, biological and environmental toxins; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV strongly urges 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. 230—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS TO CONSIDER PRIVATE MEDICAL EVIDENCE
SUPPLIED BY LICENSED PRIVATE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

WHEREAS, section 5125, title 38, United States Code, Acceptance of Reports of Private Physician Examinations, authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to accept private reports in the adjudication of claims for veterans' disability benefits; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Health Administration personnel, to include nurse practitioners and physician assistants in independent practices, of equal training and background to their private sector counterparts, are authorized to complete such medical reports for VA adjudication purposes; and

WHEREAS, submission of 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 claims, rather than being required to attend mandatory compensation and pension examinations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, seeks the enactment of legislation that would require VA to consider private medical evidence supplied by licensed private health care providers to include, but not be limited to, reports from nurse practitioners and physician assistants in private practices.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 231—LEGISLATIVE
INCREASE THE FACE VALUE OF SERVICE-DISABLED
VETERANS LIFE 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 nonparticipating 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 coverage was set by law 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 the act did not increase coverage for other service-connected disabled veterans with lower disability ratings; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 232—LEGISLATIVE
AMEND PROVISIONS REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR AUTOMOBILE ADAPTIVE
EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE ANY VETERAN WHOSE SERVICE-CONNECTED
DISABILITY INHIBITS THE 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 automobile 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 233—LEGISLATIVE
INCREASE THE GRANT AND SPECIALLY ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT
REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR AUTOMOBILES AND OTHER CONVEYANCES
TO CERTAIN DISABLED VETERANS, AND AUTHORIZE REIMBURSEMENT
FOR NEW ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT TECHNOLOGIES**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides grants to assist eligible disabled veterans and military service members in purchasing specially equipped automobiles or other conveyances; and

WHEREAS, when originally established, the grant was set at an amount sufficient to cover the average retail cost of automobiles; and

WHEREAS, later adjustments elevated grants to amounts representing 80 percent of the average cost of automobiles; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the automobile allowance has not been further adjusted concurrent with increases in costs of automobiles, resulting in substantial erosion of the value of the benefit due to inflation; and

WHEREAS, the current grant level constitutes about 66 percent of the total average retail price of automobiles; and

WHEREAS, the VA also provides reimbursement for special adaptive equipment, but the rates of reimbursement have not kept pace with present day costs to repair or replace such equipment; and

WHEREAS, advances in new automobile technologies, such as collision warning systems, electronic stability control, backup cameras, and GPS systems, would enable disabled veterans to more safely operate vehicles; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31, 2016–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to increase the automobile grant level to an amount representing 80 percent of the average cost of new automobiles; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation and policies that would increase the rates of reimbursement for repairs and replacement of specially adaptive equipment for automobiles and other conveyances consistent with present day costs; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress and the VA to support legislation and policies that would expand the items approved for reimbursement, such as collision warning systems, electronic stability control, backup cameras, GPS systems, and other available safety technologies.

* * *

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, AI. You have heard the motion. May I have a second? Mic 1.

MR. THOMAS WALLS: Thomas Walls from the great State of South Carolina, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Thomas. In accordance with Rule 9 now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish read? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

At this time I would like to call on Chairman Kirk Johnson for the report on the Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services.

HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KIRK JOHNSON:
Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services was called to order on August 1st, 2016, by the Committee Advisors Adrian Atizado and John Kleindienst.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. I, Kirk Johnson, was elected as chairman and Wanda Janus was elected as secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by the National Convention. For the purpose of saving time I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolution.

Resolution 44, support legislation to require the President, Vice-President and members of Congress to receive health care exclusively from the VA; (Applause)

46, support Congressional funding for the creation of the VA Rehabilitative Special Event Office;

49, support new models of care within the VA and veterans with dementia;

55, support the rights and benefits earned by Native Americans and Alaskan Native veterans;

56, support sufficient resources for VA to improve health care for veterans living in rural and remote areas;

57, require a veteran's attending VA physician to provide a medical opinion with regard to a claim for VA disability compensation benefits when requested;

Number 58 support consistent, reasonable access for power-driven mobility devices;

59, reduce VA medication co-payment equal to or less than the lowest charged by private sector commercial outlets; 81, apply a consistent, coordinated care policy in the VA for traveling veterans;

82, support top-priority access for service-connected veterans within the VA health care system;

83, support VA medical and prosthetic research programs;

84, support legislation to improve VA programs designed to prevent and treat substance use disorders in veterans;

146, – correction,

126, support enhancement of medical services through modernization of VA health care infrastructure;

127, support state veteran home program;

128, support legislation to extend eligibility of a qualifying veteran adult child for CHAMPVA;

129, support enhanced medical services and benefits for women veterans; (Applause)

131, support legislation to provide comprehensive support services for caregivers of severely-wounded, injured and ill veterans from all eras; (Applause)

132, ensure timely access to quality VA health care and medical services;

133, adequately fund and sustain the successful readjustment counseling service of a VA and its highly effective Vet Center program;

134, oppose means testing service-connected veterans for VA health care;

135, support legislation to eliminate or reduce VA and Department of Defense health care co-payment costs to service-connected disabled veterans;

136, support legislation to establish a comprehensive program for traumatic brain injury rehabilitation;

137, support humane, consistent pain management programs in the veterans' health care system;

138, support enhanced treatment for military sexual trauma;

139, support sustained, sufficient funding to improve services for homeless veterans;

140, 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;

141, oppose third-party payments for service-connected disabilities;

142, enhance long-term services and supports to service-connected disabled veterans;

143, support repeal of beneficiary travel pay deductible for service-connected disabled veterans and increase sustained beneficiary travel reimbursement rates;

171, require assistive technology training for VA staff who work to rehabilitate blind veterans;

236, provide comprehensive dental care to all service-connected veterans; (Applause)

237, improve the care and benefits for veterans exposed to military toxic and environmental hazards;

238, strengthen, reform, and sustain the VA health care system;

239, encourage VA to process volunteer applications in a timely manner;

240, establish urgent care benefits and improve emergency care benefits;

241, provide easy and equitable access to VA transportation benefits and services;

242, improve eligibility for temporary programs to access care in the community;

243, increase capacity at VA facilities by operating extended hours and weekends;

244, support the provision of comprehensive VA health care services to enrolled veterans;

245, oppose recommendation that eligible military-retired veterans be prohibited from receiving health care through both the Department of Defense and VA facilities;

246, urge the VA to support comprehensive research on health effects of children of male Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange;

247, support legislation to eliminate or reduce VA and DoD health care out-of-pocket costs for service-connected disabled veterans;

248, provide beneficiary travel benefits for unscheduled, acute and urgent care from VA;

249, support full funding and resources for poly-trauma units at VA medical centers;

250, support program improvements and enhanced resources for VA mental health programs;

251, support legislation to authorize scholarships for new mental health practitioners in exchange for agreement to serve veterans in VA facilities;

252, support sufficient funding for VA prosthetics and sensory aid service and timely delivery of prosthetic items;

253, support consistent, reasonable access for service and guide dogs in VA facilities;

254, enhance CHAMPVA services;

255, improve timely reimbursement by VA for purchased care and protect veterans from debt collection and adverse credit reporting associated with such care;

256, improve the care provided to veterans with service-connected disabilities affecting their ability to procreate through assistant reproductive technology;

257, encourage the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit candidate for the George H. Seal Memorial Award program;

258, encourage the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit candidate for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship program;

270, extend appreciation to the Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta health care system for the success of the 95th DAV National Convention;

Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Hospital 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 044
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 judge 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 health care needs; and

WHEREAS, if the President, Vice President or member of Congress is a veteran, he or she should be classified into the appropriate priority group for purpose of receipt of VA health care; and

WHEREAS, if the President, Vice President, or member of Congress is not a veteran, he or she should be classified equivalent to a nonservice-connected veteran in either Priority Group 7 or 8, depending on their income and assets; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to require the President, Vice President and members of Congress to enroll in VA health care services and receive health care exclusively from the VA health care system.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 046
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO CREATE A REHABILITATIVE SPECIAL
EVENTS OFFICE WITHIN THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and several Congressionally chartered veterans service organizations co-sponsor national rehabilitative special event programs for veterans receiving health care from VA 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 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to create an office within the VHA to oversee these rehabilitative special events and to provide a separate account in the VA appropriation for the national rehabilitative special events office 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 in the new office recommended herein.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 049 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 diseases 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, 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 for these veterans; and

WHEREAS, several studies have raised concern that both traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder may be linked to an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease; 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 055 SUPPORT THE RIGHTS AND BENEFITS EARNED BY SERVICE-CONNECTED 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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 service-connected Native American and Alaska Native veterans, especially those living on reservation lands, can receive the full benefits and services they have earned and deserve.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 056
SUPPORT SUFFICIENT RESOURCES FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES
FOR VETERANS LIVING IN RURAL OR REMOTE AREAS

WHEREAS, 44 percent of today's active-duty military service members and tomorrow's veteran population list rural communities as their homes of record; and

WHEREAS, approximately 40 percent of veterans enrolled for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care are classified by VA as veterans living in rural or highly rural areas; and

WHEREAS, after serving our nation, veterans should not have their health care needs neglected by the VA because they choose to live in rural and remote areas far from major VA health care facilities; and

WHEREAS; Public Law 109–461 authorized VA to establish the Veterans Health Administration Office of Rural Health to promulgate policies, best practices and innovations to improve services to veterans who reside in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, both houses of Congress on numerous occasions have attempted with legislation to address unmet health care needs of veterans who make their homes in rural and remote areas; and

WHEREAS, beginning in fiscal year 2009, Congress has provided VA \$250 million annually in funding to support enhancements to rural health care; and

WHEREAS, VA has funded over 500 projects and programs, authorized new mobile rural clinics in Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs), appointed "Rural Health Consultants" in each of VA's 21 VISNs, and is conducting regularly scheduled meetings of VA's Rural Veterans Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, VA receives no Congressional appropriations dedicated to support establishment of rural community-based outpatient clinics but must manage those additional expenses from within available Medical Services appropriations provided by Congress; and

WHEREAS, VA has established and is operating over 800 community-based outpatient clinics, of which nearly half are located in areas considered by VA to be rural or highly rural; and

WHEREAS, VA must ensure the numbers of its Readjustment Counseling Service Vet Centers in rural and highly rural areas are sufficient to meet the demands for counseling of rural veterans in need of psychological readjustment after serving in combat deployments; and

WHEREAS, VA cannot cost-effectively justify establishing additional remote facilities in areas with sparse veteran populations given current circumstances, and therefore should be empowered by Congress to award grants from designated rural appropriations to selected providers in those circumstances where providing direct VA care is impracticable; and

WHEREAS, historically, VA has had difficulty securing sufficient funding through the Congressional discretionary budget and appropriations process to ensure basic and adequate access for the care of sick and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, Congress has enacted Public Law 111–81, the purpose of which is to secure advance appropriations for the delivery of VA health care services, including services in rural areas; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, fully supports the right of rural veterans to be served by VA, including through rural health grants in certain circumstances, but insists that funding for additional rural care and outreach be sustained and not be the cause of reductions in highly specialized VA medical programs needed for the care of sick and disabled service-connected veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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. 057 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, 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 3.159, 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) policy describes Disability Benefit Questionnaires (DBQ) as a documentation tool designed for easy use and provides a format for documenting medical evidence that aids Veterans Benefits Administration rating specialists in making decisions on claims; and

WHEREAS, it is also VHA policy that DBQs are intended for use by VHA primary care and specialty care providers, and VHA clinicians who are not disability examiners may complete DBQs; and

WHEREAS, VA's continued mission is to be a provider of choice for enrolled veterans, and delivering to them 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, providing medical information for disability evaluations or examinations to support adjudication of claims remains inconsistent, because some local VA facilities' practices resist completing DBQs requested by claimants; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 058 SUPPORT CONSISTENT REASONABLE ACCESS FOR POWER-DRIVEN MOBILITY DEVICES

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of disabled veterans face daily challenges with mobility as a result of their military service; and

WHEREAS, individuals with mobility, circulatory, respiratory or neurological disabilities use many kinds of devices for mobility; and

WHEREAS, a number of power-driven mobility devices are available to assist individuals with mobility, and an individual's access to public places is protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as amended; and

WHEREAS, regulations based on ADA allowing access with wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices are not widely acknowledged and can present difficulties for individuals seeking access to public areas; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policy is not clear on whether or not it permits power-driven mobility devices in its facilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges that VA carry out its policies to permit reasonable access to VA facilities by veterans using power-driven mobility devices consistently throughout the system.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 059
REDUCE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICATION
CO-PAYMENTS EQUAL TO, OR LESS THAN, THE LOWEST
CHARGED BY PRIVATE SECTOR COMMERCIAL OUTLETS

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has periodically increased medication co-payments from the original charge of \$2.00 to \$9.00 per 30-day supply of each prescribed medication for some enrolled veterans; and

WHEREAS, Congress has not agreed to eliminate co-payments 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 co-payments 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 co-payments for the same medications; and

WHEREAS, VA medication co-payments 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 co-payments for military retirees and veterans, DAV believes VA should not charge veterans required co-payments that exceed co-payments charged by large commercial pharmaceutical sources, and should not charge co-payments 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation that will reduce the amount of medication co-payments paid by veterans to be equal to, or less than, the lowest price co-payments charged by private sector commercial outlets to veterans and nonveterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in the case of over-the-counter medications, Congress should prohibit VA from charging medication co-payments that exceed the retail cost of these drugs sold in VCS retail stores.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 081
APPLY A CONSISTENT COORDINATED CARE POLICY IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR TRAVELING VETERANS

WHEREAS, many service-connected disabled veterans temporarily split their principal residence between two locations; and

WHEREAS, coordination and continuity of care are core features of high quality primary care and have been shown to offer significant benefits, including lower rates of hospitalization and lower mortality; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration policy defining how patients are assigned to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) primary care providers states that, in general, each veteran receiving VA primary care must be assigned a single primary care provider within the VA health care system; and

WHEREAS, under this policy, veterans who spend a significant part of the year living between two regions and who have complex health care needs requiring close ongoing care management may have primary care providers assigned at more than one facility; and

WHEREAS, some service-connected veterans who would otherwise be eligible for a second VA primary care provider are being denied this critical service; and

WHEREAS, many service-connected veterans are unaware of this policy and are not being educated by their VA provider that they can be evaluated to determine eligibility for a second VA primary care provider to better coordinate execution of a personal health care plan between two VA facilities;
NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges the VA to consistently apply the established primary care standards nationwide, educate veterans who live in multiple regions about this policy and add VA-rated service-connected disabilities as one of the critical factors used in determining the need for dual primary care providers.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 082

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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 083

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 sequela 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 ground-breaking 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 084
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO PREVENT AND TREAT
SUBSTANCE-USE DISORDERS IN VETERANS

WHEREAS, the misuse and abuse of alcohol and other addictive substances is a major health problem for many Americans, including veterans; and

WHEREAS, substance-use disorders result in significant health and social deterioration and financial costs to veterans, their families and the nation; and

WHEREAS, data from a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national study showed that 40 percent of VA outpatients reported hazardous use of alcohol and 22 percent reported full alcohol abuse, but only 31 percent of the respondents reported being counseled about alcohol use; and

WHEREAS, substance-use disorders are associated with family instability, decreased worker productivity and declining health status; and

WHEREAS, veterans of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND) are at risk for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and a wide array of other medical and psychological conditions, which may be associated with veterans' increased use of substances; and

WHEREAS, a study of VA health care users shows that more than 11 percent of OEF/OIF/OND veterans have been diagnosed with an alcohol use disorder, a drug-use disorder or both, and VA data show that almost 22 percent of OEF/OIF/OND veterans with PTSD also have a substance-use disorder; and

WHEREAS, VA offers few integrated treatment programs that would work to address both the substance-use disorder and co-occurring PTSD, depression, anxiety or other medical or mental health conditions which may cause or exacerbate veterans' inappropriate use of substances; and

WHEREAS, in some locations, VA lacks timely access to a continuum of available services that ranges from detoxification to rehabilitation in order to effectively treat substance-use disorders; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 126
SUPPORT MODERNIZING 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 up to \$69 billion in capital facilities improvements and new construction through its Strategic Capital Infrastructure Program; and

WHEREAS, continuing appropriated funding levels at a fraction of the internally identified need will prevent VA from modernizing its facilities for decades, despite well-recognized needs in VA's 10-year capital plan; and

WHEREAS, as of 2015, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have produced over 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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 health 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. 127
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 150 State Veterans Homes, all of whom are member institutions of the National Association of State Veterans Homes, 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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 in 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. 128 SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO EXTEND ELIGIBILITY OF A QUALIFYING VETERAN'S ADULT CHILD FOR THE CIVILIAN HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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 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; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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 of beneficiaries in private health plans.

RESOLUTION NO. 129
SUPPORT ENHANCED MEDICAL SERVICES AND
BENEFITS FOR WOMEN VETERANS

WHEREAS, there are over 2 million women veterans comprising 9 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 women accounting for more than 400,000 users of VA health care services in fiscal year (FY) 2014; and

WHEREAS, with over 50 percent of women veterans of conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan having used VA services at least once, and 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 care for women veterans in the VA health care system, including the systemic fragmentation of primary care services; too few proficient, knowledgeable providers with expertise in women's health and a number of identified outpatient quality disparities for women veterans; and

WHEREAS, DAV commissioned a report published in 2014 which confirmed that despite a government that provides a generous array of benefits to assist veterans with transition and readjustment following military service, serious gaps are evident for women in every aspect of existing federal programs; 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 in some cases 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 can limit 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, seeks to ensure the provision of health care services and specialized programs, inclusive of gender-specific services, by VA to eligible women veterans are provided to the same degree and extent that services are provided to eligible male veterans, inclusive of counseling and/or psychological services incident to combat exposure or sexual trauma; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge VA to strictly adhere to stated policies regarding privacy and safety issues relating to the treatment of women veterans and to proactively conduct research and health studies as appropriate, periodically review, adjust and improve its women's health programs, and seek innovative methods to address barriers to care, thereby better ensuring women veterans receive the quality treatment and specialized services they so rightly deserve.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 131
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 are involved in the care and rehabilitation of severely injured veterans, but these caregivers receive little to no relief; and

WHEREAS, families or other individuals caring for severely wounded, injured and ill veterans 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, and suffering severe financial and personal penalties as a consequence 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, calls on Congress to ensure VA receives the resources needed to provide comprehensive supports and services to caregivers of all veterans severely injured, wounded or ill from military service; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation that would expand access to 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. 132
ENSURE TIMELY ACCESS TO QUALITY DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, wounded and ill 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 and driving farther for primary, specialty and dental care appointments; and

WHEREAS, VA should identify and immediately correct the underlying problems to properly manage its health care capacity and identify additional resources needed to ensure timely access to 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges the VA to request and for Congress to provide necessary authorities, sufficient resources, and staff to reduce waiting times so wounded, ill and injured veterans can realize timely access to all medically necessary services from the VA health care system.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 133
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 numbering about 300 locations nationwide, have proven to be a most useful and effective tool to assist veterans of all eras whose experiences range from combat to military sexual trauma, and to certain family members; and

WHEREAS, Vet Centers provide cost-effective and highly beneficial services, including counseling for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other readjustment challenges, marriage and family counseling, and family bereavement counseling beneficial to recovery; 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 the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; 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; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 134
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 nonservice-connected veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 135
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HEALTH CARE
CO-PAYMENTS FOR 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 unequaled rights, privileges and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, as the beneficiaries of veterans' service and sacrifice, the citizens of our grateful nation want our Government to fully honor our moral obligation to care for veterans and generously provide them benefits and health care entirely without charge; and

WHEREAS, premiums, health care cost sharing and deductibles are a feature of health care systems in which some costs are shared by the insured and the insurer in a contractual relationship between the patient and the for-profit company, or of health care through other Government programs in which the beneficiary has not earned any right to have the costs of health care benefits fully borne by taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, in the seminal RAND Health Insurance Experiment, which gave rise to the use and increase of cost sharing, other important findings included that cost sharing reduced the use of both effective and ineffective care where the amounts of reductions for each were equal for hospitalizations and drug use, and cost sharing did not alter the quality of care patients received; and

WHEREAS, subsequent research continues to question the adverse effects of cost sharing on health outcomes particularly for patients with chronic disabilities; and

WHEREAS, asking veterans to pay for part of the benefits a grateful nation provides for them is fundamentally contrary to the spirit and principles underlying the provision of benefits to veterans; and

WHEREAS, co-payments were initially imposed upon veterans using the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system under urgent circumstances and as a temporary necessity to contribute to reduction of the federal budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, cost sharing is considered as a means of generating revenues in the Department of Defense (DoD) and VA health care systems; and

WHEREAS, Congress has forgotten or abandoned the traditional benevolent philosophy of providing free benefits to veterans as repayment for the unusual rigors, risks and personal deprivation they underwent for the good of our country; and

WHEREAS, based on practices in the private sector, the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs and Defense, in the recent past, moved to dramatically impose fees and increase premiums and co-payments, as if operating a commercial enterprise; and

WHEREAS, as a continuing cost of national defense and as our Nation's foremost moral obligation, benefits for service-connected disabled veterans must remain a first priority of our government; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, calls for legislation to eliminate or reduce VA and DoD health care out-of-pocket costs for service-connected disabled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 136
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE
PROGRAM FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY REHABILITATION

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injury (TBI) has been called the signature wound of veterans serving in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND); 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 lifelong personal and clinical support, including neurological, medical and psychiatric services, and physical, psycho-social, occupational and vocational therapies, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a care management team for every severely ill or injured OEF/OIF/OND veteran, which consists of, at a minimum, a program manager, a

clinical case manager and a transition patient advocate in order to facilitate a comprehensive care plan for the veteran and their family 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 co-morbid 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 TBI; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the VA's Office of Research and Development held a state-of-the-art meeting/ summit of leaders in the field of TBI for the purposes of highlighting advances that have been achieved over the past seven years and to discuss future research and clinical directions to improve the health of veterans suffering from TBI; 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 and 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 137 SUPPORT HUMANE, CONSISTENT PAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS IN THE VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, pain is one of the most prevalent reasons individuals, including wounded, injured and ill veterans, seek health care; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of veterans suffer from traumatic amputations and other severe injuries incurred during military service, while others suffer from a host of painful organic diseases and disabling conditions; and

WHEREAS, chronic pain is closely linked with depression and other mental health challenges, including suicidal ideation; and

WHEREAS, over a decade ago, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) established a new national health policy adding pain as the “fifth vital sign” in patients, along with blood pressure, temperature, pulse and respiration; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2001, VA established and formalized a national pain management program for the purpose of promoting greater public awareness, training and educating health professional students, VA providers and their staffs, and veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, millions of veterans enrolled in VA health care have been aided by VA's efforts to better manage pain, while reducing the use of opioids and other drugs in the treatment of chronic pain; and

WHEREAS, VA's pain management program has been emulated in other public and private health care settings nationwide; and

WHEREAS, VA has adopted a patient-centered and holistic approach to delivering health care in order to maintain and improve the health and quality of life of veterans; and

WHEREAS, in some VA locations, patients with chronic pain who have been prescribed pain medication over long periods have been denied further access to prescriptions for pain; and

WHEREAS, VA facilities and all prescribers are subject to the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, as amended; and

WHEREAS, due to the effects of the Controlled Substances Act, as amended, some veterans have had their pain medication prescriptions managed in such a way that creates great anxiety and sometimes produces ill effects of withdrawal because of the Act's 30-day limit on Schedule II drug prescriptions and VA prescribing policies and practices that may fail to resupply them on a timely basis; and

WHEREAS, pain management programs should be concerned uppermost about both patient safety and humane treatment to reduce pain and its underlying causes, with or without narcotics; and

WHEREAS, without appropriate psychological counseling and transition to suitable alternatives to controlled substances, including Schedule II controlled medications, veterans can suffer physical and mental anguish needlessly and thereby are not receiving patient-centered, holistic care; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges VA to redouble its efforts to conduct a uniform national pain management program to ensure that veterans with chronic pain who have used prescribed pain medications over long histories are managed in a patient-centered environment, with balanced regard for both patient safety and humane alternatives to the use of controlled substances, and while under VA care receive their prescribed medications in a timely fashion; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV encourages VA at all levels to monitor local pain management efforts and resolve any conflicts between the effects of the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 and VA prescribing policies and procedures to ensure they are compliant with VA's national pain management policy and guidelines, and consistent with the intent of this resolution.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 138

SUPPORT ENHANCED TREATMENT FOR MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Department of Defense Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPRO) annual report on sexual assault in the military included 6,083 reports of sexual assault across the military services, representing a less than one percent decline from reports made in FY 2014; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 RAND Military Workplace Study, with results in the SAPRO report, estimates that 20,200 service members experience 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 survivors; and

WHEREAS, 25 percent of women and one percent of men enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system report they had experienced military sexual trauma (MST); and

WHEREAS, in FY 2014, over 76 percent of women veterans in VA who screened positive for MST received outpatient care for either a mental or physical health condition related to MST; and

WHEREAS, 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 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 139 SUPPORT SUSTAINED AND SUFFICIENT FUNDING TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

WHEREAS, compared to nonveterans, veterans are at higher risk of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, many veterans experience post-deployment readjustment conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, 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, VA's specialized homelessness programs each year provide health care to almost 150,000 homeless veterans and other services to more than 112,000 veterans; and

WHEREAS, a December 2014 audit conducted by the VA Inspector General found that 27 percent of homeless and at-risk veterans who called the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) National Call Center for Homeless Veterans for help were unable to reach counselors; 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, Opening Doors, Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, was launched in 2010 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; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Point-in-Time count, a “snapshot” of homelessness on a given night in America, shows that homelessness among veterans is down 36 percent since 2010; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges Congress to sustain sufficient funding to continue to support VA's 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. 140
SUPPORT PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING SERVICES TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF
VETERANS SUFFERING FROM POST-DEPLOYMENT MENTAL HEALTH
CHALLENGES OR OTHER SERVICE-CONNECTED CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, veterans exposed to combat and other hardship deployments are known to be at risk for development of post-deployment mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and other serious mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, left untreated or inadequately treated, a veteran suffering the chronic effects of PTSD, depression or other mental illnesses may suffer marriage and relationship breakdown, underemployment or loss of employment, financial hardship, social alienation and even homelessness, or involvement with the justice system; and

WHEREAS, a combat-exposed veteran who is not appropriately counseled for the psychological effects of PTSD or depression stands at greater risk of emotional and mental decompensation, whose consequences often fall directly on family members and dependents of such veterans; 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, subsection 1712A(b)2, title 38, United States Code, 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, section 1782, title 38, United States Code, 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 the 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, section 1781, title 38, United States Code, 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 141 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 third-party health insurers when insured veterans receive health care from VA for nonservice-connected conditions; and

WHEREAS, the collection of payments from third parties 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, opposes any legislation that would require VA to recover third-party payments for the care and treatment of a veteran's service-connected disabilities.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 142 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 noninstitutional 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 noninstitutional 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 noninstitutional 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 home and community-based programs are not uniformly available in all VA health care facilities; 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 143

REPEAL BENEFICIARY TRAVEL DEDUCTIBLE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS AND INCREASE REIMBURSEMENT RATES

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized under section 111 (g)(1), 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 service-connected conditions 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 171
REQUIRE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING OF
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STAFF WHO WORK TO
REHABILITATE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED VETERANS

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration has established training and assessment protocols for blind and visually impaired veterans and provides them assistive technology training; and

WHEREAS, the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) does not possess a specialty or certification for technology; and

WHEREAS, staff and supervisors within Blind Rehabilitation Service acknowledge that they are unprepared and unable to remain abreast of evolutionary advances in assistive technology for the blind; and

WHEREAS, enhancements of electronic assistive devices are continuously introduced; and

WHEREAS, blind and visually impaired veterans utilize assistive technology to accomplish tasks in manual skills, living skills, orientation-mobility, computing and basic quality-of-life needs; and

WHEREAS, any individual within Blind Rehabilitation Service that either provides training or assesses visually impaired veterans must be knowledgeable on the capabilities of such devices; and

WHEREAS, presently Blind Rehabilitation Service, ACVREP and social workers follow no national standard for minimum technical knowledge; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges that the VA Blind Rehabilitation Service ensure that all personnel involved with the assessment and training of blind and visually impaired veterans receive regular training in the form of continuing education credits or achieve independent certification on technological solutions and adaptive aides.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 236
PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL CARE TO ALL
SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED 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, section 1701(9), title 38, United States Code, 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, 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outpatient dental care to all enrolled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 237
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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 238
STRENGTHEN, REFORM AND SUSTAIN THE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, this nation's highest obligation is to the men and women who were put in harm's way in its defense, and become wounded, injured and ill as a consequence of that service; and

WHEREAS, America's veterans have earned and deserve high-quality, comprehensive, and veteran-focused health care designed to meet their unique circumstances and needs; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system was established to provide for the needs of wounded, injured and ill war veterans, and is authorized by Congress to provide a full continuum of care, including extensive preventive programs, comprehensive primary, acute and rehabilitative care including pharmaceutical, mental health and readjustment counseling services; and

WHEREAS, VA facilities are affiliated with 152 medical schools for physician education and 40 other health professions represented through affiliations agreements with more than 1,800 colleges and universities, and annually train over 60,000 medical students and residents—about 70 percent

of all physicians in the United States—more than 20,000 nurses and in excess of 30,000 other health professionals; and

WHEREAS, VA's biomedical research and development programs have established new treatments and models of care tailored to the needs of disabled veterans, including a vast array of prosthetic, orthotic and other assistive devices, and elevates the standard of care for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, over the past 20 years, the VA health care system has vastly improved and expanded into an integrated environment that is uniquely qualified to treat service-related conditions of injured and ill veterans offering holistic, integrated, team-based care, a model of care that is rarely available in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, it is well documented in numerous studies of the VA health care system and the quality of care it delivers to millions of veterans, that while it faces many challenges, it continues to outperform the U.S. health care system on nearly every quality of care metric, and this unique accomplishment must not be compromised; and

WHEREAS, veterans who use the VA health care system have repeatedly indicated their overall preference for and satisfaction with the care they receive, notwithstanding existing problems that VA must overcome; and

WHEREAS, an independent assessment of the VA health care system found that the primary cause of access problems was a "misalignment" between the resources provided to VA, the growing demand for care by veterans, and complex rules to purchase the best-valued care in the community for veterans; and

WHEREAS, the capacity of VA to purchase community care is constrained by appropriated funding, and without a funding mechanism separate from funds for VA to directly provide care, such a lack of transparency could diminish and erode the VA health care system and endanger first-priority care to service-connected veterans; and

WHEREAS, the complex legislative authority, decentralized structure and inadequate funding to local VA facilities to purchase care in the community continue to erode the effectiveness of this necessary tool; and

WHEREAS, VA's antiquated and cumbersome information technology infrastructure used to manage the authorization, claims processing and reimbursement for services acquired in the community is a disincentive for private providers to care for service-connected disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA must implement a long-term strategy to rebuild, modernize, maintain and expand facilities, provide additional resources to maintain sufficient staffing levels, eliminate disparities in treatment, and improve information technology necessary for the care and treatment of injured and ill veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA must restructure all its community care programs into flexible and responsive integrated networks to deliver high value quality care; and

WHEREAS, VA must realign and expand availability of health care services to meet the diverse needs of future veterans, including women veterans and veterans who reside in rural and remote regions far from VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, VA must reform its management by increasing efficiency, transparency, and accountability to become more veteran-centric and responsive as an organization; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DAV in National Convention, assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2016, believes the nation must continue to honor the service and sacrifices of our nation's ill and injured veterans by strengthening, reforming and sustaining a modern, high-quality, accessible and accountable VA health care system; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to provide timely and convenient access to enrolled veterans, the VA health care system must evolve by creating integrated networks with high quality community providers where needed, including the Department of Defense and academic affiliates, with VA acting as the network coordinator and principal provider to ensure integrated, high quality, comprehensive, and veteran-focused health care; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress and the Administration to provide transparent, adequate and timely resources to the VA health care system to meet the continuing demand for care by ill and injured veterans in order to fulfill our promises to the men and women who served; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV will oppose any recommendation or proposal that could lead to weakening, diminishing or dismantling of the VA health care system that millions of veterans have chosen and rely upon, or that would weaken VA research or training programs

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 239
ENCOURAGE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO
PROCESS VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS IN A TIMELY MANNER

WHEREAS, many DAV members want to join the ranks of volunteers who serve disabled veterans in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities and in local communities associated with the VA; and

WHEREAS, these volunteers must undergo an arduous clearance process and background check that can require months of delay, as well as complete a lengthy application to volunteer and thus lose their services and the opportunity for voluntary activities to aid veterans; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the VA Voluntary Service program manager to ensure that volunteer applications are processed in an expeditious manner, because volunteers perform a valuable service to veterans in facilities and save taxpayers millions of dollars; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, strongly encourages each Voluntary Service program manager at every VA medical facility to expedite the process to ensure volunteers are able to serve disabled veterans in VA medical facilities and in their communities.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 240
ESTABLISH URGENT CARE BENEFIT AND IMPROVE ADMINISTRATION OF
EMERGENCY CARE BENEFIT FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) aims to provide 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 package is incomplete without appropriate access to and coverage for urgent and emergent care; and

WHEREAS, VA is not authorized to reimburse veterans for urgent care, which is typically lower cost than emergency treatment, and encourages health care in the appropriate setting; and

WHEREAS, emergency treatment statutory authorities, regulations, processes, and procedures are complex, inconsistently applied across the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and cause significant confusion for VA staff, veterans, and community care providers; and

WHEREAS, many denied claims are the result of inconsistent application of the “prudent layperson” standard from claim to claim and confusion among veterans about whether they are eligible to receive emergency treatment through community care providers; and

WHEREAS, denied VA claims from inconsistent application of reimbursement policies have resulted in billions of dollars becoming the liability of veterans, resulting in serious financial challenges for thousands of individuals; and

WHEREAS, fear of incurring enormous financial liability from denied VA payment or reimbursement for emergency care causes many veterans to avoid or otherwise delay seeking or contacting emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, Congress over the years enacted legislation to address barriers to emergency care and payment or 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to include urgent and emergency care as part of VA’s medical benefits package; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation that would simplify the eligibility for urgent and emergency care paid for by VA; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to provide a more liberal and consistent interpretation of the law governing reimbursement to veterans who have received emergency care at non-VA facilities.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 241
PROVIDE EASY AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS AND SERVICES

WHEREAS, because of service-connected disabilities, many disabled veterans face mobility challenges when attempting to access Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care benefits and services; and

WHEREAS, VA is currently authorized to transport any person for any purposes to any location in connection with vocational rehabilitation, counseling and for the purpose of VA examination, treatment, or care; however, transportation programs offered through VA do not meet all the transportation needs of service-connected disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VA Veteran Transportation Program has three components to accomplish its mission to improve the quality of life for veterans by increasing access to health care through integrated and cost-effective transportation solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Transportation Service (VTS) is intended to provide veterans with convenient and timely access to transportation services and to overcome barriers to receiving VA health care and services, and in particular to increase transportation options for veterans who need specialized forms of transportation to VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, wide variations in the eligibility for VTS transportation across the VA health care system is not consistent with overcoming barriers to receiving health care provided or purchased by VA to service-connected veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VA Beneficiary Travel program is not available to all service-connected disabled veterans with mobility challenges, and confusion among local VA facilities due to vague policies for using special-mode transportation, such as a wheelchair van, is reflected in lower-than-expected utilization; and

WHEREAS, the VA Highly Rural Transportation Grant program provides grants to assist only veterans in highly rural areas through innovative transportation services to travel to VA medical centers and to otherwise assist in providing transportation services in connection with the provision of VA medical care to these veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA lacks a consistent and comprehensive transportation policy for all service-connected disabled veterans across all established VA transportation and travel programs, benefits and services; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges the VA to operate an effective and efficient transportation program for all service-connected veterans and to simplify access to transportation benefits and services to receive timely and high-quality VA health care, benefits and services.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 242
IMPROVE ELIGIBILITY FOR TEMPORARY PROGRAM TO ACCESS CARE
FROM NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDERS

WHEREAS, issues surrounding Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facility waiting lists and access to VA medical care that were uncovered in 2014 led to the enactment of Public Law 113–146, the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA); and

WHEREAS, this law created a temporary Veterans Choice Program (VCP) to address the immediate need of increasing access to health care and established two primary access standards—temporal and geographic to determine which veterans would be eligible; and

WHEREAS, the geographic measurement of 40 miles imposed by the VACAA is calculated from the veteran's residence to the nearest VA medical facility irrespective of whether that clinic or medical center can provide the health service required; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted a 40-mile standard to mitigate high cost estimates by the Congressional Budget Office, which fails to recognize the reality facing service-connected disabled veterans who are being required to travel too far to receive timely care at VA facilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports improving the temporary Veterans Choice Program for service-connected disabled veterans to reflect that the nearest VA facility within the 40-mile limit must be one that can actually provide the health service needed.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 243
INCREASE HEALTH CARE CAPACITY AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS FACILITIES BY OPERATING EXTENDED HOURS AND WEEKENDS

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is committed to provide quality care for eligible veterans when they want and need care; and

WHEREAS, VHA has made significant progress to improve access to health care services as the needs and preferences of the veteran patient population evolved; and

WHEREAS, many service-connected disabled veterans employed in the civilian workforce may already receive from their employers reasonable accommodations for employment, yet require more flexible VA medical facility operating hours to meet their health care needs; and

WHEREAS, regular business hours for VHA services are considered to be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, but offering extended operating hours could ease the burden on service-connected disabled veterans in balancing family, employment, community obligations and other commitments; and

WHEREAS, chronic staffing challenges work against extended operating hours adversely affecting patients from receiving health care on a timely basis; and

WHEREAS, local workload data, no-show rates, cancellation rates, and feedback from service connected veterans and local DAV units should be used to determine which extended hour options would best meet the needs of each facility's enrolled patient population; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges VA to implement extended operating hours to offer early morning, evening and weekend appointments at all VHA health care facilities for services such as primary, specialty and mental health services.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 244
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 and 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 nontraditional 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;
- 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 245 **OPPOSE ANY RESTRICTION ON ELIGIBILITY OF MILITARY RETIRED** **VETERANS TO RECEIVE CARE IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR** **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS**

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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, opposes any action to restrict health care eligibility for military retired veterans in either the DoD or the VA health care systems.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 246 **URGE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO SUPPORT** **COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH ON HEALTH EFFECTS OF CHILDREN OF** **MALE VIETNAM VETERANS EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE**

WHEREAS, research studies reviewed by the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) have not shown that there are increased rates of birth defects among children of male Vietnam veterans, except for spina bifida, where it found a "limited/suggested" association between paternal exposure to the herbicides used in Vietnam or to dioxin, and a higher risk of spina bifida among their children; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of evidence that exposure to herbicide and its contaminants can induce epigenetic changes that pass from parent to offspring in animal models; and

WHEREAS, the NAM has found that the available epidemiologic studies are of insufficient quality, consistency or statistical power to permit a conclusion regarding the presence or absence of an association with birth defects (other than spina bifida) as well as childhood cancer (including acute myeloid leukemia) in offspring of exposed people; and

WHEREAS, to resolve questions regarding paternally transmitted effects to their offspring, the NAM continues to recommend that laboratory research be conducted to characterize herbicide's and its contaminants' potential for inducing epigenetic modifications, studies on paternal exposure in the absence of maternal exposure, and reviewing systematically defined clinical health conditions that are manifested later in the offspring's lives and other high quality research; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct comprehensive research, including those recommended by the NAM, to determine the level of association between herbicide exposure and birth defects and other conditions of children of male Vietnam veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 247

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 unequaled rights, privileges and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, as the beneficiaries of veterans' service and sacrifice, the citizens of our grateful nation want our Government to fully honor our moral obligation to care for veterans and generously provide them benefits and health care entirely without charge; and

WHEREAS, premiums, health care cost sharing and deductibles are a feature of health care systems in which some costs are shared by the insured and the insurer in a contractual relationship between the patient and the for-profit company, or of health care through other Government programs in which the beneficiary has not earned any right to have the costs of health care benefits fully borne by taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, in the seminal RAND Health Insurance Experiment, which gave rise to the use and increase of cost sharing, other important findings included that cost sharing reduced the use of both effective and ineffective care where the amounts of reductions for each were equal for hospitalizations and drug use, and cost sharing did not alter the quality of care patients received; and

WHEREAS, subsequent research continues to question the adverse effects of cost sharing on health outcomes particularly for patients with chronic disabilities; and

WHEREAS, asking veterans to pay for part of the benefits a grateful nation provides for them is fundamentally contrary to the spirit and principles underlying the provision of benefits to veterans; and

WHEREAS, co-payments were initially imposed upon veterans using the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system under urgent circumstances and as a temporary necessity to contribute to reduction of the federal budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, cost sharing is considered as a means of generating revenues in the Department of Defense (DoD) and VA health care systems; and

WHEREAS, Congress has forgotten or abandoned the traditional benevolent philosophy of providing free benefits to veterans as repayment for the unusual rigors, risks and personal deprivation they underwent for the good of our country; and

WHEREAS, based on practices in the private sector, the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs and Defense, in the recent past, moved to dramatically impose fees and increase premiums and co-payments, as if operating a commercial enterprise; and

WHEREAS, as a continuing cost of national defense and as our Nation's foremost moral obligation, benefits for service-connected disabled veterans must remain a first priority of our Government; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, calls for legislation to eliminate or reduce VA and DoD health care out-of-pocket costs for service-connected disabled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 248
PROVIDE BENEFICIARY TRAVEL BENEFITS FOR UNSCHEDULED ACUTE
AND URGENT CARE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, a cornerstone of patient-centered care is having excellent access to appropriate clinical care using appropriate modes of health care delivery at the time patients want and need the care; and

WHEREAS, VA beneficiary travel provides payment of travel expenses within the United States under section 111, title 38, United States Code, to help veterans and other persons obtain care and services from VA; and

WHEREAS, it is VA policy to pay travel expenses only for one-way travel to veterans who receive VA care without a scheduled appointment; and

WHEREAS, the nature of acute medical or psychiatric illness or minor injuries, for which there is a pressing need for treatment to prevent deterioration of the condition or impairing possible recovery, is generally unscheduled and episodic; and

WHEREAS, VA policy also subscribes to the principle that access to appropriate primary and urgent care must be unrestricted and ensure sufficient capacity to accommodate unscheduled "walk-in" patients; and

WHEREAS, VA beneficiary travel partial reimbursement for unscheduled visits runs counter to the stated purpose of the benefit, which is to "help ensure that beneficiary travel is covered only when necessary for the provision of care or services;" NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges Congress and the VA to change current beneficiary travel policy to pay round-trip travel expenses to veterans who receive VA care without a scheduled appointment.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 249
SUPPORT SUFFICIENT RESOURCES FOR POLYTRAUMA UNITS AT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Polytrauma System of Care is the largest integrated system of care dedicated to the medical and rehabilitation needs of veterans and service members with combat- and noncombat-related traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and polytrauma; and

WHEREAS, catastrophically injured veterans are treated at five Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers (PRC), located in Tampa, Richmond, Minneapolis, San Antonio and Palo Alto, for intensive care and long-term restoration and rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, 87 Polytrauma Support Clinic Teams located in VA medical centers across the country provide specialized outpatient care in coordination with their Polytrauma Network Site (PNS) and offer continued medical and rehabilitation care and support closer to your home community for veterans who have experienced a mild-moderate TBI or polytrauma injury; and

WHEREAS, 23 specialized rehabilitation programs offering continued medical care and rehabilitation, designated as PNS in each Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN), are located in Boston, San Juan, Syracuse, Bronx, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Augusta, Lexington, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Hines, St. Louis, Houston, Dallas, Tucson, Denver, Seattle and West Los Angeles, as well as being co-located within the PRCs in Richmond, Tampa, Minneapolis, Palo Alto and San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, veterans spend long periods at PRCs recovering from their injuries and receiving patient-centered care in these specialized polytrauma centers and PNS; 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, calls on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to request and allocate sufficient resources for polytrauma centers and PNS to ensure these centers include adequate space and other

services for veterans' rehabilitation, social and recreational needs, and dedicated space, including therapeutic residential facilities, for disabled veterans and family members who must often stay for extended periods to assist in veterans' recovery and rehabilitation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 250

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 31, 2015, VA reported that of the 1,939,959 separated OEF/OIF/OND veterans, 1,189,709 have obtained VA health care since fiscal year 2002, a total of 685,540 unique patients have received a diagnosis of a mental disorder, and 364,894 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) 2015, more than 1.6 million veterans received specialized mental health care from the VA, a number that has steadily risen from over 900,000 in FY 2006; and

WHEREAS, VA provides 49,315 outpatient mental health appointments a day, and since FY 2009 VA outpatient mental health visits have increased from 14 million a year to more than 18 million in FY 2013; and

WHEREAS, since 2012, VA has added 2,444 mental health full-time equivalent employees and hired over 900 peer specialists and apprentices, bringing the number of VHA's total mental health full-time equivalent employees to 21,158, providing direct inpatient and outpatient mental health care; and

WHEREAS, VA has improved access to mental health services at its 820 community- based outpatient clinics (CBOCs), but such services still are not readily available at all sites; and

WHEREAS, we remain concerned about the capacity in specialized PTSD programs and the availability of VA substance-use disorder programs of all kinds, including inpatient detoxification and long-term residential treatment beds; and

WHEREAS, although additional funding has been dedicated to enhancing and improving capacity in these programs, VA mental health providers continue to express concerns about sustained resources to support, and consequent rationed access to, these specialized services; and

WHEREAS, VA has established 68 new Vet Centers since 2008 to meet increasing demand for readjustment counseling services; however, we are concerned that VA staffing should also be increased in existing centers to ensure all veterans—including previous generations of war veterans—who need help at VA Vet Centers can gain ready access to readjustment services; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense (DoD) and VA share a unique obligation to meet the health care, including mental health care and rehabilitation needs, of veterans who are suffering from readjustment difficulties as a result of wartime service; and

WHEREAS, suicide is a concern in the military services and veteran population, but especially among wartime service members and veterans, with an average of 20 veterans a day committing suicide in 2014, of which two thirds were 50 or older; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that veterans are 21 percent more likely to commit suicide than their civilian counterparts, while the risk for suicide among female veterans was 2.4 times higher compared to civilian adult females; and

WHEREAS, the highest suicide rates occur among veterans who do not participate in the VA's mental health programs; and

WHEREAS, DoD and VA are responsible for screening and evaluating all service members returning from deployments and ensuring they understand what services are available for post-deployment readjustment; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 251
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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 252
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, VA provides care to over 40,000 veterans with limb loss; 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 in some cases negatively affected the timely delivery of prosthetic, orthotic and other items to many veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA should work to reduce bureaucratic policies and develop a streamlined, faster and more simplified process for procuring prosthetic items, and develop systems that eliminate communication barriers between PSAS and the Office of Acquisition and Logistics, and;

WHEREAS, throughout the process VA should ensure 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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 to take fully and fairly into account the unique needs of severely injured and wounded veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 253

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 nontraditional 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 254
ENHANCE THE CIVILIAN HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROGRAM OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS AND 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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 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. 255
IMPROVE TIMELY REIMBURSEMENTS BY DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR PURCHASED CARE AND PROTECT
VETERANS FROM DEBT COLLECTION AND ADVERSE CREDIT
REPORTING ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH CARE

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized to provide a full continuum of health care to all service-connected veterans enrolled in the VA health care system, including preventive, primary, acute, specialty and rehabilitative care as well as pharmaceutical, mental health and readjustment counseling services; and

WHEREAS, to ensure veterans are able to receive timely comprehensive care, VA has numerous and complex community care authorities through which veterans may receive care at non-Department facilities; and

WHEREAS, veterans who are treated by private providers under any of VA's authorizations should not be under any financial obligation to defray the full costs of such referred care; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the use of purchased care has increased rapidly and now accounts for over 10 percent of overall VA medical care expenditures; and

WHEREAS, VA's administrative processes and resource allocation have not kept pace with the necessity of prompt payments to a growing number of private providers who treat veterans under these community care authorities; and

WHEREAS, in innumerable cases service-connected veterans have been billed directly for the full cost of care despite VA's obligation to pay, and requirement to pay in a timely fashion; and

WHEREAS, should service-connected veterans be without the means to rectify debt assigned by private providers when VA payment is delinquent, providers are referring such delinquent debt to debt collection agencies as well as reporting such debt to credit reporting agencies, adversely affecting these veterans' creditworthiness when in fact no justification supports such collection actions or credit reporting; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges VA to improve its administrative practices to promptly pay private providers for care to veterans under any VA purchased care authorization; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges Congress to enact legislation to properly protect veterans' credit ratings and delay collections actions in cases in which veterans, including service-disabled veterans, are being adversely affected because of delayed reimbursement to private providers.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 256

IMPROVE THE CARE PROVIDED TO VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES AFFECTING THE ABILITY TO PROCREATE THROUGH ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS, during the recent conflicts in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and New Dawn, reliance on dismounted patrols and frequent exposure to improvised explosive devices (IEDs) have significantly increased genitourinary (GU) trauma; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 12 percent of war injuries involve some kind of genitourinary trauma; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense (DOD) Joint Theater Trauma Registry reports 16,323 GU injuries (the largest report of GU injuries during any military conflict), 5 percent of whom were casualties, 65 percent of this group were injured due to explosions having an average age of 26; and

WHEREAS, sexual functioning can be impaired by physical, psychological, and social factors that can diminish the quality of life of military service personnel; and

WHEREAS, DOD currently offers multiple assisted reproductive technology services for military service personnel who have lost procreative ability due to service related illness or injury to include those suffering neurological, physiological and/or anatomical loss; and

WHEREAS, assistive reproductive services are only provided to consenting personnel who have lost the ability to procreate due to service related illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, wounded and ill veterans have made great sacrifices in the protection of the Nation and deserve opportunities to rebuild their lives to a level of normalcy that includes the ability to create a family if they desire to do so; and

WHEREAS, Veterans who, due to their military service are unable to procreate and require reproductive assistance, have already paid a price greater than any monetary assessment, and have earned the right to have a family. It is incumbent on VA to make them whole to every extent possible; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation which would include in VA's health benefits package the use of assisted reproductive technologies for veterans who have lost the ability to procreate due to service related injury or illness.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 257

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 National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 258
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 National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 270--ADMINISTRATIVE
EXTEND APPRECIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS ATLANTA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR THE
SUCCESS OF THE 95TH DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the cooperation and professionalism extended by Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical personnel to the delegates and guests of the 95th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary was laudable; and

WHEREAS, many of the delegates to our National Convention were in need of immediate medical treatment and required the assistance of prosthetic equipment to attend the National Convention; and

WHEREAS, in response to these requests, the health care officials from the Atlanta VA Health Care System, staffed and maintained a high-quality outpatient clinic and prosthetic service within the Hyatt Regency Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, the medical care and prosthetic services rendered to the delegates to this 95th National Convention were extended in a highly compassionate and professional manner; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Atlanta VA Health Care System for the professional and skillful health care delivered to the delegates to this 95th National Convention and for contributing to the overall success of this Convention.

* * *

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Kirk. You have heard the motion. May I have a second? Mic 1.

DR. TINCIE LYNCH: Tincie Lynch, Convention Chair, Department of Georgia, seconds that.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Tincie. In accordance with Rule 9 now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish to be read? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Thank you, Kirk. (Applause)

I would like to call upon Chairman John Parker for the report on the Committee on General Resolutions and Membership.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHN PARKER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER: The report of the National Convention Chairman on the General Resolutions. Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on General Resolutions was called to order on July 31st by the Committee Advisors Shurhonda Love and Scott Hope.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention chairman and secretary. I, John Parker, was elected chairman. And Brandy (undistinguishable) was elected secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention. For the purposes of saving time I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolutions.

036, extend military commissary and exchange privileges and space-available air travel to 30 percent or higher service-connected disabled veterans separated from service prior to October 1949;

037, seek the immediate release of any Americans who may be held captive following World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom, and the return the remains of any Americans who died during these wars;

038, oppose any authorization of use of members of the armed forces for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent; 039, encourage all disabled veterans to become registered voters and vote; (Applause)

040, condemn public desecration of the flag of the United States; (Applause)

041, support the construction of a courthouse for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims;

092, formal application for citizen stamp advisory committee to honor DAV on its 100th anniversary;

121, extend service—excuse me—extend space-available air travel aboard military aircraft to 100 percent service-connected veterans; (Applause)

124, support establishment of nationwide veterans' treatment courts for justice-involved veterans; (Applause)

190, support for the defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency;

234, support move to renew prisoner of war/missing in action discussions;

235, support former POW slave labor claims against Japanese firms;

267, appreciation to all responsible for the success of the 95th National Convention;

268, appreciation to Hyatt Regency Atlanta for the success of the 95th National Convention;

269, appreciation to National Commander Moses A. McIntosh, Jr.. According to tradition I will read Resolution Number

269, appreciation to National Commander McIntosh, in its entirety:

"WHEREAS, Moses A. McIntosh, Jr., of (undistinguishable), Georgia, (Laughter)—that place—was honorably in the, served honorably in the United States Air Force and United States Army from 1977 until his retirement at the rank of chief warrant officer in 1997; and

"WHEREAS, Mr. McIntosh completed an inter-service transfer to the U.S. Army in 1989 and attended warrant officer training as well as Army aviation flight training, qualifying to pilot UH-1 and UH-60 assault helicopters;

"WHEREAS, Warrant Officer McIntosh logged more than 2,800 flight hours, including 25 combat missions during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; and

"WHEREAS, Mr. McIntosh earned a bachelor of general studies from Louisiana Tech University, a bachelor of science degree from the University of Maryland, and a master of science degree in human resource management from the Troy State University; and

"WHEREAS, Mr. McIntosh has been a DAV member since his military retirement and is a life member of DAV Rockdale Chapter 55 in Covington, Georgia; and

"WHEREAS, Mr. McIntosh previously served as chairman of the DAV Department of Georgia Finance Committee, as National Convention Chairman, was appointed to the National Interim Membership Committee, and National 9th District Executive Committee; and

"WHEREAS, Mr. McIntosh was elected as DAV's Fourth Junior Vice-Commander in 2011 and was unanimously elected as DAV National Commander at our 2015 National Convention in Denver, Colorado; and

"WHEREAS, Commander McIntosh has shown outstanding leadership during his year as National Commander and stands as an inspiration and role model for all those who follow; and

"WHEREAS, Commander McIntosh kept the membership well informed on all matters that affect veterans, their dependents and survivors, and has kept constant watch to ensure that current and future veterans and their families obtain the benefits and services they have earned; and

"WHEREAS, during his tenure as commander Mr. McIntosh endeavored to intensify DAV's commitment to the families of injured and ill veterans to expand and enhance a concept of belonging, to promote institutionalized and reinforce DAV values among our members and supporters;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the DAV National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31st, 2016, to August 3rd, 2016, expresses our heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude to National Commander McIntosh for his devotion and selfless service, professionalism,—excuse me—National Commander McIntosh for his devotion, selfless service, professionalism and dedication to his fellow wounded, ill and injured veterans and their families for the DAV during his year as DAV National Commander; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That DAV salutes and extends our sincere appreciation to Commander McIntosh's wife, Marjorie, daughters Misher and Paige, and his extended family for their steadfast support during his year as our National DAV National Commander."

One more resolution to read: 122, extend commissary and exchange privileges to service-connected disabled veterans and their dependents. Continue.

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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 036—LEGISLATIVE EXTEND MILITARY COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES AND SPACE-AVAILABLE AIR TRAVEL TO CERTAIN SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, disabled active-duty personnel who were discharged from military service prior to October 1, 1949—the effective date of the Career Compensation Act—are not entitled to disability retirement from the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, many service-connected disabled veterans have been deprived of the various benefits which all other disabled retired military personnel have enjoyed; and

WHEREAS, due to inflation, service-connected disabled veterans receiving Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation as a sole source of income are experiencing difficulties in keeping pace with the increased cost of living; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 037—LEGISLATIVE SEEK THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ANY AMERICANS WHO MAY STILL BE HELD CAPTIVE FOLLOWING ANY WAR 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 wars; 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 the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, the brave families of the missing continue to live in uncertainty and anguish regarding their sons, husbands and other family members; and

WHEREAS, still today more than 73,000 are unaccounted for from 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 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 prisoners of war and missing in action 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges the United States Government to ensure this issue be considered as one of America's highest priorities by accelerating efforts to obtain the release of any American who may still be held captive and obtain to the fullest possible extent, an accounting of those still missing and the repatriation of the remains of those who died while serving our Nation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the government of the SRV to increase its unilateral efforts to account for American POW/MIAs, including locating and making available remains of Americans last known alive in captivity that have not previously been returned.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 038—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 respect and the gratitude of the nation; and

WHEREAS, their willingness to sacrifice and relinquish their liberty while serving 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 violation of personal privacy to use service members for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent; and

WHEREAS, our Government has in the past used military members as "guinea pigs" to test the effects of harmful and injurious substances on the human body; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, opposes any rule or provision that would authorize use of service members for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 039—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 Administration have targeted veterans programs for unwarranted spending cuts and reductions under the mistaken and misguided theory that veterans do not base their votes on veterans' issues; and

WHEREAS, the failure of disabled veterans to register and vote will result in the perpetuation of this theory; and

WHEREAS, because of their disabilities, disabled veterans have more difficulty than their nondisabled peers in complying with some of the stricter requirements in voter registration laws; and
WHEREAS, veterans, their families and all Americans concerned about veterans' issues need to make their voices heard by becoming registered voters and exercising their votes in local, state and federal elections; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, encourages 100 percent of DAV members to register 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 access polling places to vote.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 040—LEGISLATIVE CONDEMN PUBLIC DESECRATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court, by a 5–4 decision, 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 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 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, condemns any individual or group who at any time publicly and willfully desecrates the flag of the United States.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 041—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 25 years; and

WHEREAS, the courtroom, chambers and other space are inadequate to meet the current and future needs of the Court and those it serves; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of veterans and their dependents that the Court be accorded the same appurtenances enjoyed by other appellate courts of the United States; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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. 092—LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT CREATION OF A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP TO RECOGNIZE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service (USPS) has issued commemorative postage stamps honoring individuals, events and organizations in the past; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee is the designated agency that reviews submitted subjects for commemorative stamps; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee has established 11 specific criteria and guidelines for subjects of commemorative postage stamps; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee has established a three-to-four-year lead time for any subject submission for their agency for commemorative postage stamps; and

WHEREAS, the DAV had a previous commemorative postage stamp issued in 1970 honoring its 50-year anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the DAV 100-year anniversary meets the specific criteria and guidelines for subjects of commemorative stamps; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, urges the USPS to issue a commemorative stamp recognizing DAV's 100-year anniversary.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 121—LEGISLATIVE
EXTEND SPACE-AVAILABLE AIR TRAVEL ABOARD MILITARY
AIRCRAFT TO SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS ENTITLED TO
RECEIVE COMPENSATION AT THE 100 PERCENT RATE**

WHEREAS, totally disabled service-connected veterans have sacrificed greatly in terms of their impairments and loss of earning capacity; and

WHEREAS, more than any other living group of Americans, such veterans should be eligible for all benefits and privileges that 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, seeks the enactment of legislation that would extend space-available air travel aboard military aircraft to all service-connected veterans entitled to receive compensation at the 100-percent rate to the same extent and under the same conditions as is currently provided to retired military personnel.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 122—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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports legislation to extend commissary and exchange privileges to service-connected disabled veterans and their dependents.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 124—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF VETERANS TREATMENT
COURTS FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, many military service members and veterans return from today's overseas combat engagements with signature wounds of polytrauma, traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health and repatriation challenges; and, veterans from earlier eras have absorbed their own signature disabilities, including PTSD; and

WHEREAS, some veterans resort to overuse of legal and illegal substances in their attempts to cope with their chronic physical and mental health challenges, other barriers and obstacles, and pain; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of chronic substance-use disorder or lasting residuals of combat exposure, a minority of veterans display antisocial and even criminal behaviors, and thus become involved with law enforcement and justice systems; and

WHEREAS, veterans treatment courts evolved from a proven national model of diversionary drug courts and mental health courts, to address the specific situations of veterans, and to maximize efficiency of available resources while making use of the distinct military culture to which veterans are accustomed; and

WHEREAS, many veterans are eligible for the financial benefits, social supports and health care services available through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and through other national, state and local veterans programs; and

WHEREAS, grouping troubled veterans together within specific court dockets expedites access to helpful resources and promotes the camaraderie and mutual support found among all veterans; and

WHEREAS, veterans in general deeply value their military experiences and share an inimitable bond with their peers, and the veterans courts build upon this bond by enabling veterans to proceed through the treatment court process with people who are similarly situated, and by pairing together veterans and mentors; and

WHEREAS, years of experience from the veterans treatment courts now in existence nationwide has produced a statistically significant reduction of recidivism rates in veterans compared to persons in other treatment courts and individuals not involved in any sort of alternative or diversionary court; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DAV in National Convention, assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports the continued growth of the veterans treatment courts throughout our nation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all DAV Departments and Chapters are encouraged to support additional veterans courts and work with local VA officials and law enforcement to build support for the establishment of these courts; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Departments and Chapters to work in support of state legislation where necessary to authorize veterans courts.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 190—LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

WHEREAS, members of DAV have long been deeply committed to achieving the fullest possible accounting for United States personnel still held captive, missing and unaccounted for from all of our nation's wars; and

WHEREAS, personnel and funding for the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Accounting Agency (DPAA) have not been increased at a level commensurate with the expanded requirement to obtain answers on Americans unaccounted for from all of our country's wars and conflicts; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the United States government to account as fully as possible for America's missing veterans, including—if confirmed deceased—the recovery of their remains when possible; and

WHEREAS, the DAV deeply appreciates Vietnam's 2009 proposal to expand the pace and scope of POW/MIA accounting cooperation, including use of United States Navy vessels for underwater operations; and

WHEREAS, 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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 DPAA, 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.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 234—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT RENEWED PRISONER-OF-WAR/MISSING-IN-ACTION DISCUSSIONS**

WHEREAS, DAV has long been and is now deeply committed to fully accounting for United States service personnel previously listed as prisoners, missing and unaccounted for from all of our nation's past wars; and

WHEREAS, DAV recognizes the utility and importance of bilateral humanitarian discussions separate from those held on strategic issues, in an effort to reach agreement for proceeding on a humanitarian basis with prisoner-of-war/missing-in-action accounting cooperation; and

WHEREAS, DAV also recognizes the lead time required between renewing bilateral discussions and restoring actual operations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, supports renewing direct bilateral humanitarian efforts for the purpose of restoring agreements and processes required to account as fully as possible for unreturned American military personnel.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 235—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT FORMER PRISONER-OF-WAR SLAVE LABOR
CLAIMS AGAINST JAPANESE FIRMS**

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2009, the Government of Japan, through its then-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 airmen, 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, 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 will work with all parties involved to persuade the private Japanese companies that benefited from POW slave labor during World War II, 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. 267—ADMINISTRATIVE
APPRECIATION TO ALL WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
SUCCESS OF THE 95TH NATIONAL CONVENTION**

WHEREAS, the success of the 95th DAV National Convention convened in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, depends on the total cooperation, collaboration and unselfish devotion of the state, county, and local officials; and

WHEREAS, the success of this National Convention is also attributed to the Department and local Chapters and Units of the DAV and DAVA, particularly to Convention Chairman, Ms. Tincie Lynch; 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, expresses its sincere appreciation to all groups and/or agencies whose dedication to our principles has made our Convention a successful one; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we wish to extend to the citizens of Atlanta, Georgia, our deepest gratitude for their personal interest in our great organization; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we wish to extend our appreciation to all of the distinguished guests who participated in our convention and support the ideals and principles of our great organization; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we extend our gratitude to Convention Chairman Tincie Lynch, and her entire Committee for providing personalized assistance to our friends and delegates during our Convention stay.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 268—ADMINISTRATIVE
APPRECIATION TO HYATT REGENCY ATLANTA FOR THE
SUCCESS OF THE 95TH NATIONAL CONVENTION**

WHEREAS, the excellent service and ambiance of the Hyatt Regency Atlanta contributed greatly to the success of the 95th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans convened in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the courteous team members of the hotel staff ensured the comfort and satisfaction of the DAV officers, delegates and guests; and

WHEREAS, the classic setting, friendly environment, and numerous amenities helped make the 95th National Convention a truly memorable experience; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31–August 3, 2016, expresses its deepest appreciation for the Hyatt Regency Atlanta and to its entire staff for their friendly, personalized attention which helped make the 95th National Convention a resounding success.

* * *

**RESOLUTION NO. 269—ADMINISTRATIVE
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO NATIONAL
COMMANDER MOSES A. MCINTOSH, JR**

WHEREAS, Moses A. McIntosh, Jr., of Hephzibah, Georgia, served honorably in the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army from 1977 until his retirement at the rank of Chief Warrant Officer in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McIntosh completed an inter-service transfer to the U.S. Army in 1989, and attended Warrant Officer Training as well as Army Aviation Flight Training, qualifying to pilot UH-1 and UH-60 assault helicopters;

WHEREAS, Warrant Officer McIntosh logged more than 2,800 flight hours, including 25 combat missions during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McIntosh earned a Bachelor of General Studies from Louisiana Tech University, a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland, and a Master of Science degree in human resource management from Troy State University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McIntosh has been a DAV member since his military retirement, and is a life member of DAV Newton-Rockdale Chapter #55 in Covington, Ga.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McIntosh previously served as Chairman of the DAV Department of Georgia Finance Committee, as National Convention Chairman, was appointed to the National Interim Membership Committee and National 9th District Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McIntosh was elected as DAV's National 4th Junior. Vice Commander in 2011, and was unanimously elected as DAV National Commander at our 2015 National Convention in Denver, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Commander McIntosh has shown outstanding leadership during his year as National Commander and stands as an inspiration and a role model for all those to follow; and

WHEREAS, Commander McIntosh kept the membership well informed on all matters that affect veterans, their dependents and survivors, and has kept constant watch to ensure that current and future veterans and their families obtain the benefits and services they have earned; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Commander, Mr. McIntosh endeavored to intensify DAV's commitment to the families of injured and ill veterans, to expand and enhance the concept of "belonging"—to promote, institutionalize and reinforce DAV values among our members and supporters; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31, 2016–August 3, 2016, expresses our heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude to National Commander McIntosh for his devotion, selfless service, professionalism and dedication to his fellow wounded, ill and injured veterans and their families and for the DAV during his year as DAV National Commander; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV salutes and extends our sincere appreciation to Commander McIntosh's wife Marjorie, daughters Misher and Paige, and his extended family for their steadfast support during his year as DAV National Commander.

* * *

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: You heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. MICAH GARY: Mic 2.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Mic 2.

MR. GARY: Micah Gary, State Commander from Minnesota, District 14, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you. In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish to be read? Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Thank you, John.

It is an honor and a pleasure to introduce the President of the Disabled Charitable Service Trust, Richard Marbes.

A Wisconsin native, Mr. Marbes enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1955 and served as an airborne radio operator. While assigned to the medical evacuation and troop carrier squadrons in France and Germany he was, himself, medically evacuated back to the United States following an injury that resulted in the amputation of his leg. He was medically retired due to service-connected disabilities in 1958.

Mr. Marbes is a life member and Chapter Service Officer for Chapter 3 in Green Bay, Wisconsin, where he has held numerous elected positions. In 1978, Mr. Marbes' fellow Wisconsin veterans honored his service by naming him the Wisconsin Disabled Veteran of the Year.

In 1987, after many years in the printing industry, Mr. Marbes decided to pursue his passion for helping the ill and injured veterans full-time. Since then he has served in many capacities at the Chapter, Department and National levels, including serving as the DAV National Commander from 1993 to 1994.

He remains steadfast in his commitment to veterans and serves as a role model for America's ill and injured heroes beginning the road to recovery. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming the President of the DAV Charitable Service Trust, Dick Marbes. (Applause)

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RICHARD E. MARBES: Thank you, Commander Moses, for that kind introduction. And let me also extend the DAV Charitable Service Trust's gratitude to National Adjutant Marc Burgess, our National Officers, our delegates and guests.

As president let me introduce the Trust's governing board. They are Vice-President Marc Burgess from Kentucky, Secretary-Treasurer Dave Tannenbaum of Florida, and our Directors: Danny Oliver of Oklahoma, Nancy Espinosa of Utah, and Denise Williams from Virginia. On behalf of the Trust and our Board I am proud to present our annual report to this National Convention.

There have been tough times for veterans in the past and many have struggled to find both answers and a sense of faith in the nation's ability to provide them with the care they were promised when they were faced with illness or injuries.

In my view that makes what we do all the more important. The DAV Charitable Service Trust helps fill in those gaps in local community care, programs and services where veterans and their families are in need. In times like these, I believe the Trust's efforts truly shine and are the most critical.

The Trust can't do it alone. Nor could its partners. We rely on public support. There are many ways to contribute to the Trust's mission of service, like the Combined Federal Campaign, United Way and workplace giving.

Corporate matching gift programs, bequests, and other forms of contributions from corporations, foundations and individual donors enable the Trust to fulfill its mission.

In 2015 these gifts, along with income derived from investments, totaled more than \$6.9 million, allowing the DAV Charitable Service Trust to devote nearly \$6.3 million toward the critical health services, homelessness support, employment and transition assistance, and much more.

The Trust has demonstrated how fiscal responsibility maximizes the impact of our assistance, once again, putting more than 97 cents out of every dollar we receive directly toward programs that support veterans and their families. (Applause)

Last year we attained a coveted four-star rating for "sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency" from Charity Navigator for the eleventh time since being first evaluated.

As Charity Navigator is the nation's largest independent charity evaluator, I could not be more proud of that. (Applause) Of more than 7,000 listed charities on the site, only a third achieve that benchmark. This, I believe is a testament to our dedication to veterans and our commitment to being a sound steward of donor funds.

In 2015 more than 80 organizations were granted essential funding to maintain programs that support veterans and their families. The trust allowed for veterans to access a wide range of services from basic necessities to career readiness and medical or mental health care.

Rehabilitation helps advance treatment for mental, physical, and emotional ailments. The therapeutic programs supported by the Trust provide an opportunity for ill and injured veterans to challenge their perceptions and change the course of their lives.

Because families play a pivotal role in preparing service members for deployment, the Trust placed an emphasis in 2015 on assisting organizations dedicated to helping families heal together.

The Trust supported initiatives that provide direct financial assistance to veterans and military families facing emergency situations related to housing and transportation and that aid homeless and at-risk veterans through emergency assistance.

Employment and education are also major components for veterans as they work to return to normalcy after an unexpected injury.

Trust grants help veterans develop the skills necessary to obtain jobs in health information technology and supported efforts to empower veteran entrepreneurs.

As many of you know, veterans can sometimes face unforeseen consequences as a result of their service injuries. Fortunately, the Trust has dedicated itself to initiatives that provide services to improve the quality of life for veterans.

Trust grants support wellness support, mentoring programs, and alternative therapies to improve the future of veterans and their families.

You may have noticed a lot of differences but also a lot of similarities among the grant recipients from the past year. That's because the Trust supports programs that address a wide variety of the trials faced by our fellow veterans on their road to recovery.

But there's one group that doesn't get a lot of attention or praise for the role it plays in the recovery and rehabilitation of injured and ill service members and that's man's best friend.

Since 2011, Warrior Canine Connection has helped more than 3,000 active-duty service members and veterans through its mission-based trauma recovery program. Aimed at addressing post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury, the Maryland-based non-profit follows the veterans-helping-veterans model to pair a veteran service dog trainer with a veteran in need of one.

With help from the Trust, Warrior Canine Connection was able to increase the capacity of veterans served at each of its eight sites. Let's take a look, a quick look, at how this program is helping to change the lives of some of our ill and injured service members.

(Whereupon, a Good Morning America report on Warrior Canine Connection was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MARBES:
Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Warrior Canine Connection's Executive Director, Rick Yount. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Yount along with a golden retriever joined Charitable Service Trust President and Past National Commander Marbes at the podium.)

MR. RICK YOUNT: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. YOUNT: It's quite an honor to be in your midst here today and my name is Rick Yount. I'm the founder and Executive Director of Warrior Canine Connection. I have to introduce Gabe's father. This is Huff. Huff, over there. (Applause)

I've been a social worker about 28 years and 20 years ago I fell into the field of animal-assisted therapy when a golden retriever named Gabe—actually Gabe's grandfather, Huff's father—a gift, a Christmas present, about an eight-week old puppy that I received you're not supposed to do that but two buddies of mine didn't know that—and at about four months old this puppy had mastered the skill of applying major amounts of guilt as I was heading off to work and that particular morning he convinced me that if I didn't take him to work he was going to die. (Laughter)

And at the time I was working with at-risk kids in specialized foster care and immediately I saw the impact that that pup could have on kids that were going through quite a bit of trauma.

Fast forwarding, about ten years ago I came up with this idea of having veterans and service members who were in treatment for post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury and engaging them in learning how to help us train mobility service dogs for fellow veterans.

So we're coupling the human-animal bond and the power of that with the warrior ethos, the sense of taking care of your own, and combining those two to create the Warrior Canine Connection.

And eight years ago I had a chance to pilot this at the Palo Alto VA Trauma Recovery Program in Menlo Park, California. And quite a few hands went up when we introduced this idea and asked for volunteers in the trauma recovery residential treatment program.

So three Marines, active-duty Marines stepped forward to take on the task of learning how to train three golden retrievers to become service dogs to help veterans. And as I explained to the three candidates how we were going to do that and I shared that we have to form a bond with the dog and you have to learn how to give commands and you have to be comfortable being assertive.

You can't be passive and ask the dog to do a "down" because they will ignore you. And you can't be aggressive because these are very soft golden retrievers. So when you give the "down" command I need you to sound like Arnold Schwarzenegger and say, "Down." Okay? (Laughter) Not a problem. One of the Marines, actually, was a drill instructor. (Laughter)

But the next part of it—the next task kind of threw them a curve because I said, be ready because once the dog's belly touches the ground, in that fraction of a second after you said, "Down," I need you to praise the dog. And instead of sounding like Arnold Schwarzenegger you're going to need to sound a lot more like Richard Simmons. (Laughter) So I said, I'll demonstrate. "Down." "Yes, good boy." All right. (Laughter)

So guess what happened. Guess what happened. These three Marines who had severe post-traumatic stress, I mean they were incredibly emotionally numb, isolating and very, a lot of depression, they were struggling a lot, and the drill instructor said, "Time out, Rick." He said, "Did they tell you that we have post-traumatic stress?" Like I just walked off the street and didn't know where I was. He said, "We're emotionally numb. We don't sound like Richard Simmons."

I grew up in Western Pennsylvania. It was hard for me to get that praise voice let alone say it in a crowd. My answer to him was, "Look, I'm not saying you have to be happy but in order to train this dog effectively to pull the wheelchair of a fellow veteran or get things out of the refrigerator, you don't have to be happy but you're going to have to pretend to sound happy to effectively train this dog."

I had him in a corner. He wasn't going to say, no, I'm not going to pretend to sound happy when I just gave him a real reason that's mission-based. So we started on that path. And within a week he was sounding a lot like Richard Simmons because it was working.

Now, about four weeks into it, when he was asked, "What are you getting out of this program" by the House Veterans Affairs staff that were out there in Menlo Park, his answer really inspired me for the years to come.

He said, "Ma'am, before I started training this dog my wife and I were getting ready to divorce and it was mostly because of the way I was treating my three-year old son. I couldn't turn off what I did at work and I was being rather harsh with him. But I started applying the praise and the patience that I've been learning in training this dog and I started using that on my weekend passes with my son. And I credit it with saving my marriage because it taught me how to reconnect with my son on a three-year-old's level."

Training a service dog takes an amazing amount of patience and an amazing amount of emotional regulation. You have to take the dogs out in the public to teach the dog the world is a safe place. When a dumpster door slams we throw parties. So you can imagine how this impacts someone who is struggling with their intrusive thoughts that a dumpster door slamming is something other than a party.

So over the last eight years we've had the opportunity to bring the program from Palo Alto VA to Walter Reed, the National Intrepid Center of Excellence, and Bethesda and also Fort Belvoir, Virginia. You saw Gabe.

There were at least 60 service members that participated in Gabe's training over the two years that it took him to become a service dog. So the math is good. We're affecting a lot of folks in a positive way with each dog that we breed.

We use golden retrievers and labs that are purpose bred. We name the puppies after service members who were injured or killed in action, involving Gold Star parents in helping to come out and nurture the puppies that were named after their son or daughter. So we are really squeezing every therapeutic drop out of every pup that we work with.

And I just can't express my deepest gratitude for DAV and supporting what we are doing. It's very important. It's non-pharmaceutical. And we're involved in some terrific research to get the data. Even though we have known this for 30,000 years, you know, we still need the data. And we are happy to say that we are engaged in that research now at Walter Reed. So from the bottom of my heart thank you all for supporting what we do. It's an honor. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Yount and Huff withdrew from the podium.)

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MARBES:

Thank you, Rick. Your work clearly shows the impact of providing canine connections to our injured veterans and is a great example of the DAV Charitable Service Trust's commitment to improving veterans' quality of life.

There are so many unmet needs that veterans' their families and survivors face. That's where we need your help the most. There are a few ways, specifically, you can help make a difference.

Make the suggestion that the DAV Charitable Service Trust is a deserving beneficiary for gifts through the United Way and Combined Federal Campaigns. And when you do your online shopping, head to AmazonSmile.com and select the Trust as your beneficiary. It's a small change that can make a big impact when you make your purchase.

As I close out this year's report, I want to thank each of you for the work you've done and the work you continue to do, all in the name of our brothers and sisters who served this nation.

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the Trust's administrator, Bridgette Sorrell and her very, very hardworking staff back at National Headquarters who give the Board all the support that they do in our day-to-day operation. We really rely on them and they help us to make some challenging decisions throughout the year.

Thank you, Commander, for the opportunity to make this presentation and recognize the tremendous services and support provided by the Trust's grant recipients. That concludes my report. Thank you all for your very kind attention. God bless you. God bless the United States of America. (Applause)

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust

Financial Statements as of and for the Years
Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, and
Independent Auditors' Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Charitable Service Trust:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust (the "Trust"), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, 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 Trust'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 Trust'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, 2015 and 2014, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



April 8, 2016

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

	2015	2014
ASSETS		
CASH	\$ 1,984,991	\$ 2,163,059
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	58,268	47,178
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	43,535	450
CAMPAIGNS' PLEDGES RECEIVABLE—Net of allowance for uncollectible pledges of \$374,136 in 2015 and \$340,444 in 2014	275,616	271,986
PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHER	8,123	29,946
INVESTMENTS—Includes charitable gift annuity reserve balances of \$6,434,162 and \$6,847,286 in 2015 and 2014, respectively	21,919,842	21,982,564
SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT IN PROCESS	-	45,362
TOTAL	<u>\$ 24,290,375</u>	<u>\$ 24,540,545</u>
LIABILITIES AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable—DAV	\$ 252,191	\$ 163,916
Accounts payable—other	16,546	30,201
Annuity payment liability	<u>3,951,243</u>	<u>4,291,928</u>
Total liabilities	4,219,980	4,486,045
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>20,070,395</u>	<u>20,054,500</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 24,290,375</u>	<u>\$ 24,540,545</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

	Unrestricted	
	2015	2014
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:		
Contributions—net of assessment fees and provision for uncollectible pledges of \$401,102 in 2015 and \$403,048 in 2014	\$ 5,307,609	\$ 4,814,412
Contributions of charitable gift annuities—net	406,299	(68,527)
Bequests	934,084	108,440
Interest and dividend income—net	384,146	315,879
(Loss) Gain on sale of investment securities	(93,291)	2,171,311
Total support and revenue	6,938,847	7,341,515
EXPENSES:		
Program services	6,328,295	6,483,560
Management and general	145,375	94,847
Fundraising	89,532	77,909
Total expenses	6,563,202	6,656,316
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	375,645	685,199
CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	(359,750)	(1,667,721)
CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	15,895	(982,522)
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS—Beginning of year	20,054,500	21,037,022
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS—End of year	\$ 20,070,395	\$ 20,054,500

See notes to financial statements.

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

	2015	2014
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in unrestricted net assets	\$ 15,895	\$ (982,522)
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted net assets to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Noncash investment contributions	(215,677)	(86,270)
Change in net unrealized depreciation of investments	359,750	1,667,721
Loss (Gain) on sale of investment securities	93,291	(2,171,311)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest and dividends receivable	(11,090)	5,510
Accounts receivable	(43,085)	(428)
Campaigns' pledges receivable	(3,630)	84,695
Prepaid expenses and other	21,823	(2,622)
Accounts payable—DAV and other	74,620	16,273
Annuity payment liability	(406,299)	68,527
Net cash (used in) operating activities	(114,402)	(1,400,427)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of investments	(16,049,878)	(45,864,883)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	15,875,236	47,892,458
Proceeds received from the transfer of software development in process	45,362	-
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities	(129,280)	2,027,575
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from gift annuity agreement contributions	832,972	567,802
Payments to annuitants	(767,358)	(838,539)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	65,614	(270,737)
NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(178,068)	356,411
CASH—Beginning of year	2,163,059	1,806,648
CASH—End of year	\$ 1,984,991	\$ 2,163,059

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, 2015 AND 2014

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 in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

New Accounting Standards—In January 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued ASU 2016-01, *Financial Instruments - Overall (Subtopic 825-10) – Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities*. ASU 2016-01 revises the accounting related to the classification and measurement of investments in equity securities and the presentation of certain fair value changes for financial liabilities measured at fair value. The ASU also amends certain disclosure requirements associated with the fair value of financial instruments. The effective date of ASU 2016-01 is for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018. The ASU has not yet been adopted. Management is currently evaluating the impact to the financial statements.

In May 2014, FASB issued ASU 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. ASU 2014-09 requires an entity to recognize revenue in a way that depicts the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods and services. ASU 2014-09 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018 and is to be applied retrospectively; early adoption is permitted. The ASU has not yet been adopted. Management is currently evaluating the impact that this ASU will have on the financial statements.

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 \$7,122 and \$2,961 in 2015 and 2014, 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.

Revenue Recognition—The Trust is 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 \$275,616 are expected to be received in 2016. Amounts received from accounts previously written off are recognized as contribution revenue when received.

As a member of MFVSOA during 2015 and 2014, 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 \$146,370 and \$206,796 in 2015 and 2014, respectively, for excess income recognized by MFVSOA in 2014 and 2013.

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 \$215,677 in 2015 and \$86,270 in 2014.

Income Taxes—As a not-for-profit service organization, the Trust has received a determination from the Internal Revenue Service that it is exempt from federal income tax as a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions made to the Trust are tax deductible by the contributor as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Use of Estimates—The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with 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 fair value of investments and the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2015 and 2014, are summarized below:

2015	Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 407,719	\$ 407,719	\$
U.S. government securities	700,343	697,717	(2,626)
Certificates of deposit	1,764,193	1,759,083	(5,110)
U.S. government agency notes	4,920,395	4,913,380	(7,015)
Municipal bonds	402,568	403,072	504
Corporate bonds	2,761,219	2,614,333	(146,886)
Common stocks	3,178,547	3,374,757	196,210
Mutual funds/ETFs	<u>6,954,397</u>	<u>7,749,781</u>	<u>795,384</u>
Total	<u>\$21,089,381</u>	<u>\$21,919,842</u>	<u>\$ 830,461</u>
2014			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 265,929	\$ 265,929	\$ -
U.S. government securities	1,189,574	1,189,522	(52)
U.S. government agency notes	6,688,129	6,670,798	(17,331)
Corporate bonds	2,895,309	2,778,917	(116,392)
Common stocks	2,637,129	2,986,482	349,353
Mutual funds/ETFs	<u>7,116,283</u>	<u>8,090,916</u>	<u>974,633</u>
Total	<u>\$20,792,353</u>	<u>\$21,982,564</u>	<u>\$1,190,211</u>

Interest and dividend income—net is \$384,146 and \$315,879 for 2015 and 2014, respectively. The year 2015 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$450,236 less \$66,090 for investment management and custody fees. The year 2014 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$380,032 less \$64,153 for investment management and custody fees.

As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, the amount of securities in a continuous unrealized loss position for a duration of greater than twelve months is not material.

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 2015 or 2014.

The Trust's policy is to recognize transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no transfers during 2015 and 2014.

Asset Valuation Techniques—Valuation techniques used 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, 2015 and 2014.

Cash and cash equivalents, composed of money market funds, are categorized as Level 1, and are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The money market funds represent the Trust's shares in a registered investment company's fund.

U.S. Government Securities (U.S. Treasury Notes) and Common stocks, categorized as Level 1, are valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the individual security is traded.

Certificates of deposit, categorized as Level 2, are valued at fair value, which approximates amortized cost.

U.S. Government agency notes, Municipal and Corporate bonds, categorized as Level 2, 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), categorized as Level 1, are valued at quoted market prices that represent the net asset value of shares held at year-end.

The major categories of the Trust's financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, are as follows:

2015 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	\$ 407,719	\$	\$ 407,719
U.S. government securities	697,717		697,717
Certificates of deposit		1,759,083	1,759,083
U.S. government agency notes		4,913,380	4,913,380
Municipal Bonds		403,072	403,072
Corporate bonds		2,614,333	2,614,333
Common stocks	3,374,757		3,374,757
Mutual funds/ETFs:			
Domestic equity funds/ETFs	5,047,964		5,047,964
International equity funds	2,701,817		2,701,817
Total mutual funds/ETFs:	7,749,781	-	7,749,781
Total assets	<u>\$ 12,229,974</u>	<u>\$ 9,689,868</u>	<u>\$ 21,919,842</u>

2014 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	\$ 265,929	\$ -	\$ 265,929
U.S. government securities	1,189,522		1,189,522
U.S. government agency notes		6,670,798	6,670,798
Corporate bonds		2,778,917	2,778,917
Common stocks	2,986,482		2,986,482
Mutual funds/ETFs:			
Domestic equity funds	5,218,220		5,218,220
International equity funds	2,872,696		2,872,696
Total mutual funds/ETFs:	8,090,916	-	8,090,916
Total assets	\$ 12,532,849	\$ 9,449,715	\$ 21,982,564

Fair value of the annuity payment liability of \$3,951,243 and \$4,291,928 as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, was calculated as the net present value of expected annuity payments based on the following significant assumptions:

- (1) the discount rate expected to reflect yields available on high quality investments;
- (2) the mortality assumption based on expected annuitant longevity.

5. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During 2015 and 2014, 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 \$158,648 and \$137,107 in 2015 and 2014, respectively. As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, the Trust owed DAV \$252,191 and \$163,916, respectively. DAV provides the Trust with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge.

In 2015 and 2014, the Trust distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services:

	2015	2014
National Transportation Network	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Mobile Service Office Program	10,000	250,000
National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic	322,193	83,233
Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program	45,000	45,000
National Service Officer Programs—Other	10,000	
DAV 5K Program	14,750	
DAV “Just B Kids” Scholarship	100,000	100,000
DAV Employment Initiative	1,173,000	1,400,000
DAV Women Veterans Transition Report		59,426
Assistance to disabled veterans and their families	125,970	12,900

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 and the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation's Board of Directors.

In 2015 and 2014, the Trust granted \$801,000 and \$800,000, respectively, to the DAV National Service Foundation—Columbia Trust Fund for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program.

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 \$406,299 and \$(68,527) for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, are the net result of the portion of gift annuity contributions recognized as revenue of \$475,482 and \$303,167, respectively, annuity payments to donors and beneficiaries of \$(767,358) and \$(838,539), respectively, and other changes to the annuity liability of \$698,175 and \$466,845, respectively. 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, 2015 and 2014.

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 \$5,258,161 and \$5,630,432 as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

In addition to this reserve account, the Trust is required by California statutes to maintain segregated reserves for future obligations to charitable gift annuity donors residing in California. The fair market value for the California reserve account is \$1,176,001 and \$1,216,854 as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The minimum required balance of the segregated accounts for California donors is calculated and invested in accordance with applicable California statutes and regulations.

The Trust also maintains the minimum amount of unrestricted net assets as required by any state for the acceptance of charitable gift annuities, which is \$1,000,000. The total unrestricted net assets that are subject to state statutes or regulations (calculated as the reserve funds (investments), less the annuity payment liability) amounted to \$2,482,919 and \$2,555,358 as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

7. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No events have occurred after December 31, 2015, but before April 8, 2016, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

* * * * *

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Dick. May I have a motion to accept that impressive report?

MR. MICHAEL SCHUENKE: Mic 1.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Mic 1.

MR. SCHUENKE: Michael Schuenke, Commander, Chapter 3, from the great city and state of Green Bay, Wisconsin, I second that motion.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: May I have a second?

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mic 1.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Mic 1.

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mic 1. Mike Steinbaugh, California, Chapter 7, seconds.

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

I believe I speak for veterans, all veterans when I say we are eternally grateful for DAV's unique role in the implementation of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial which has become a prominent monument in Washington, D.C.

We are joined today by a well-known DAV leader who has been on the ground floor for our efforts to establish the memorial and has been a continuous presence and advocate for its use.

DAV Past National Commander Dennis Joyner is the President of the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation and is to be credited with ensuring this Memorial effectively represents America's heroes.

Mr. Joyner served in the United States Army, 9th Infantry Division, in Vietnam. While on patrol in June 1969 in Vietnam's Mekong Delta, he became a triple amputee due to a landmine explosion. He received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Mr. Joyner's DAV leadership includes all elected offices in DAV Chapter 36 in Vandergrift, Pennsylvania; service as a Service Officer in the DAV Department of Pennsylvania; and two years as DAV Department of California Adjutant.

During Mr. Joyner's term as National Commander in 1983 and 1984, President Regan named him the nation's Handicapped American of the Year.

Please welcome DAV Past National Commander and DVLMF Board President Dennis Joyner. (Applause)

DVLMF PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DENNIS JOYNER: Thank you.

Thank you, Commander. Thank you, Commander McIntosh, for your kind introduction. Adjutant Burgess, National Officers, delegates and guests, it has been nearly two years since our dream of a disabled American veteran memorial became a reality. And I want to thank you and all of my brothers and sisters at the DAV and the DAV Auxiliary for the hard work that made it happen.

As Marc mentioned during the Joint Opening Session, at registration each of you received "The Lending of Courage," a new book published by the Memorial Foundation. The book is literally "hot off the presses" and you are the first to receive the advance copy. It will be officially released next month to commemorate the second anniversary of the Memorial's dedication.

As I read through the book last night, I was reminded of the integral role DAV, and each of you, served in creating this permanent tribute to America's disabled veterans.

The Foundation Board was led by DAV leaders. DAV was the leading donor, including hundreds of chapters and thousands of members. And several quotations permanently etched in the Memorial's glass panels were spoken by our own members, including Past National Commanders Billy Kirby and Bobby Barrera; National Service Officer Felicia Weston; and the late Jesse Brown, the DAV Executive Director and Secretary for Veterans Affairs.

Since its inception, the Memorial has been the site for many veterans and families to reflect on and to honor our nation's heroes.

But let me begin by introducing the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation Board of Directors: Vice-President Marc Burgess from Kentucky; Secretary-treasurer Gene Murphy from South Dakota; and our Directors: National Commander Moses McIntosh of Georgia; Jim Sursely of Florida; Dave Gorman of South Carolina; Bobby Barrera from Texas; and our Ex Officio member Art Wilson.

As the Commander noted, the opening of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, D.C., in 2014 was a significant end to a very long but exceptionally worthwhile journey, spanning nearly two decades from inception to dedication of this unique, inspiring and powerful monument.

In the last year, the Memorial has been a site to a public service campaign intended to raise the public's awareness of DAV and the services that we are able to offer ill and injured veterans and their families.

Through a DAV partnership with the History Channel, messages featuring Mike Wolfe from the show American Pickers were promoted, produced to promote DAV's services to veterans and their families. These messages were shared through television, online vignettes, and social media.

Board of Director Jim Sursely and DAV life member Brian Meyer visited the Memorial with Mike Wolfe, host of History Channel's American Pickers, where they shared their combat stories and were presented with mementos from their respective times serving in the military.

The PSAs were aired on broadcast television, online, and on social media, reaching more than 2.6 million people.

Here's a look at one of the pieces that came out of these efforts.

(Whereupon, a video of a meeting at the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial between Mr. Sursely, Mr. Meyer and Mike Wolfe from American Pickers was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

DVLMF PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOYNER: In addition to our public awareness campaign, the Memorial was host to the closing ceremonies of Spartan Weekend, a weekend collaboration between DAV and an alliance of other groups to raise awareness and reach out to veterans at-risk for suicide.

The ceremony included dozens of veterans taking a mass Spartan Pledge. The pledge is a promise a veteran makes to reach out to their "battle buddy" before doing harm to themselves.

A newly-created Spartan Sword, made from 25 pounds of steel melted down from the fallen World Trade Centers, was used to administer the pledge by our Past National Commander, fellow Vietnam veteran, and my good friend, Bobby Barrera. The event, which was held on Mother's Day, also honored Gold Star Mothers.

I personally had the opportunity attend the Memorial ceremony and share my personal story. The site of dozens of veterans touching the sword—reaching out to each other and vowing to stop the veteran suicide epidemic at our Memorial—is a picture that I'll hold in my heart for a long, long time.

Through organized events, broadcasts, and by word of mouth from many of you who share in my fondness of the Memorial, countless veterans and loved ones have witnessed the impact of its message first-hand.

For those who have not had the pleasure of visiting the Memorial in site and in person, "You Visit" has continued offering a virtual tour of the Memorial which can be accessed at any time by any person interested in touring its remarkable features.

The site has had thousands of visits, and it's particularly meaningful because it makes the Memorial accessible to veterans with mobility barriers.

As the Foundation enters a new stage of existence, new challenges and needs emerge. Just as it took the extraordinary generosity of many persons and organizations to build our Memorial, it will now take the help of others to assist as we transform our mission into one of education and outreach.

We have been blessed by the great generosity of the law firm of Chisholm, Chisholm, and Kilpatrick of Providence, Rhode Island. Long associated with DAV's spectacularly successful pro bono program at the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, the firm has also become a friend to the Memorial.

It has committed to funding the core expenses of the Memorial and has already made two \$50,000 contributions, the second one just yesterday. This is in addition to an earlier contributions to other DAV related organizations.

Add to that the firm's pro bono representation of more than 1,000 veterans each year at the United States Court of Veterans Appeals for Veterans Claims and it is easy to see why we consider them as trusted colleagues. I'd like to invite Robert Chisholm, Scott Kirkpatrick and Zachary Stolz from the firm to the stage. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Messrs Chisholm, Kirkpatrick and Stolz advanced to the stage.)

DVLMF PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOYNER: It is my pleasure to present to you this commemorative piece of the wall and thank you so kindly for everything that you have done, not only for the Memorial but for the DAV and the court in general. Thank you so kindly. Thank you. It's pretty heavy.

(Whereupon, the attorneys were presented with the replica of a panel of the wall, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. ROBERT CHISHOLM: Thank you very much. We are truly humbled by this recognition. My uncle Donald was a disabled Army veteran. Starting 25 years ago, it took three appeals to the new

Veterans Court and Donald finally received the VA benefits he was due. Donald died a few years after that and we still feel his loss today.

It was not much later that we were approached with an opportunity to represent many more disabled veterans before the court through a partnership with the DAV. Since then, CCK, with DAV, has provided pro bono representation to more than 7,000 veterans and their family members before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. (Applause) Thank you.

When the Memorial recognizing Americans Disabled Veterans was completed, with DAV's leadership, a group of us from the firm traveled to the site. What a profoundly appropriate monument to you, the men and women who have sacrificed serving our country.

We are proud to support DAV and the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial. Thank you for this. And thank you for your trust. (Applause)

DVLMF PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOYNER: Again, thank all of you. It is, again, my pleasure to present the firm with this replica of one of the glass panels from the Memorial. I will tell you that the inscription on the panel reads as follows: "With deep and enduring thanks to Chisholm, Chisholm, and Kilpatrick." Again, we thank you for your friendship and your support.

I want to express my personal thanks, as well as the appreciation of every member of the Board of Directors, past and present, to DAV—National, State Departments, Chapters, Auxiliaries, and all of our outstanding members for their support. You, the members, are the reason and the means by which this Memorial became a reality. I believe you deserve a large round of applause. Thank you. (Applause)

We will continue to maintain and honor this sacred memorial, which is a part of every member and family member in our community of veterans. Your fellow veterans with the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation want to thank you for your support and we hope you enjoy the commemorative books that we provided.

It is our great pleasure to represent this important landmark and recognize your services and sacrifices.

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

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Denny. May I have a motion to accept that report?

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mic 1.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Mic 1.

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mike Steinbaugh, Chapter 7, State of California, so moves.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Mike. May I have a second?

MR. RICHARD FOURNIER: Mic 2.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Mic 2.

MR. FOURNIER: Richard Fournier, Department of Maine, State Adjutant, District 3, seconds the motion.

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

DVLMF PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOYNER: Thank you, Commander.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Great report. Let's give him a round of applause. (Applause)

DVLMF PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOYNER: Thank you.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: At this time will you please welcome Teresa Johniken of Texas, newly-elected President of the Commanders and Adjutants Association for 2016–2017. (Applause)

MS. TERESA JOHNIKEN: Let me put my cheaters on.

(Whereupon, Ms. Johniken put on a pair of glasses.)

MS. JOHNIKEN: National Commander McIntosh, National Adjutant Burgess, National Officers, delegates and guests, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. JOHNIKEN: I am proud to have been elected as President of the State Commanders and Adjutants Association for 2016–17. We pledge to continue our support of the National Organization through our sponsorship of the State Commanders and Adjutants Orientation, the Mid-Winter Conference, the mid—or, excuse me, the Winter Sports Clinic. And we look forward to another productive year.

I would like to read into the record our officers and committees for the year. Teresa Johniken, President, from Texas. Danny Oliver, Vice-President, Oklahoma.

Executive Committee members Kirk Johnson, California; John Donovan, Arkansas; Cynthia Madison, Virginia; William Robinson, South Carolina; Brian Wilner, South Carolina; Brigitte Marker, Oregon.

Secretary-Treasurer, Dave Tannenbaum from Florida. Judge Advocate, Floyd Watson, Wyoming. Chaplain, Charles Edwards from the great State of Texas. (Cheers) I always have to throw that in. Sergeant-at-Arms, Penny Larson, Utah; Kenneth Markum, Ohio. Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Rita Albereg, Virginia. Assistant Chaplain, Katherine Baran, Nevada. Assistant Judge Advocate, Samuel Mantilla from New York.

Audit Committee: Robert Bertschy, Ohio; Craig Vance, Oklahoma; Frank Brown, Virginia; and Burl Jimmerson, Georgia. Constitution and Bylaws: John Patterson, Maryland; John King, Virginia; Nancy Espinosa, Utah; Michael Elmore, Missouri.

Resolutions: Wanda Janus, Oregon; Robert Arens, Illinois; Charles Waugh, Alabama; Glynn Parker, Maryland. Special Projects: Jeremy Roberts, North Carolina; Shawn Jernigan, Maine; Ed Gonzales, Michigan; Ed Kalk from Louisiana.

Would National Commander McIntosh and National Adjutant Burgess to please join me to receive a presentation?

(Whereupon, Commander McIntosh and Adjutant Burgess joined Ms. Johniken at the podium.)

MS. JOHNIKEN: And on behalf of the State Commanders we are going to give you, again, \$1,500.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Very nice.

MS. JOHNIKEN: And \$100 for, in memory of Warren.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I'll take the \$1,500. You take the \$100. (Laughter)

MS. JOHNIKEN: In honor of Warren Tobin.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you, Teresa.

(Whereupon, Ms. Johniken presented Commander McIntosh and Adjutant Burgess with the two checks, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MS. JOHNIKEN: Thank you.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Come on, let's give her a round of applause. (Applause) Thank you, Teresa. And thank the C and A for that generous donation.

At this time, please join with me in welcoming Imperial Golden Rodent Herb Lewis, Imperial Red-Eyed Gnawer Al Sorrentino and the Imperial Council of the National Order of the Trench Rats. (Boos) At least you all could show them some love. (Boos)

(Whereupon, the National Order of Trench Rats entered the room and Imperial Red-Eyed Gnawer Albert Sorrentino and Incoming Golden Rodent Bruce Novak advanced to the podium amid booing.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER ALBERT SORRENTINO: It's always nice to feel you're wanted. (Laughter) Anyway, before I get started I want to recognize our National Adjutant and National Commander, National staff and all disabled veterans out there who are here today to conduct your business and to make sure that we have a better place to life in our country.

Thanks to you, that effort. Thanks to the National NSOs who constantly keep working on our behalf and National's behalf to make a better life for our families. Thank you so much. (Applause)

On the left of me, against that wall there, is our, all our officers in the Trench Rats that, for a small length of time, they couldn't come up here this time to say hi. For all them and all the Trench Rats here, thank you so much for having me here.

We, as an organization, on a national level that we hold our titles, we are the honor society of Disabled American Veterans. Are there any Trench Rats out there? (Boos) Would you please stand.

(Whereupon, the Trench Rats stood and were recognized with a round of boos.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: All the new Trench Rats that just got into the NOTR, will you please stand.

(Whereupon, newly-inducted Trench Rats stood and were recognized with a round of boos.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: Thank you so much. Thank you so much. As you know, every year the Trench Rats come up with some money for National. And I think we forgot it this time. I think it was a dollar—no. (Laughter) But, anyway, the money that we give to the Service Foundation is the continued support and how we feel to help our veterans out there and their families.

The National Order of Trench Rats keep on working and strive in all our hospitals to do an outstanding job to make sure there is no veteran and their families and their spouse that go by without us helping them.

On behalf of the National Order of Trench Rats, my body guard, I would like to present to our National Commander and National Adjutant \$4,000. (Applause)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you. Thank you.

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: Do you imagine if every person out there that was at this auditorium right now of glory, can you imagine if you became a Trench Rat what we would have every year. Please consider this.

It's the grassroots of our organization. It's the grassroots for us helping veterans. It's the grassroots for us accepting women into our organization—that deserves to be there. God bless you all. God bless America. And now we will be hearing from our Incoming Golden Rodent, Bruce Novak. (Boos)

INCOMING GOLDEN RODENT BRUCE NOVAK: Hey, Larry. Hello my brothers and, oh, sisters. They didn't have any sisters when I was in country. Thank you for coming here. Thank you for joining us in what we do to the veterans, the DAV service, service, service to the veterans—by Al Linden, Jr..

And we go to the hospitals. Some of you may have been there and saw a rat come in. Our job is to go to the hospitals and take care of you. I have to cheat. In Florida we have eight VA hospitals. We spend about a thousand dollars a month at all those hospitals taking care of the vets. That's what we do. That's the rat's job—to take care of the veterans in the hospital.

And on the one side instead of giving out things for the Convention here, pens or whatnot, I decided to give the money that I would spend on that to Imperial Golden Rodent, a/k/a Sector Florida Golden Rodent, Past Golden Rodent and REG, \$400 for the Hospital Fund. (Applause) We are for you in the hospital. Thank you.

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: And I know I made a mistake, a big mistake. I forgot to introduce my wife, Bernadette Sorrentino, that's on the left there. She would tell me how come I didn't notice her. But God bless you, Bernie, for everything you do for the Trench Rats and the DAV.

Commander it's a pleasure. Thank you so much.

(Whereupon, an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you, Al. Good job.

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: It's like being in Hollywood.

INCOMING GOLDEN RODENT NOVAK: Thank you my brothers and sisters. (Boos)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Well, let's thank the Order of Trench Rats for that generous donation. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the National Order of Trench Rats withdrew from the ballroom.)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Now, it's an honor and a pleasure to introduce the President of DAV's National Service Foundation, Arthur H. Wilson.

A Massachusetts native, Mr. Wilson enlisted in the United States Air Force in September 1962. There he served as a runway construction specialist in Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand, and Taiwan from 1964 to 1966.

Immediately after his discharge, Mr. Wilson's DAV career began as a National Service Officer trainee here in Atlanta, Georgia, followed by assignments in Buffalo, New York, and Philadelphia, and later in supervisory positions at DAV National Service Offices in Syracuse, New York, New Orleans, and Boston.

In 1973 he served as President of the National Guild of Attorneys-in-Fact before becoming the supervisor of DAV's National Appeals Office at the VA Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, D.C., in 1974.

Seven years later, in 1981, Mr. Wilson began his DAV National Service Director's career and then served as Executive Director of DAV National Service and Legislation Headquarters in Washington.

He was appointed as DAV National Adjutant and CEO in 1994, a position he held until his retirement in June 2013. Following his retirement, he was elected President of the DAV's National Service Foundation. In this capacity, Mr. Wilson guides the Foundation's efforts to ensure veterans and their families receive DAV services as long as they are needed.

He is also closely involved in the oversight of The Columbia Trust, a restricted trust fund within the Foundation that gives grants to support a variety of service programs.

A highly-respected leader in the veterans' community, Mr. Wilson's expertise has been sought out at many levels by numerous organizations.

In addition to serving as Foundation president, he is co-founder and later led the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation. He is also a member of the U.S.S. Intrepid Museum Foundation Advisory Council in New York.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome our National Service director (sic) President, Arthur H. Wilson. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT ARTHUR H. WILSON: Thank you. Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: I don't know how I follow the Trench Rats. (Laughter) National Commander McIntosh, Adjutant Burgess, National Officers, friends and guests.

I'd like to begin this morning by introducing the DAV National Service Foundation's Board of Directors: Vice-President Marc Burgess; Secretary-Treasurer Alan Bowers; and our Directors: National Commander Moses McIntosh; Joseph Johnston; Daniel Contreras; Cleveland Bryant; and Ex Officio member, DAV Board Chair Ron Hope.

You know, I am always proud to present the report on the wonderful services that the National Service Foundation is able to help support because we know and the end result is a better life for veterans and their families.

Each and every day we work directly with our nation's heroes, providing them assistance in what can be described as a difficult and challenging transition to civilian life.

Many need access to proper health care for service-connected conditions, secure and stable employment, and educational opportunities. And while many benefits and programs exist for veterans, it can be a challenge to navigate the system.

The National Service Foundation exists to ensure that veterans have access to free, professional assistance in obtaining the services and benefits that they have earned.

This is especially critical for the men and women who have come home ill or injured as a result of their military service. It's our goal to ensure that no veteran has to walk that path alone. Rather, by providing support for DAV's core mission of service through the National Service Foundation we are able to walk alongside of them each step of the way.

We have held steady in that objective over the last year and I'm thankful to everyone who, once again, helped raise nearly \$2 million in donations and bequests for the Foundation in 2015. (Applause)

And for added impact the DAV National Organization matches each dollar that you, your Chapter or your Department donates to the Foundation's Columbia Trust Fund, effectively doubling the value of your gifts.

Your tremendous generosity allowed the Foundation to remain strong in 2015 with net assets of nearly \$116 million at year-end. The Foundation's prudent investment strategies and management, which have ensured the continuity during the period of economic uncertainty, will help ensure the longevity of services to our nation's heroes.

Veterans can best be honored through the wise stewardship of each dollar entrusted in the Foundation. The Foundation's wavering commitment to this model is clearly demonstrated through the \$2.5 million that was expended toward direct program services for veterans and their families last year. This represents a remarkable—a remarkable—91 percent of total expenditures.

As you know, the National Service Foundation helps to address some of the most immediate and pressing needs of veterans and their families, but also aims to protect the future of DAV's services.

Your gifts to the Foundation go toward ensuring a long-term financial stability of DAV's service program so we can continue to offer free services to veterans well into the future while also supporting the day-to-day work of DAV, to include providing transportation for veterans to and from VA medical appointments, assisting with disability claims, and other services proudly provided by our great organization.

Veterans also have free advocacy and representation at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims because of your very generous support.

Through 2015 the Foundation expended \$114,000 to help the National Organization provide necessary services to veterans and to their families. Largely, this support aided our National Service program which provides veterans with no-cost professional claims service throughout the nation.

One project that we are most proud of is the Interactive Training, Research, Advocacy, and Knowledge system, best known today as iTRAK, which was funded by the Foundation in 2014 and went live in 2015.

There are six main areas incorporated into the iTRAK system that National Service Officers are now using, not only for continuing and structured training but for the research to assist veterans in their claims and appeals.

The on-the-job training requirements for NSO trainees on iTRAK are currently being developed and should be available by the end of the year.

Another way the Foundation is able to provide direct support to help veterans and their families is through The Columbia Trust, a restricted fund that provides direct services to help veterans and their families at the state and local level.

In 2015 the Trust provided more than \$1.3 million to DAV Chapters and Departments to support projects and programs in four areas of service—our Transportation Network, Hospital Service Coordinators, Department Service Officers, and Homeless Veterans programs—as well as other various state and local service initiatives.

Looking through the Foundation's 2015 Annual Report you will see that we have had another terrific year. I consider us incredibly fortunate to have such committed members, organizations, and others who are dedicated to our cause who continue to express their devotion through contributions to the Foundation in 2015.

We've also noted some very special individuals who have been extraordinarily generous in their support of our Foundation. In recognition of that generosity we've created a special place for them called the National Honor Roll of Exceptional Lifetime Donors.

Since 2014 we've recognized the law firm of Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner for its distinguished commitment to the Foundation and our nation's veterans. The firm, whose total lifetime contributions are now near the \$1.7 million mark, is the largest corporate contributor in the Foundation's history. (Applause)

The Ernestine Schumann-Heink Chapter 2 from the Department of Missouri has also earned a special place on this prestigious page. Their unwavering loyalty is reflected through their annual contributions since 1979. The Chapter has contributed a combined lifetime total of over \$550,000. (Applause)

Distinguished support of our veterans deserves special recognition. This year 20 benefactors have earned a place or a higher position on our Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donors, located at our offices in Washington, D.C.

Now, I'd like to take just a moment to recognize the outstanding contributions of the DAV Chapters and Departments who gave contributions of \$1,000 or more during 2015: Jamestown Chapter 31, the Department of North Dakota; the Colonel Samuel D. Foster Chapter 76, Department of Pennsylvania; Greene County Chapter 42, the Department of Tennessee; and the Grand Prairie Chapter 42, the Department of Texas.

In addition to the model efforts of these Chapters and Departments, I would like to express our gratitude to the individuals, couples, and family foundations and companies and other organizations who earned special recognition last year.

More than 100 benefactors took a place on the Honor Roll of Benefactors or attained a National Service Foundation Commendation this year. Also, there were 44 Departments and Chapters who have earned Distinguished Donor Certificates for their generous giving in the past year.

To all of our donors, you inspire us with your dedication and your loyalty to our mission. Congratulations to you all. And, again, I offer to you my heartfelt thanks. Thank you so much. (Applause)

Now I would like to take a moment to proudly recognize National Service Director Jim Marszalek and his elite corps of National Service Officers whose daily work is the backbone of DAV's mission. You should all be extremely proud of the impact that you have had on the lives of this country's veterans. One way we see that impact is reflected through gifts made in the honor of the National Service Officers for the work that they do for veterans.

The Pacesetter Performance Award recognizes the NSO in each division who has the largest cumulative total contributions made in his or her name. I would like to ask Jim Marszalek to help me honor these outstanding National Service Officers.

(Whereupon, National Service Director James Marszalek advanced to assist President Wilson.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Division 1, National Service Officer James R. Laverdiere of Togus, Maine, with a total of \$8,675. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 1 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetter Performance Award was presented to Mr. Laverdiere, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Division 2, National Service Officer Lamarr Couser of Baltimore, Maryland, who is credited with \$12,075. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 2 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetter Performance Award was presented to Mr. Couser, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Division 3, National Service Officer Andrew Edwards of Saint Louis, Missouri, with a grand total of \$50,078. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 3 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetter Performance Award was presented to Mr. Edwards, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Division 4, National Service Officer Raymond Thomas of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with a total of \$13,872. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 4 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetter Performance Award was presented to Mr. Thomas, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: And Division 5, National Service Robert Cleghorn of Saint Petersburg, Florida, with a total of \$7,092. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 5 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetter Performance Award was presented to Mr. Cleghorn, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Please join me again in thanking all of these and all of our incredible National Service Officers. (Applause)

You know, we all share in the same mission. And I hope that you are as inspired as I am by the generosity of our fellow veterans and supporters. Now I want to call upon you and your Chapters and Departments to be a part of this cause.

This is the way to donate in honor of our friends, brothers and sisters, and to commemorate our fallen brothers and sisters. Here we are able to show our commitment and our support to our nation's finest through the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund or The Columbia Trust.

The thermometer is now up, awaiting your generous donations.

To kick off this time of giving I am pleased to acknowledge a contribution of \$2,700 from the DAV Auxiliary Department of Oklahoma Juniors. These young folks raised these funds through a two-day event styled after the hit series Game of Thrones to support the National Disabled Veteran Winter Sports Clinic as Bronze Level sponsor. Presenting the check on their behalf is the Department of Oklahoma DAV Commander Linda Miller and Auxiliary Adjutant Linda Oliver. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Commander Miller and Adjutant Oliver advanced to the podium.)

MS. LINDA MILLER: Good morning, everybody.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. MILLER: In memory of our National Commander Linda Stake our Oklahoma Juniors, District 21, conducted a fundraiser for the Winter Sports Clinic. They raised enough to be a Bronze Level sponsor. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Miller and Ms. Oliver presented the check to President Wilson, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MS. LINDA OLIVER: Mr. Wilson, Department of Oklahoma would also like to give you a donation of \$1,000 for the National Service Foundation.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Miller and Ms. Oliver presented the check to President Wilson, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Okay, let's keep the momentum going and get that thermometer moving. Where are we?

(Whereupon, delegates were lined up and began advancing to the podium to present checks and pledges to President Wilson.)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: In memory of our beloved Past National Blind Veterans Commander Carroll E. Prosser, and in honor of his new, in name, the new Chapter, Carroll E. Prosser in South Carolina, the officers and members of the National Blind Chapter present \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. ANDY MARSHALL: Andy Marshall, Immediate Past Department Commander of Florida. Our Department would like to make a check, \$5,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: From the California Rehabilitation Foundation, \$10,000. (Applause)

MR. ALEX TRUMAN: Alex Truman, Department, Commander, Department of Missouri, \$25,000 in honor of Senior NSO Joseph Brawn, the Saint Louis office. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. RALPH TRAVIS: Ralph Travis with Missouri. I'd like to give \$30,000 in honor of NSO Joseph Brawn in the Saint Louis office. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: He did say \$30,000, by the way. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: In honor of Joe Brawn, Chapter 1, Saint Louis, Missouri, we donate \$10,000. (Applause)

MR. J.R. WILSON: J.R. Wilson, the Commander of the Department of California. On behalf of the Department of California I would like to give \$10,000 to The Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MR. ROLAND PAQUETTE: My name is Roland Paquette, the Adjutant of Chapter 20 of the great State of Texas. On behalf of our members and our members who made their final roll call in the past year we'd like to donate \$1,000 to the Disabled Veterans for Life Memorial Perpetual Fund. (Applause)

MR. PHILIP FIMURA: Phil Fimura, Chapter 76, state of Pennsylvania, I'd like to donate a personal donation to the National Service Foundation. Thanks for helping our veterans. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: From the officers and members of Black Mountain Chapter 12, Henderson, Nevada, the National Service Foundation, \$550. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of Chapter 15, (undistinguishable), Nevada, we're donating as well. We are donating \$500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. JACQUELINE TYES: Jacqueline Tyes, Commander of Department of North Carolina. We'd like to make a thousand dollar donation to the National Service Foundation. And I also have a donation from Chapter 37 in the amount of \$100. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. While we have a moment, I want to acknowledge contributions from the Department of Kansas of \$500; the Moral Rearmament League of \$1,300; Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner of \$100,000; (Applause) and I think you already know this one—the \$50,000 to the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation from Chisholm, Chisholm, and Kilpatrick. (Applause)

MS. RAMIRA PAROCUA: I'm Ramira Parocua, the Commander for the State of Nevada. And we present \$1,500. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: My name is Jacob and I represent the National Guild for Attorneys-in-Fact. I'm the new president. And I'd like to present you with this \$500 donation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Fantastic.

MR. ROBERT BRANDT: Bob Brandt, Commander, Chapter 32, from the great State of Oklahoma, we are donating \$200 to the Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of Adam Klein Chapter 3, Bismarck, North Dakota, we present \$5,000 to The Columbia Trust and \$5,000 to the DAV National Service Foundation. (Applause)

MR. RAY WALSH: Aloha. I'm Ray Walsh from the Department of Hawaii. And we want to honor the service and of our past Congressman Mark Takai who was an active congressman who passed away two weeks ago. He was a great advocate for veterans' rights and also lieutenant colonel in the Hawaii National Guard. We want to present a thousand dollars to Columbia Trust and a thousand dollars to the DAV National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I don't care to speak.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: This is the Department of Vermont and some individuals: \$25, \$500, \$500, and \$25. (Applause) Thank you.

MR. JOHN BURTON: John Burton from the last bastion of the Wild West, the Department of Arizona, \$2,500 for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. SHAWN JERNIGAN: Chairman Wilson, Department Commander Shawn Jernigan from the State of Maine, I have three checks from Chapter 6 up there, \$400, from Chapter 1 up there, \$500, and from the Department, \$1,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of the Department of Arkansas I would like to present you with a check for The Columbia Trust for \$2,500. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of District 14, \$200 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. ERWIN SCHULTZ: Erwin Schultz, Commander, DAV, Chapter 10, Arlington-Fairfax, Virginia, in honor of the man who coined us "The Greatest Chapter in the Known Universe," John Maki, and in his memory I'd like to donate \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. JIM PROCUNIER: Good morning, Jim Procnier, DAV Chapter 10, Arlington-Fairfax, like he said, "The Greatest Chapter in the Know Universe," in honor of PDC Arnold Sells of Chapter 10 and his 65 years of DAV service, \$2,500, my personal donation, to the Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Great.

MR. MICHAEL SCHIEVELBEIN: Michael Schievelbein, Colorado, Chapter 7, to The Columbia Trust, \$5,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. CYNTHIA FRANCIS: Cynthia Francis, S.L. Brown Chapter 11, Denver, Colorado, donates \$200 to the National Service Foundation, a small Chapter with a large heart. (Applause)

MR. ROBERT ADDYMAN: I'm Bob Addyman from the great State of Colorado, Department Commander, \$5,000 to The Columbia Trust. Thank you, sir. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. DENISE WILLIAMS: Denise Williams, Senior Vice-Commander, Department of Virginia, \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. JAMES DEATHERAGE: James Deatherage, Commander, State of Tennessee, \$1,000 to the Winter Sports Clinic and \$1,000 to The Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Great. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: In memory of the deceased members of the William C. Melia Chapter 1, Department of Pennsylvania, the second-oldest Chapter in the nation, I make a personal contribution of \$250 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, so much. Thank you, sir.

MR. NACHEE MILLER: Good morning. Nachee Miller, Commander of the Department of the District of Columbia, on behalf of the Department of the District of Columbia I would like to donate a check to the national service trust of \$600. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Great.

MR. MICHAEL IACAVAZZI: Good morning. Mike Iacavazzi, Department Commander from the State of Pennsylvania, the Keystone State, would like to donate \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning, sir.

MR. JAMES PERKINS: Good morning. James Perkins, Chapter 44 from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, national service trust \$1,000 and Columbia Trust \$500. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of the State of Delaware I would like to donate \$200 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

MR. MICHAEL AGUIRRE: Mic Aguirre, State Commander for Minnesota, on behalf of the Minnesota Foundation we'd like to donate \$10,000 to The Columbia Trust Fund. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of the Department of Minnesota we also are donating \$10,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. LEON BOOKER: Leon Booker, Commander, William E. Tate Chapter Number 1, I'd like to make a donation of \$2,000 to The Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. JOSE CRUZ: Good morning, Jose Cruz from the Department of Puerto Rico. We'd like to donate \$300 for the National Service Foundation and \$200 for The Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. ROBERT GOLDEN: Bob Golden, Department of New Hampshire. I'd like to donate \$500 to The Columbia Trust and \$500 to the National Service Foundation for our Department. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Bob. Good morning.

MS. JO LINDA CUTLER: Jo Linda Cutler, Commander, Department of Michigan, Columbia Trust donation of \$2,500. (Applause)

MR. ROLLY D. LEE, SENIOR: Rolly Lee from the Department of Michigan, home of Jim Harbaugh and the Michigan Wolverines. Such a warm welcome. (Laughter) To the DAV National Service Foundation from the membership of the Department of Michigan a check for \$2,500. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. JOHN PATTERSON: Good morning, Comrades.
(Response of "Good morning.")

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MR. PATTERSON: I'm John Patterson, Department of Maryland Commander. We donate \$1,000 to the Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir. Thank you very much.

MR. GAYLORD HELMBRECHT: I'm Gaylord Helmbrecht, Commander of Chapter 1 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. I have three checks for the Foundation: \$100 from Gene and Aldene Murphy in memory of Roger Andall.

I have one from Chapter 1, \$500 donation for the Foundation for, for our National Service Officers Eric Van Emmerik and Owen Richards. And I also have a \$500 from the Department of South Dakota for \$500 for the great job our NSOs do, Eric Van Emmerik and Owen Richards. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of Dick Cosgriff Chapter 2, San Diego, California, we are going to make a donation of \$5,000 to the National Service Foundation and \$4,000 to the Colorado Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. On behalf of Big D Chapter 57, big state of Texas, (Cheers) on behalf of Big D Chapter 57 I've been authorized to donate \$500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. PAUL DUBEY: Paul Dubey representing the Charles Munsante, Chapter 46, of Athol, Massachusetts, and because of and in memory of our past comrade Paul Packadin I have a check for the National Service Foundation for the third year in a row for \$10,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. TONY LEE: Commander Tony Lee, Department of New York, I would like to give \$5,000 to The Columbia Trust and \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation on the Department's behalf. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. ERNEST BOISVERT: Ernie Boisvert and Richard Schatz from the (undistinguishable) Bacon Chapter 12 in Rhode Island, \$500 to the National Service Foundation and \$500 to The Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. MICHAEL H. GOLDBERG: I'm Michael H. Goldberg and on behalf of my own trust to The Columbia Trust, \$1,000, and on behalf of District 1 in Northern California, \$300. That's \$50 from each of my active Chapters. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: In memory of Past Department Commander Leroy "Buddy" Rickman the Department of Florida donates \$100 to the Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. CHRIS CHANEY: I'm NSO Chris Chaney from Roanoke, Virginia. I have a veteran's personal check in the amount of \$3,000 for the National Service Foundation in honor of NSO Chris Chaney. The veteran is too ill to bring it to the National Convention himself. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. CLARENCE MINOR: Clarence Minor, Chapter Number 11, Salina, Kansas, donates \$500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. DANNY PAGAN: Danny Pagan, Senior Service Officer, Department of Georgia, \$1,000 to The Columbia Trust, \$1,000 to the National Foundation. Also I'm the Commander of Chapter 90, \$100. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. JERRY HAMBURG: Jerry Hamburg, Van Nuys, California, Chapter 13. Chapter 13 donates \$1,000 to the replacement van program and I personally, in memory of my wife Susan Hamburg, donate \$100. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. ROBERT KUELPER: I'm Bob Kuelper, former Green Beret, three tours Vietnam. I'm proud to be here and honored to give \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. Welcome home, soldiers. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. EDWARD PETERS: Edward Peters from the great State of Illinois, \$5,000 for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. RICHARD ADAMS: Good morning.
(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. ADAMS: Richard Adams, Commander, Chapter 6 from the great State of California, would like to donate \$500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

MR. RICHARD PATTERSON: Rick Patterson, Chapter 45, Alabama, I would like to make a personal contribution of \$100 in memory of Henry Servant, my best friend growing up, killed in Vietnam in March '68. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Rick.

MR. CHAD RICHMOND: Chad Richmond, Adjutant of Alabama, I have two presentations. The Alabama PDCs would like to donate \$100 to the National Service Foundation in memory of PDC Jack Revels. And a fellow named Dave Riley, we had a campaign fund for him. But we'd like to give \$500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. WILLIAM VICINI: Bill Vicini, Commander, Department of Massachusetts, we'd like to make a donation to the National Service Foundation for \$1,000 and The Columbia Trust for \$1,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. GERALD E. HUMPHRIES: Gerald E. Humphries from the great State of Mississippi, Chapter 11. I want to donate this \$1,000 as I have in the last ten years, since I retired, to the Service Foundation. I noticed a while ago you left us off the list as donating \$1,000 last year.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: I did? (Applause) We'll check that out.

MR. JERRY BRATTON: Jerry Bratton, Department of Mississippi, Junior Vice, donates \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation in honor of Jerry Bratton and Chapter 48, Oxford, Mississippi. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. JESUS CORTEZ, JR.: Jesse Cortez, Jr., from Chapter 169 out of (undistinguishable), the great State of Texas, and I will donate \$300 of my personal and part of Chapter 169 (undistinguishable) Texas. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning, Al.

MR. ALFRED REYNOLDS: I'm Al Reynolds, Commander, Macon County 17 from Illinois. I have a check for \$10,000 to the National Service Foundation and a check for \$5,000 for the Winter Sports Clinic. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ALAN BOWERS: I'm Al Bowers, Past National Commander and my bride took a look at the annual report for the National Service Foundation and she said we need to round that off and has written a check for \$1,590. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Al.

MR. JOEL JIMENEZ: Joel Jimenez, Chapter 41, Wichita Falls, Texas, the Lone Star Texas, \$500 to The Columbia Trust Fund, Art. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. JIMENEZ: Thank you very much.

MR. JOHN POLK: Art.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning, sir.

MR. POLK: How are you? John Polk, Commander, Department of Wisconsin, headquartered in Title Town, Wisconsin. We've got a couple of donations. I'd like to make an announcement of a donation of \$1,700 made from the Department of Wisconsin. And, Art, Dick has asked me to tell you that the check is in the mail, like normal. (Laughter)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Like normal.

MR. POLK: Like normal. I have a second donation here from West Dallas Chapter 19 of \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. WALTER APPELEGATE: Walt Applegate, Commander, Ocean County Memorial Chapter 24, \$100 donation to the Foundation and \$100 donation to The Columbia Trust. (Applause)

MR. JOHN PARKER: John Parker, First Junior Vice, Department of Ohio, the mother state, the Foundation of Aviation and even the MBA champions. Go Cavs. If I may, in a more serious manner and a grateful manner, I present to you a check on behalf of the Department of Ohio, \$1,500 for the National Service Foundation and \$1,500 for The Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. MARION TRUSCELLO: Marion Truscello from Chapter 51 in the great State of South Carolina and I have \$500 in honor of Moses McIntosh, one of our members, and in memory of my husband Michael Truscello. And I also have \$100, a personal donation from me, in memory of Mike. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. I have a little bit of housekeeping to do. You know that the, we have a legislative fund in the Service Foundation which is funded by the Trench Rats. And as is our tradition, we present to the National Organization the earnings on that fund. And this year they happen to be \$8,381 to the National Organization from the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

(Whereupon National Service Foundation President Wilson presented the check to Adjutant Burgess, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: To you, our supporters of the Foundation, and to all of you who presented contributions today we offer our most sincere thanks. By generously aiding the National Service Foundation you are truly, truly empowering veterans—excuse me—to build successful and fulfilled lives. Your generosity goes a long way to ensuring DAV's critical services and programs. Thank you all very much.

And thank you, Commander. That completes my report.

Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation

Financial Statements as of and for the
Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, and
Independent Auditors' Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation (the "Foundation"), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, 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 Foundation'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 Foundation'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, 2015 and 2014, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



April 8, 2016

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

	2015	2014
ASSETS		
CASH	\$ 2,954,176	\$ 2,325,301
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	36	6
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	26,172	6,528
INVENTORY	9,203	442,500
PREPAID EXPENSES	393,892	25,402
INVESTMENTS	112,914,789	113,807,077
SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT IN PROCESS		45,362
TOTAL	<u>\$ 116,298,268</u>	<u>\$ 116,652,176</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES:		
Due to DAV	\$ 24,021	\$ 614,226
Other liabilities	275,089	199,809
Total liabilities	<u>299,110</u>	<u>814,035</u>
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted:		
General	21,171,251	19,666,465
The Columbia Trust	1,665,110	1,343,977
Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund	31,823,558	30,807,677
Accumulated net unrealized appreciation of investments	6,483,700	9,031,016
Total unrestricted	<u>61,143,619</u>	<u>60,849,135</u>
Temporarily restricted	<u>54,632,045</u>	<u>54,769,712</u>
Permanently restricted	<u>223,494</u>	<u>219,294</u>
Total net assets	<u>115,999,158</u>	<u>115,838,141</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 116,298,268</u>	<u>\$ 116,652,176</u>

See notes to financial statements.

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

	2015			2014				
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES:								
Public support — contributions and bequests	\$ 1,015,881	\$ 938,454	\$ 4,200	\$ 1,958,535	\$ 1,003,714	\$ 977,539	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,985,253
Revenues:								
Interest and dividend income — net	1,851,054	1,754,537		3,605,591	2,160,080	2,013,591		4,173,671
Gain on sale of investment securities	591,444	317,036		908,480	1,448,348	1,379,140		3,027,488
Sale of fraternal items	1,200,855			1,200,855	1,175,061			1,175,061
Total revenues	3,643,353	2,071,573	-	5,714,926	4,983,489	3,392,731	-	8,376,220
Net assets released from restrictions	942,261	(942,261)			980,685	(980,685)		-
Total public support and revenues	5,601,495	2,067,766	4,200	7,673,461	6,967,888	3,389,585	4,000	10,361,473
EXPENSES:								
Program expenses:								
Grants and expenses in accordance with The Columbia Trust	1,312,064			1,312,064	1,706,842			1,706,842
Appropriations to DAY National Headquarters and other organizations	122,574			122,574	1,173,939			1,173,939
Costs of fraternal items sold	905,722			905,722	839,493			839,493
Other program expenses	100,465			100,465	142,857			142,857
Total program expenses	2,500,763	-	-	2,500,763	3,863,111	-	-	3,863,111
Management and general expenses	165,695			165,695	166,421			166,421
Fundraising expenses	93,237			93,237	104,099			104,099
Total expenses	2,759,695	-	-	2,759,695	4,133,631	-	-	4,133,631
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED (DEPRECIATION) APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	2,841,800	2,067,766	4,200	4,913,766	2,834,257	3,389,585	4,000	6,227,842
CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED (DEPRECIATION) APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	(2,547,316)	(12,005,433)		(4,752,749)	746,331	841,385		1,587,716
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	294,484	(137,667)	4,200	161,017	3,580,588	4,230,970	4,000	7,815,558
NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	60,849,135	54,709,612	219,294	115,838,141	57,268,547	50,538,742	215,294	108,022,583
NET ASSETS — End of year	\$ 61,143,619	\$ 54,632,945	\$ 223,494	\$ 115,999,138	\$ 60,849,135	\$ 54,769,712	\$ 219,294	\$ 115,838,141

- 3 -

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

	2015			2014				
	Management and			Management and				
	Program	General	Fundraising	Total	Program	General	Fundraising	Total
EXPENSES:								
Allocations to charitable programs	\$1,390,198	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,390,198	\$2,841,805	\$ -	\$ -	\$2,841,805
Costs of fraternal items sold	905,722			905,722	839,493			839,493
Grant proposal processing	40,936			40,936	36,335			36,335
Administrative charges		40,936	25,968	66,904		36,335	37,006	73,341
Travel		8,571		8,571		17,787		17,787
Postage and shipping	100,270	5,332	32,466	138,068	105,886	5,743	30,489	142,118
Printing, stationery and supplies	58	14,433	24,525	39,016	77	18,538	25,882	44,497
Advertising	38,519			38,519	36,982			36,982
Legal fees			6,840	6,840			6,840	6,840
Professional fees		28,328		28,328		28,699		28,699
Insurance		3,619		3,619		3,559		3,559
Registration fees		5,877	3,438	9,315		17	3,882	3,899
Awards		15,507		15,507		10,422		10,422
Banking & credit card fees	3,396	42,722		46,118	2,533	44,984		47,517
Miscellaneous	21,664	370		22,034		337		337
TOTAL	\$2,500,763	\$165,695	\$93,237	\$2,759,695	\$3,863,111	\$166,421	\$104,099	\$4,133,631

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

	2015	2014
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 156,817	\$ 7,811,558
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Change in net unrealized depreciation (appreciation) of investments	4,752,749	(1,587,716)
Gain on sale of investment securities	(908,480)	(3,027,488)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest and dividends receivable	(30)	
Accounts receivable	(19,644)	4,651
Inventory	433,297	(148,072)
Prepaid expenses	(368,490)	(4,279)
Due to DAV	(590,205)	545,184
Other liabilities	75,280	134,100
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>3,531,294</u>	<u>3,727,938</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchases of investments	(32,889,165)	(20,489,554)
Proceeds from sale of investments	29,937,184	17,334,362
Proceeds received from the transfer of software development in process	45,362	
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(2,906,619)</u>	<u>(3,155,192)</u>
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITY:		
Contributions of permanently restricted assets	<u>4,200</u>	<u>4,000</u>
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	628,875	576,746
CASH — Beginning of year	<u>2,325,301</u>	<u>1,748,555</u>
CASH — End of year	<u>\$ 2,954,176</u>	<u>\$ 2,325,301</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, 2015 AND 2014

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 in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

New Accounting Standards — In January 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued ASU 2016-01, *Financial Instruments - Overall (Subtopic 825-10) – Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities*. ASU 2016-01 revises the accounting related to the classification and measurement of investments in equity securities and the presentation of certain fair value changes for financial liabilities measured at fair value. The ASU also amends certain disclosure requirements associated with the fair value of financial instruments. The effective date of ASU 2016-01 is for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018. The ASU has not yet been adopted. Management is currently evaluating the impact to the financial statements.

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. ASU 2014-09 requires an entity to recognize revenue in a way that depicts the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods and services. ASU 2014-09 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018 and is to be applied retrospectively; early adoption is permitted. The ASU has not yet been adopted. Management is currently evaluating the impact that this ASU will have on the financial statements.

Cash and Cash Equivalents — The Foundation considers all liquid instruments purchased with a maturity date of three months or less to be cash equivalents that are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. The earnings credit received on the Foundation’s checking accounts were \$5,912 and \$4,866 in 2015 and 2014, 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 solicitation materials and other items.

Contributions — Contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted support, depending on the existence and nature of any donor restrictions. Donated assets are recorded at their fair market value at the time of the donation.

Unrestricted Net Assets — All unrestricted contributions and bequests to the Foundation are designated by the Board of Directors (the Board) for investment in a Board-designated endowment fund, known as the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund, as a reserve for future needs.

Investment income derived from these invested amounts are included in the General Fund and used for current operations of the Foundation or appropriated by the Foundation for use by DAV.

The Foundation has adopted an investment policy for the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund and temporarily restricted investments. The primary goals of the investment portfolio are safeguarding of the assets; maximization of return on the interest, dividends and appreciation of capital; and avoidance of undue interest rate risk in the fixed-income portion of the portfolio. The portfolio performance objective is to exceed a custom benchmark of 60% Russell 3000 / 40% Barclays Intermediate Government Credit over a five-year period and a full market cycle.

The Foundation relies on a total return strategy in which investment returns are achieved through both capital appreciation (realized and unrealized) and current yield (interest and dividends). The Foundation targets a diversified asset allocation that places a greater emphasis on equity-based investment to achieve its long-term return objective within prudent risk constraints.

The Foundation's unrestricted Board-designated endowment for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, had the following activity:

	2015	2014
Public support — contributions and bequests	\$ 1,015,881	\$ 1,003,714
Revenues:		
Interest and dividend income — net	1,851,054	2,160,080
Gain on sale of investment securities	591,444	1,648,348
Sale of fraternal items	<u>1,200,855</u>	<u>1,175,061</u>
Total public support and revenues	<u>4,659,234</u>	<u>5,987,203</u>
Expenses:		
Program:		
Appropriations to DAV National Headquarters and other organizations	122,574	1,173,939
Internal appropriation to Columbia Trust	650,000	750,000
Cost of fraternal items sold	905,722	839,493
Other program expenses	160,403	142,837
Grant proposal processing	<u>40,936</u>	<u>36,335</u>
Total program expenses:	1,879,635	2,942,604
Management and general	165,695	166,421
Fundraising	<u>93,237</u>	<u>104,099</u>
Total expenses	<u>2,138,567</u>	<u>3,213,124</u>
Change in unrealized (depreciation) appreciation of investments	<u>(2,547,316)</u>	<u>746,331</u>
Total change in unrestricted Board-designated endowment fund	<u>\$ (26,649)</u>	<u>\$ 3,520,410</u>

For 2015 and 2014, appropriation to the Columbia Trust of \$650,000 and \$750,000, respectively, is excluded from the statement of activities due to the transaction being an internal appropriation.

For 2015 and 2014, the Board has designated \$1,665,110 and \$1,343,977, 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 \$321,133 in 2015 and \$60,178 in 2014. 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 2015 and 2014, The Columbia Trust received \$68,727 and \$64,420, respectively, in contributions, which were matched by DAV.

In 2015 and 2014, The Columbia Trust received \$801,000 and \$800,000, respectively, from the DAV Charitable Service Trust to be used for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program. In 2014, The Columbia Trust also received \$48,698, from the DAV for funds designated to assist in meeting the transportation and medical needs of veterans.

As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, The Columbia Trust held \$225,046 and \$224,885, 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 \$8,381 and \$10,044 in 2015 and 2014, respectively, from the National Order of Trench Rats DAV Legislative Fund was transferred to DAV for use by DAV's Legislative Program. The permanently restricted net assets of \$223,494 and \$219,294 as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively, are included within the investments balance in the statements of financial position.

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

Use of Estimates — The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with 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 fair value of investments and the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, are summarized below:

			Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
2015	Cost	Fair Value	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 910,990	\$ 910,990	\$ -
Common stock	5,295,940	6,558,577	1,262,637
Fixed-income mutual funds	44,440,237	43,675,147	(765,090)
Equity mutual funds / ETFs	<u>49,490,698</u>	<u>61,770,075</u>	<u>12,279,377</u>
Total	<u>\$ 100,137,865</u>	<u>\$ 112,914,789</u>	<u>\$ 12,776,924</u>
2014			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,283,583	\$ 1,283,583	\$ -
Common stock	4,531,814	6,545,714	2,013,900
Fixed-income mutual funds	37,499,991	37,235,859	(264,132)
Equity mutual funds / ETFs	<u>52,962,016</u>	<u>68,741,921</u>	<u>15,779,905</u>
Total	<u>\$ 96,277,404</u>	<u>\$ 113,807,077</u>	<u>\$ 17,529,673</u>

Interest and dividend income — net is \$3,605,591 and \$4,173,671 for 2015 and 2014, respectively. The year 2015 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$3,660,989 less \$55,398 for investment management and custody fees. The year 2014 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$4,192,536 less \$18,865 for investment management and custody fees.

As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, the amount of securities in a continuous unrealized loss position for a duration of greater than twelve months is not material.

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 2015 or 2014.

The Foundation's policy is to recognize transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no transfers during 2015 or 2014.

Asset Valuation Techniques — Valuation techniques used 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, 2015 and 2014.

Cash and cash equivalents, composed of money market funds, are categorized as Level 1, and are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The money market funds represent 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 financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, are as follows:

	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
2015			
Asset Category			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 910,990	\$ -	\$ 910,990
Common stock	6,558,577		6,558,577
Mutual funds:			
Domestic fixed-income funds	39,954,268		39,954,268
International fixed-income funds	3,720,879		3,720,879
Domestic equity funds / ETFs	41,633,084		41,633,084
International equity funds	17,548,329		17,548,329
Real estate equity funds	2,588,662		2,588,662
Total mutual funds	105,445,222	-	105,445,222
Total assets	\$ 112,914,789	\$ -	\$ 112,914,789

	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
2014			
Asset Category			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,283,583	\$ -	\$ 1,283,583
Common stock	6,545,714		6,545,714
Mutual funds:			
Domestic fixed-income funds	31,551,855		31,551,855
International fixed-income funds	5,684,004		5,684,004
Domestic equity funds / ETFs	53,763,415		53,763,415
International equity funds	12,451,701		12,451,701
Real estate equity funds	2,526,805		2,526,805
Total mutual funds	105,977,780	-	105,977,780
Total assets	\$ 113,807,077	\$ -	\$ 113,807,077

5. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During 2015 and 2014, DAV personnel assisted the Foundation on a limited basis in administering its business operations and fundraising program. For these services, the Foundation reimbursed DAV \$103,896 and \$109,677 in 2015 and 2014, respectively. At December 31, 2015 and 2014, the Foundation owed DAV \$24,021 and \$614,226, 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 \$68,727 and \$64,420 to The Columbia Trust in 2015 and 2014, respectively. The Columbia Trust also received \$48,698 from the DAV in 2014 for funds designated to assist in meeting the transportation and medical needs of veterans.

In 2015 and 2014, the DAV Charitable Service Trust made contributions of \$801,000 and \$800,000, respectively, to The Columbia Trust for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program.

In 2015 and 2014, the Foundation appropriated the following in support of DAV programs and services:

	2015	2014
National Service Office Furniture and Equipment Fund	\$ 50,000	\$ 20,000
National Service Office Copier Fund	16,610	18,895
National Service Office Reference Manuals	25,000	25,000
National Service Office Scanners	127,583	
National Service Office Structured & Continuing Training Program		1,100,000

In 2015, DAV returned an \$105,000 appropriation from NSF in 2013 for construction of a fraternal merchandise internet store front. In the fourth quarter of 2015, sale of fraternal items went to a third party vendor.

In performing the duties of their positions, DAV's National Commander and National Adjutant serve on 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 and the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation's Board of Directors.

6. GRANTS AND EXPENSES OF THE COLUMBIA TRUST

At December 31, 2015 and 2014, the grants and expenses of The Columbia Trust are as follows:

	2015	2014
Grants to DAV chapters and departments in accordance with The Columbia Trust:		
Hospital Service Coordinator Program	\$ 460,004	\$ 458,140
National Transportation Network Van Grant Program	706,592	1,013,488
Other grants to service programs	101,027	196,237
Miscellaneous expenses	3,505	2,642
Grant proposal processing	40,936	36,335
Total	<u>\$ 1,312,064</u>	<u>\$ 1,706,842</u>

In 2015, temporarily restricted net assets of \$942,261 and designated, unrestricted net assets of \$369,803 were used. In 2014, temporarily restricted net assets of \$980,685 and designated, unrestricted net assets of \$726,157 were used. The temporarily restricted net assets used, of \$942,261 and \$980,685, are shown as "Net assets released from restrictions" in the accompanying statements of activities for 2015 and 2014, 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, 2015, but before April 8, 2016, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

* * * * *

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Art, for that excellent report. May I have a motion to accept the report from the President of the National Service Foundation, Arthur Wilson?

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mic 1.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Mic 1.

MR. STEINBAUGH: Michael Steinbaugh, Chapter 7, great State of California so moves.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Mike. Mic 2.

MR. HAMBURG: Mic 2. Jerry Hamburg, Van Nuys, California, Chapter 13, I second the motion.

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

At this time I will ask Vince Darcangelo of the POW/MIA Interim Committee, for a presentation.

(Applause)

MR. VINCENT DARCANGELO: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. DARCANGELO: Commander McIntosh and National Adjutant Marc Burgess, good morning. Welcome, everybody. I am the chairman of the Interim POW/MIA Committee. And our Committee has been involved in quite a tumultuous event in the past year.

A little over a year ago Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel took a look at the accounting agencies, the two agencies that were responsible for accounting our prisoners of war and missing in action. And he looked at what was being done, which was very little, and he decided to tear those two organizations apart. That was the DPMO and JPAC. JPAC stood for the Joint Pacific Accounting Command and DPMO was the Defense Department Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Office.

And so they started over and they build what is currently the DPAA. And they started with that. And I am proud to say that the Disabled American Veterans, our organization, is a part of that building. We are involved in the organization and what it is doing. And it's picking up the pieces, more or less, of what JPAC and DPMO didn't do.

We had a little bit of a setback a couple of weeks ago. They had hired Lieutenant General Linnington, Michael Linnington, to be the director of the DPAA and then he suddenly resigned and took another position. And so we're in the midst of still working to get another, a brand-new director.

But, anyway, as being the chairman of the POW/MIA Committee I am involved in the bi-weekly and represent the DAV in our teleconferences.

As far as our Committee work, what we've done in the past year, we've been working hard on the new strategic guide. In order to get awareness of the POW/MIA issue we're going to be sending this strategic guide and questionnaires out to all the Departments and Chapters.

We're going to try to assimilate all of the best practices, whatever is working good in your state. We want to put it all together, have one gathering point. And then hopefully we can share this information with all the Departments within the DAV and bring more community involvement and public awareness to the POW issue.

There have been 83,000 men and women dressed in United States uniforms that went into harm's way and haven't come home yet. And because of that, that's why we are dedicated in the DAV to the POW issue. We have never wavered and we will not waver.

And so I just wanted to say that is the purpose of our Committee and public awareness. We would like everybody to be involved, all Chapters, all Departments.

And as far as accounting goes this year, the totals so far have been they have identified 24 from World War II, 22 from the Korean War and 3 from the Vietnam War. And so you see there is a lot of work to be done. (Applause) A lot of work to be done. This is going to be a record year as far as numbers. And we're working hard to get them all home.

And I want to, at this time, thank our National Commander Moses McIntosh and National Adjutant Marc Burgess for their support of our POW/MIA Committee and the work we have done. And it is much appreciated. Thank you, both.

I would like to recognize the Committee members. From the Department of Pennsylvania we have Wayne Stratus; from the Department of South Carolina, Charlie Pennington; and from the Department of North Dakota—I'm sorry, Wisconsin and Department Commander John Polk; and our two—please rise wherever you are—and our two Committee advisors are Paul Varela and Justin Hart. And they do a lot of work for us. Thank you guys.

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

MR. DARCANGELO: And so we have any former POWs in the audience that are here today, if you would stand and be recognized, please. Any? I can't—yes, we do.

(Whereupon, former POWs stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

MR. DARCANGELO: At the bottom of those POW flags, those black and white flags, there are four words, "You are not forgotten." And what is also not forgotten is the brutality and harsh treatment our POWs had to endure. And we don't forget that. And that's why it's so urgent to get them all home.

At this time I would continue a tradition we do in the DAV. We present a brand-new POW/MIA flag to the incoming Commander and ask him to fly it with honor during his year of service. And so at this time I would ask Commander Riley. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Senior Vice-Commander Riley advanced to the podium and was presented with a POW/MIA flag, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. DARCANGELO: I get something, too.

(Whereupon, Mr. Darcangelo was presented with a hat from Senior Vice-Commander Riley, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. DARCANGELO: And I usually only wear a hat when Adjutant Burgess puts his on but this is a gift so here it is. (Applause) Thank you, Commander. Thank you, sir. Let me fold this up and I will put it back in the box.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Vince. Marc, have we got any announcements?

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Yes. Someone did drop a hearing aid—

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, sir.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Okay. It's not lost and found, it's found. I would like to ask that the Committee, the members of the Committee on Nominations, you will meet 20 minutes after we adjourn here in just a couple of minutes in the Kennesaw Room, Atlantic Conference Center, LL-3. Again, the Committee on Nominations will meet 20 minutes after this session in the Kennesaw Room, Atlantic Conference Center, LL-3.

This afternoon's final business session will begin promptly at 1:30. We will start off with the important business of the elections, nomination and elections of our officers. Please be on time.

This evening's activities include the introduction of National Officers at 6:30 followed by delicious food and a very special guest performance. You don't want to miss this. This event is sponsored by Lockheed Martin.

And we are again giving away five \$25 gift cards for the DAV store to five lucky winners. If I call your name please come up to the stage and see Doug Wells. And the lucky winners are Joe Lenhart of Ohio, Chapter 73; Judy Holiday-Toliver of Iowa, Chapter Number 2; Louis Parratt of Georgia, Chapter Number 55; Linda Miller of Oklahoma, Chapter 29; and Phyllis Daughtry of Maryland, Sarge Warhime Chapter Number 33.

Commander that is all the announcements I have.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Marc. Chaplain Dover, will you lead us in closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Ladies and gentlemen, let us pray. Heavenly Creator, we rejoice in your greatness and power, your gentleness and love, your mercy and justice. Enable us by your spirit to honor you in our thoughts and words and actions, and to serve you and our fellow veterans and their families in every aspect of our lives. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you. The Convention stands in recess until 1:30 p.m. this afternoon.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:18 o'clock, a.m. on Wednesday, August 3, 2016.)

- - -

FINAL BUSINESS SESSION

August 3, 2016

- - -

The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 95th National Convention convened in the Centennial Ballroom on the Ballroom Level, Lower Level 1, of the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel Atlanta, Georgia, on Wednesday afternoon, August 3, 2016, and was called to order at 1:32 o'clock, p.m., by National Commander Moses A. McIntosh, Jr..

COMMANDER MOSES A. McINTOSH, JR.: Ladies and gentlemen, the Convention will come to order. As a reminder, once again we ask that everyone in attendance please turn off your cell phone or portable devices or put them in vibrate.

In opening this afternoon's business session it is fitting and proper that we render proper respect to the flag. Hand salute. Two. We will now be led in prayer by Chaplain Dover.

CHAPLAIN MICHAEL DOVER: Thank you, Commander. Good afternoon, everyone.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Let us pray. As we stand in unity we ask for your blessings upon this meeting that we may sense anew our responsibility as members of this great organization. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER McINTOSH: No, I'm not going to make you stand. (Laughter) Again, as a reminder, in order for a delegate to be heard at this Convention you must be recognized by the Chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. Upon being so recognized, the delegate must state his or her name, Chapter number, and the state they represent.

I would like to remind everyone that registration of delegates is now closed. I will call upon Chairman Warren Tobin for the final report of the Credentials Committee.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOBIN: Comrade Commander and delegates, this is the final report of the Convention Credentials Committee and it reflects the total registration as of 10:00 a.m. on August 3rd, 2016.

There are 1,123 delegates and 79 alternates registered which includes 37 Departments and 397 Chapters. There are 7 National Officers present, 2 National Executive Committeemen and 14 Past National Commanders currently registered. The vote total is 7,933. At this time I would like to extend my thanks to the Committee members and to its advisors.

Comrade Commander, that completes the final report of the Credentials Committee. On behalf of the Committee I move for its adoption.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Warren.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOBIN: Thank you, Commander. Appreciate it.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MS. DEBORA OLSON: Mic 2.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Mic 2.

MS. OLSON: Debora Olson, Department of Massachusetts, Chapter 85, seconds that.

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

Now, I will ask Dan Stack, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, for his report.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DANIEL P. STACK: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Nominations of National Officers was called to order for its first business session on July 31st, 2016, by Committee Advisor Gene A. Murphy and Richard E. Marbes.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman. And Dan Stack was elected as chairman and Joseph Kauffman of Pennsylvania was elected as secretary. The chairman then appointed Joe Litzinger of North Dakota as the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Committee on the Nominations met on Sunday, July 31st, at 5:00 p.m. and then again on Monday, August 1st, at 3:00 p.m. The Committee met again today at 11:35 a.m. to review and interview more candidates. We have elected the following individuals that we recommended for national office.

For the office of National Commander, David W. Riley from Alabama; (Applause) for the office of National Senior Vice-Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster of California; (Applause) for the office of National First Junior Vice-Commander, Dennis R. Nixon from Texas; (Applause) for the office of National Second Junior Vice-Commander, Stephen Whitehead from Minnesota; (Applause) for the office of National Third Junior Vice-Commander, Donald Day from New York; (Applause) for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice-Commander, Andrew H. Marshall from Florida; (Applause) for the office of National

Chaplain, Michael Dover from Georgia; (Applause) and for the office of National Judge Advocate, Michael E. Dobmeier from North Dakota. (Applause)

Comrade Commander, this completes this report of the Committee on Nominations of National Officers. On behalf of the Committee I move the adoption of this report.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Dan. I will now call for a second that the report of the Committee on Nomination of National Officers be adopted and that the Committee be discharged.

DR. MARIANA RABA: Mic 1.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Mic 1.

DR. RABA: Dr. Raba, Chapter 6, California, so seconds the motion. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, very much. All in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

You have heard the report of the Committee on Nominations of National Officers and they have nominated David Riley for National Commander. (Applause) Here to second the nomination is Retired Command Sergeant major—Command Sergeant Major Bill Baker. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Command Sergeant Major Baker advanced to the podium.)

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR BILL BAKER: I am Bill Baker from Chapter 9, Sweet Home Alabama. And I second that nomination. Come on, Alabama, let me hear it. (Applause) Thanks for the love.

I'd like to take a few minutes to tell you a little bit about Dave Riley. Adeline Stevenson once said, "Patriotism is not a short, frenzied burst of emotion, rather the tranquil and stead dedication of a lifetime." This best describes my friend, David W. Riley.

I had the pleasure of meeting David through our mutual interest in the Disabled American Veterans. You see, I was a Fourth District Commander for the Department of Alabama and Chapter 7 was hosting our District meeting. What a surprise to find that Dave Riley led that coordination for our meeting to be held at Coast Guard Station Mobile.

I am sure most of you were as amazed as I on your first meeting with Dave Riley. This former Coast Guardsman rescue swimmer who has lost both arms and legs coordinated the best meeting I have ever seen held in Alabama. And we're looking forward to going back to the Coast Guard station.

Let me share with you a few of Dave's accomplishments. You've got to remember, now, Dave needs an extra set of arms and an extra set of legs to do these things. But he has completed both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in computer information.

He started his own computer systems contracting company, served as the chief information officer of the Coast Guard Aviation Association. Elected to the National Line in 2002 (sic) he currently serves as our Senior Vice to the National Commander. Was selected as the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year for 2010—the first Coast Guardsman to ever hold that award.

He continues to serve as the Chapter and Department Service Officer and volunteers in our community-based outpatient clinic in Mobile. He has held a succession of Chapter and Department offices, including Department of Alabama Commander.

He is the recipient of the U.S. Coast Guard Red Ragger's Distinguished Service Award—the first Coast Guard non-commissioned officer to receive such award. (Applause) Thank you.

Dave has attended the last six DAV VA Winter Sports Clinic where he has been a participant and a mentor. He is a mentor to his fellow veterans, especially those that are amputees.

This is my personal opinion. The business of the DAV is Dave's life passion. He has continued to support and promote our mission as part of Dave's promise to aid and assist America's injured and ill veterans and their families wherever he can find them. Dave understands the value of our organization because of what the DAV has given to him and his family.

Because Dave is a quad amputee he does require additional assistance, especially with his travel. And he is very fortunate to have his best friend and, as of August 10th, and wife of 29 years by his side. (Applause)

During his time on the National Line Yvonne and Dave have traveled both nationally and throughout the State of Alabama to increase awareness and participation in the programs that help assist injured and ill veterans and their families. You see, in Alabama we call that a "twofer." You hire one, you get two workers.

I want to close by using Dave's own words about his journey in the DAV:

"The recognition I have received from the DAV at the Chapter, State and National Levels has sometimes seemed overwhelming. However, I found that at each level there is a kaleidoscope of professionals, each of which brings a unique skillset, new ideals, that allows me to continue to grow in my knowledge and understanding of this very diverse organization and the many programs that it

supports. It's because of what the organization does for disabled American veterans and their families every day that I want to lend my talents and time to serve my fellow veterans and dedicate my life to this cause."

I stand before this Convention today to encourage each of you to "Rally for Riley" as our next National Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Bill. The Chair will now call for any further nominations for the office of National Commander. Are there any further nominations? Any further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations I close the nominations and declare David Riley elected as National Commander and instruct the National Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for his election. (Applause)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I, Marc Burgess, National Adjutant of DAV, hereby cast one unanimous ballot for Dave Riley, for the office of National Commander. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: The Nominating Committee has nominated Delphine Metcalf-Foster for the office of National Senior Vice-Commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Delphine Metcalf-Foster elected as National Senior Vice-Commander. (Applause) Thank you. I'm gone. (Laughter)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Dennis Nixon for the office of National First Junior Vice-Commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I will close the nominations and declare Dennis Nixon elected as National First Junior Vice-Commander. (Applause) Thank you.

The Nominating Committee has nominated Stephen "Butch" Whitehead for the office of National Second Junior Vice-Commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I will close the nominations and declare Stephen "Butch" Whitehead elected National Second Junior Vice-Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Donald Day for the office of National Third Junior Vice-Commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Donald Day elected National Third Junior Vice-Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Andy Marshall for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice-Commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

(Whereupon, a delegate called out "No" from the audience, followed by laughter.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Sounds like you're scared back there, Florida. (Laughter) Maybe while I've got the body here I should succeed myself. (Laughter) All right, if there are no further nominations I will close the nominations and declare Andy Marshall elected as National Fourth Junior Vice-Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Michael E. Dobmeier for the office of National Judge Advocate. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Michael E. Dobmeier elected as National Judge Advocate. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Michael Dover for the office of National Chaplain. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Michael Dover elected as National Chaplain. (Applause)

And I will now instruct the National Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for these officers.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I, Marc Burgess, National Adjutant of DAV, cast one unanimous ballot for Delphine Metcalf-Foster of California for National Senior Vice-Commander; Dennis Nixon of Texas for National First Junior Vice-Commander;

Stephen "Butch" Whitehead of Minnesota for National Second Junior Vice-Commander; Donald Day of New York for National Third Junior Vice-Commander; Andy Marshall of Florida for National Fourth Junior Vice-Commander; Mike Dobmeier of North Dakota for National Judge Advocate; and Michael Dover of Georgia for National Chaplain. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Marc. At this time I would like to call on National Commander-Elect David Riley for remarks. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER-ELECT DAVID W. RILEY: Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

COMMANDER-ELECT RILEY: First, I want to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to Moses McIntosh. Serving with you on the National Line is an honor. And I want you to know that I believe our organization is a great place because of your leadership. (Applause)

The position of trust our members have placed in me is a distinction I will never take for granted.

Moses, thank you for your mentorship, friendship, and for an incredible year of service as National Commander. (Applause)

And I would also like to thank Adjutant Marc Burgess for his leadership and for the work he and his team have done alongside our members for crafting the opportunity we have to build upon our legacy.

I've been blessed throughout the years to have great mentors. I had originally invited some Coast Guard members. They must be on a case (undistinguishable) because they won't be here until tonight. (Laughter)

But I would like to recognize my family who is sitting in the front row: Major General William H. Riley, my father; (Applause) my mother, Patricia; (Applause) my daughter, Kaelin (Applause) and Krista; (Applause) and my wife, Yvonne, who most of you already know. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mrs. Riley attempted to give Commander-Elect Riley a message.)

COMMANDER-ELECT RILEY: I don't know. I can't hear you. All right, the Eighth District, I want to also thank you. Without your help I would have not made it here. Please, stand and be recognized, our people from Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee.

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

COMMANDER-ELECT RILEY: Oh, I completely forgot to recognize my son Logan. (Laughter) Others, like Commander McIntosh, Ron Hope, Chad Richmond, Bill Baker, and Adjutant Burgess have encouraged me and inspired me to better serve the organization.

Since my injury, I've made a conscious attempt to reach out to younger veterans with similar injuries to try and mentor and help them through the road I've already traveled. They, too, are in my thoughts and in my heart as I speak with you today.

I think it's important to tell everyone about my goals in representing the DAV. First, and most importantly, we will continue to provide a lifetime of support to veterans and their families.

Our services, provided at no cost to veterans, are our beacon. That's the heart of why we exist. DAV Service Officers and our volunteers on the frontline are the foundation of what we do.

We will continue to be the leading voice for the unique issues concerning our sisters-in-arms—our returning female veterans. (Applause)

We will march forward with new innovations surrounding the needs of returning veterans and their search for meaningful employment.

With Adjutant Burgess' help, it's my intent to continue the right on behalf of veterans currently being left behind.

Our veterans who were injured prior to 9/11 are not entitled to the same caregiver benefits as those injured after under the current law. But we will not rest until that is changed. (Applause)

During the coming year we must remain a powerful force of advocacy for veterans. We'll make every effort to keep the promises made by our country to the ill and injured veterans and their families to ensure that they receive the benefits they've earned and deserve.

We must continue to use the voices of our 1.3 million members to plainly tell lawmakers that we expect them to fully fund the VA to provide health care and benefits veterans have earned.

When a man or a woman raises their hand and says, "Send me" when our nation calls, no one here knows better than us that they're writing a blank check to our country. The ultimate payment could be their lives.

For those who have sacrificed for our country and their survivors we must insist on a strong VA and health care system to meet their needs.

When our nation's bravest return changed from military service, DAV is here to help shoulder the load. We ensure veterans do not get left behind.

I intend to continue addressing subjects like access to quality health care, accurate and timely disposition of disability claims, and improving programs that strengthen the lives of veterans and their families.

DAV, beyond any measure, is the absolute best veterans' service organization in the world. (Applause) That mission is accomplished through our service offices, Chapters and volunteers. But I must thank the National Executive Committee, the DAV Board of Directors, our professional staff members, and our partners in the Auxiliary for providing the strength needed to accomplish our mission.

I have confidence in each of you and I will count on your support and expertise as we continue fighting for veterans and their families. I'm depending on you as colleagues and fellow veterans to help us all succeed.

You have my deepest thanks for your continued work of service and advocacy for veterans and their families. And I will hope you join me as we continue to move forward.

May we continue to succeed in our sacred mission. May God bless the DAV, who we represent. And may God bless all of you all. Thank you very much. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Commander McIntosh placed the National Commander's cap on the head of Commander-Elect Riley, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: At this time I'd like Dave Riley's family to the stage.

(Whereupon, Commander-Elect Riley's family advanced to the stage at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Sorry, I just brought you up here for a quick photo op. (Laughter) At this time, National Senior Vice-Elect Delphine Metcalf-Foster, front and center for your remarks. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER: Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT METCALF-FOSTER: First of all I'd like to thank God for my life. (Applause) I'd like to thank God. I'd like to thank the Nominating Committee for having the trust in me to continue the work that I have done with the DAV in the last 26 years.

I'd like to thank my family, my daughter and my son-in-law that's here today and my daughter that had a heart transplant that was not here today but I know her prayers are with me.

I'd like to thank our leadership under the direction of Marc Burgess and Headquarters staff for always being there for me and, of course, I want to hear from my State of California. I'd like to thank you. (Applause) Okay. All right. Thank you. Thank you.

I will continue, as I stated, with my work that I have started with the DAV on fulfilling the promises of the men and women who have served with respect and dignity. I love you all. Anything that I can do for you, please let me know.

And I want you to know, Commander Riley, I have your back and all the Line Officers also. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: At this time will Delphine's family please come to the stage. That includes you, too, Kurt. Come on.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice-Commander-Elect Metcalf-Foster's family advanced to the stage, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Next, our National First Junior Vice-Commander Dennis Nixon, will you please come to the stage. (Applause) You know, I thought everything was supposed to be bigger in Texas or louder in Texas but you all sounded real weak. (Cheers)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT DENNIS NIXON: Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT NIXON: What Delphine said, ditto. Thank you. (Laughter) No, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Nominating Committee and, most importantly, this entire delegation for the confidence they showed in electing me to this office.

I most certainly appreciate Moses and Marc, Barry, Garry, for their guidance and leadership. But I want to especially recognize the Texas delegation (Applause) and my wife, Maxine. Thank you all. (Applauses)

And I do want to echo what Delphine said. If there is anything I can do for any of you at any time, you just let me know. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: At this time I'll ask Ms. Nixon to come to the stage. Where is she at, Dennis?

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT NIXON: Playing on her cell phone.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: I don't believe you just rolled your wife under the bus. (Laughter) Do I need to put it in reverse? (Laughter)

(Whereupon, Mrs. Nixon advanced to the stage, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Dennis. And, again, congratulations. At this time I want to ask my National Second Junior Vice-Commander-Elect Stephen "Butch" Whitehead. (Applause)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT STEPHEN "BUTCH" WHITEHEAD: Well, just like Delphine and Dennis said, "Ditto." But Dennis beat me to the punch. Thanks, Dennis. (Laughter) But I truly want to thank my huge family that's out in front of me for truly believing in me and everything I want to do for this great organization.

I would not be here if it was not for each and every one of you here. So thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you do for our veterans and their families.

My wife had to go home early today for work so I'm thanking her so everybody here can remind her next time you see her that I did thank her. (Laughter) But, also, our great State of Minnesota, Fourteenth District, thank you for everything you have done for me. I really, really, appreciate it. (Applause)

Commander Riley, you need anything, don't hesitate to call. We've got a great line. We're here for you. And we're here for each and every one of you. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: At this time I'd like to ask the National Third Junior Vice-Commander-Elect Donald Day to the stage. (Applause)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT DONALD DAY: First, I'd like to thank everyone here because DAV is a membership organization and without the leadership who is here right now, well, the clock just wouldn't tick.

I would also like to thank the Nominating Committee for taking a good, hard look at the record because what you've done in the past and what you're doing in the present is a true indication of what you will do in the future.

Now I'm going to the Empire State. (Applause) New York, District 2, it's you. (Applause)

You saw this through. I'd like to thank my family. Both of my grown children are not here because they finally got a job. (Laughter) But, truly, there is always that one person in your life and in mine five days ago she became my bride of 35 years, my wife, Jameione. (Applause)

And let's just always keep in mind who and what we are doing here. We are working for our disabled veterans and their families. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: I would like to ask Mrs. Day to come forward to the stage, please. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mrs. Day advanced to the stage, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Next, I would like our National Fourth Junior Vice-Commander-Elect Andy Marshall, front and center. (Applause)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT ANDY H. MARSHALL: Well, good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT MARSHALL: I am overwhelmed. First, I would like to thank a person who after it was decided I would seek this office who stood behind me and encourage me, my wife, Susan. (Applause)

I am very fortunate enough to have two gentlemen go to your district meetings and the Nominating Committee with me and one of them was my campaign chairman, Jim Sursely, Past National Commander and Past National Commander Albert Linden. Thank you. (Applause)

And, of course, the best Department in the country, the Department of Florida. (Applause)

All the other officers being elected, if there is anything I can do for you, let me know. David, I will strongly support you to get that law overturned to ensure caregivers are for everybody. (Applause)

And I will commit to you that I will remain steadfast to DAV's mission statement of providing high quality lives to allow veterans to lead them with respect and dignity. Thank you. (Applause) Thank you, Commander.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Susan, you already was thinking what I was thinking. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, Mrs. Marshall advanced to the stage, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you, Andy, and thank you, Susan. Now, I would like to call our National Judge Advocate Michael E. Dobmeier to the stage. (Applause)

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER: Sandy, you'd better start up here now. (Laughter) She's—I have to explain this. She gets a new knee when we get home so she's having a little trouble getting around.

But I'm here to tell you this doesn't get old. But nobody up here takes it for granted. We work together to make things better for veterans. And I'm just so proud to be a part of it. Thank you all for your confidence. Thank you to the 14th District for your unending support. And Commander Dave, we've got your back, we've got your sides and, if necessary, your belt loop. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: I'd like to ask Sandy Dobmeier to come to the stage. Oh, you're fast. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, Mrs. Dobmeier advanced to the stage, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you, Mike and Sandy. Now, Georgia's own—(Laughter) you know after that big party last night that's kind of embarrassing—Ninth District's own National Chaplain Michael Dover. (Applause)

CHAPLAIN-ELECT MICHAEL DOVER: Commander Riley, just a preface to the year that we're going to have. When you assign your Chaplain to do something I don't know what is going to come out of his mouth so good luck with that. (Laughter)

To the Nominating Committee, I appreciate your trust and confidence in my abilities. And I want to personally thank my friend and Immediate Past National Commander Moses McIntosh who opened the door for me, saw something in me that I didn't see in myself, and here we are. You have one more year with me. And I'm sorry. (Laughter)

My wife could not be here tonight because she, in all seriousness, is bedridden. And my orders to my 30-year old son and 35-year old daughter was, before I left to come up here, was that "Your mother will want for nothing."

And I've been calling her day in the morning and in the evening to make sure she is doing okay. And she got out of bed for about three hours yesterday. And she's got physical therapy I'll be taking her to tomorrow. I wish she was here. She had intended to come.

But for those of you who have been praying for her and have told me so, thank you so much. And thank you for the love and care and encouragement you have given me during this time. I appreciate each and every one of you.

And in talking with you during this time, I have learned some valuable lessons. The first lesson is I am not as old as I look on that banner. (Laughter) And the second issue is you have another year to allow me to practice not being so shy and I'm going to try and overcome that.

Thank you very much, all of you. (Applause) Commander.

(Whereupon, an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Tom, are you still interviewing for a chief-of-staff job? (Laughter) By the way, I want to introduce my chief-of-staff. He wasn't here when I introduced my officer-of-the-day and my sergeant-at-arms. He was missing in action. Stand up. (Applause)

At this time I will entertain a motion to discharge the Credentials Committee. Do I hear a motion?

DR. RABA: Mic 1.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Mic 1.

DR. RABA: Dr. Raba, Chapter 6, State of California, does so motion.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: May I have a second? Mic 2.

MR. ROBERT SADDORIS: Sadoris, Senior Vice-Commander, the great State of Minnesota, I second that motion.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor please signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

National Adjutant Burgess, will you please read the list of newly-elected National Executive Committee members.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: The following members have been elected to the National Executive Committee for the two-year term 2016 to 2018: District 2, Chester Wisnesky of New York; (Applause) District 4, Jim Kopley of New Jersey; (Applause) District 6, Idalis Marquez of Puerto Rico; (Applause) District 8, Johnnie Carver of Tennessee; (Applause) District 10, James Dempsey of Michigan; (Applause) District 12, Al Reynolds of Illinois; (Applause) District 14, David Valtinson of Minnesota; (Applause) District 16, Michael Steinbaugh of California; (Applause) District 18, Richard Walker of Nevada; (Applause) and District 20, Percy Spence of Texas. (Applause)

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Believe it or not, this 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 that we just read off, the National Executive Committee will meet immediately following adjournment of the Convention, in just a few minutes, in Regency VI, Ballroom Level on Lower Level 1. We will meet immediately concluding the adjournment of this Convention. A swearing-in ceremony will be held at that time. NEC Alternates should also attend this swearing-in ceremony.

The Board of Directors will meet immediately following the NEC meeting in Regency VII, Ballroom Level on Level 1.

The presentation of the National Officers will begin at 6:30 this evening right here in the Centennial Ballroom, followed by dinner. So come, enjoy, meet the new Line Officers and have a great time.

COMMANDER MCINTOSH: I will call on Chaplain Dover. Would you please lead us in the closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Ladies and gentlemen, let us pray. Heavenly Creator, help us to remember that freedom does not automatically propitiate itself, that we have to work at it, nurture it, protect it and pray for it. Let us be ever mindful that freedom needs our attention and our cooperation.

Be with us now as we go about our daily lives and let us never forget to reflect Your loving kindness on all those whom we meet. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Thank you.

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Thank you, Chaplain. Retire the Colors.

(Whereupon, the Colors were retired by the Hall County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard.)

COMMANDER McINTOSH: Before we adjourn, I want to personally recognize the Hall County Honor Guard for an outstanding job.

Ladies and gentlemen, the 95th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans is now adjourned. We'll see you next year in New Orleans. (Applause)

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned on Wednesday, August 3, 2016, at 2:24 o'clock, p.m.)

- - -

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
94TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
HYATT REGENCY ATLANTA HOTEL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
July 31, 2016
First Business Session**

- - -

The First Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Regency VII Ballroom on Lower Level I of the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, on Sunday afternoon, July 1, 2016, and was called to order at 2:01 o'clock, p.m., by National Adjutant Patricia S. Kemper.

ADJUTANT PATRICIA S. KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms please have National Chaplain Aura-Lee Nicodemus escorted to the platform. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Chaplain Aura-Lee Nicodemus was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Judge Advocate Donna Adams. (Applause) National Judge Advocate Donna Adams.

(Whereupon, Judge Advocate Donna M. Adams was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Fourth Junior Vice-Commander Lynn Helms Prosser. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Fourth Junior Vice-Commander Lynn Helms Prosser was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Third Junior Vice-Diane Franz. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice-Commander Diane Franz was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Second Junior Vice-Commander Ellen Timmerman. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Second Junior Vice-Commander Ellen Timmerman was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National First Junior Vice-Commander Craig Johniken. (Applause)

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice-Commander William Craig Johniken was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Senior Vice-Commander Fran Costa. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Senior Vice-Commander Frances J. Costa was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Immediate Past National Commander LeeAnn Karg. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Immediate Past Commander LeeAnn B. Karg was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please have National Convention Chairperson Cherya Causey escorted to the platform. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Convention Committee Chairperson Cherya Causey was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, present and post the State Colors of Georgia.

(Whereupon, the Colors for the State of Georgia were presented and posted.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, present the National Colors.

(Whereupon, the National Colors were presented.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, post the Colors.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS KARLA A. SCHWARTZ: Post Colors.

(Whereupon, the National Colors were posted.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, dismiss the Color Bearers.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: Dismissed.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: We will now have the prayer by National Chaplain Aura-Lee Nicodemus.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Aura-Lee Nicodemus advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN AURA-LEE NICODEMUS: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for bringing us safely here together. We thank You for all the dedication and commitment of our officers and of the members who have traveled from around the United States to be here.

We ask a special blessing on the Stake family as they stay home and take care of each other.

We ask a blessing upon our troops in harm's way, that You will care for each and every one. In Your name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," after which Chaplain Nicodemus withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: We will now be led in the Pledge of Allegiance by National Americanism Chairperson Diane Franz.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice-Commander and National Americanism Chairperson Diane Franz advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM CHAIRPERSON DIANE J. FRANZ: Free your hands. Place your right hand over your heart or render the appropriate salute and join in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice-Commander and Americanism Chairperson Franz led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which she withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Please 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, Patricia S. Kemper, National Auxiliary Adjutant, declare the 94th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary be convened in Atlanta, Georgia.

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.

Now at this time of the Convention, the first opening session, it is the National Adjutant's honor to introduce the National Commander. So, before I introduce the presiding officer, National Senior Vice-Commander Fran Costa, I want to just make a few remarks.

I believe everybody in this room knows that we lost our beloved National Commander on Tuesday, just days ago. And we've all heard the phrase, "Cry a river" and we know that's a little bit of an exaggeration but I think collectively the people in this room and the people in this organization have cried a river of tears.

We will miss her. It's not going to be easy but we are going to do what she wanted to do. She looked so forward to this National Convention. Even as recent as two weeks ago she said, "I am going to be there. I will get there one way or another."

So let's just think of it as she is here, she is with us in spirit. And we are going to do what she would want us to do. We are going to enjoy this Convention. And we are going to conduct our business as she would want us to. She is with us and we will celebrate her life while we are here.

So, with that, it is my honor—why don't we do a moment of silence thinking of our leader, Linda Stake.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence in honor of National Commander Linda S. Stake was observed.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay. Now, I will introduce National Senior Vice-Commander Frances Costa. Fran.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice-Commander Frances J. Costa advanced to the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER FRANCES J. COSTA: Good afternoon, everyone.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: I hope I do Linda proud and run this Convention the way that she would. It's hard to preside over something in someone else's stead. And I'd like to just welcome everybody and let's all be considerate of each other, listen to each other and we will have a successful Convention.

And now for her greetings, our National Convention Chairperson, Cherya Causey.

(Whereupon, Convention Chairperson Cherya Causey advanced to the podium.)

CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON CHERYA CAUSEY: Welcome to the first, the National First Business Session of the Auxiliary meeting. And I would like to address Fran Costa and the Immediate Past National Commander LeeAnn Karg, the National Line Officers, Chaplain, Auxiliary Adjutant, Assistant Adjutant, the National Past Department Commander, outstanding member, the National Judge Adjutant, Executive Committee members, Finance Committee, program chairmen and appointees, everyone from the state representative, their state lines, unit, chapter lines, veterans, visitors and friends, welcome to Georgia. (Applause)

I am so glad that you have come to the 95th 2016 National Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary Convention here in Atlanta.

We welcome you to the great Peach State of Georgia. Atlanta is the home of world attractions. By the way, my speech will be a little different from Tincie. (Laughter) She's spicy and I'm kind of laid-back. (Laughter)

Okay, the Atlanta Braves are here, the Atlanta Falcons, the Atlanta Hawks, home of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Phillips Atlanta, Michael C. Carlos Museum, the Atlanta Ballet, Zoo Atlanta, Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum, Fernbank Museum, the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, home of the (undistinguishable), yay, (Laughter), the Sun Dial Restaurant—and I could continue on and on and on but we don't have that time. (Laughter)

But to start things off, please stand. Everybody, please stand. I'm going to work you, okay? (Laughter) I want you to turn to your left and introduce yourself, and show respect to that person, and to the right.

(Whereupon, the membership introduced themselves to each other.)

CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON CAUSEY: Then you all be seated. See, you thought I was going to say right then left. Okay. Now everybody be seated back there.

Okay, today the weather for this Convention will be partly cloudy but we hope before the week is out that we will have a lot of sunshine and it will be beautiful. The high today is supposed to be 91 and hot.

But some things that I want to go over—this is basic stuff—we ask that when you go out of the hotel, like if you're going to visit some of the places, you go in groups of two or more and don't wear your Convention tags as that will identify you to the people that you pass that you're not familiar with your surroundings.

Let someone know if you go out where you are going and, you know, approximately when you will be back. And that way they can kind of make sure you come back. (Laughter)

And we want you to have a good time and be safe. And be observant of your surroundings. Needs to be applied to any large city that you go into, especially here.

And if you are interested in the places that are located within a mile of this hotel, you can go to the lobby Concierge Desk and ask for a sheet—an 8 by 10 sheet, and it's two-sided.

And it lists places that you can visit. There are 17 items on the sheet. And it not only shows you the places, where they are located, it provides a listing of transportation and approximate costs.

And it is advisable to call ahead, one day early, and ask about how long the wait times are and time, the prices and if they have a veterans' discount. Don't forget that.

But there are Hyatt maps located on the walls of the hotel that will show you basically where the places are located like from where you are standing and that way you know what direction, the correct direction to go in.

But just quickly, to tell you what is on the sheet, it talks about Apex Museum, the Georgia State Capitol, Centennial Olympic Park, Skyview Gondola, (undistinguishable) Center, the Fox Theater, the Georgia Dome, Imagine It Children's Museum, the Margaret Mitchell House, the Martin Luther King Junior Center for Nonviolent Social Change, the Georgia Aquarium, Underground Atlanta, and the World of Coke. And the prices are shown on the sheet. It tells you the taxi prices or directions.

We are so happy that you came to Atlanta for the National Disabled American Veterans Convention. Relax, have a good time, and enjoy your stay. And y'all come back to see us. (Laughter)

May God bless you all. (Applause) Thank you.

(Whereupon, Convention Committee Chairperson Causey withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Let's see if I can get my stuff together. (Laughter) They all make fun of my Massachusetts accent. (Laughter) Well, there is Maine-iacs, though.

It is now my pleasure to introduce the Past National Commanders who are present. We will begin with Jane Troutman; (Applause) Carol Gray; (Applause) Renee Jones; (Applause) Linda Trulio; (Applause) Judy Steinhouse; (Applause) Donna Tanner; (Applause) Sandy Dobmeier; (Applause) Susan Henry; (Applause) Donna Adams; (Applause) Susan Miller; (Applause) and LeeAnn Karg. (Applause)

(Whereupon, as their names were called each Past National Commander stood and acknowledged the audience.)

COMMANDER COSTA: It's nice to see so many here this year. I would like to now acknowledge the state delegates. Alabama, Geneva McRay, Commander; (Applause) Arizona, Carol Rundell, Past State Commander; (Applause) Arkansas, Margaret Scott, Commander; (Applause) California, Samantha Galliher, Commander; (Applause) Colorado, Cheryl Edwards, Commander; (Applause) Delaware, Mary Wischmann, Senior Vice-Commander; (Applause) Florida, Irene Stevens, Commander; (Applause) Georgia, Dorothy Guzman, Commander; (Applause) Idaho, Sienna Stewart, First Junior Vice; (Applause) Illinois, Evelyn Couture, Commander; (Applause) Indiana, Arthur Fraudendorfer; (Applause) is there anyone here from Iowa; Kansas, Ardith Dillard, Commander; (Applause) Kentucky, Sharon Martin, Commander; (Applause) Louisiana, Kathy Wenthe, Commander; (Applause) Maine, Sylvia Heath; (Applause) Maryland, Deborah Carns, Commander; (Applause) Massachusetts, Ann Marie Hurley, Commander; (Applause) Michigan, Christina Alexander, Commander; (Applause) Minnesota, Linda Wenzel, Senior Vice-Commander; (Applause) Mississippi, Sandra Simpson, Commander; (Applause) Missouri, Mary Montgomery, Commander; (Applause) Montana, Darlene Hopper, Commander; (Applause) Nebraska, John Kenney, Commander; (Applause) Nevada, Carolyn Walker, Adjutant; (Applause) New Hampshire,—is Jerilyn Maynard here?

(Response of "No.")

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: New Jersey, Linda Applegate; (Applause) New Mexico, Victoria Salazar, Commander; (Applause) New York, Marion Sawdey, Commander; (Applause) North Carolina, Linda Childers, Commander; (Applause) North Dakota, Joyce Stuber, Commander; (Applause) Ohio, Carol Parker-Park, Commander; (Applause) Oklahoma, Joni Bundy, Commander; (Applause) Oregon, Jerald Royse Senior, Commander; (Applause) Pennsylvania, Laurie Stopyra, Adjutant; (Applause) Rhode Island, Deborah Burrows, Commander; (Applause) South Carolina, Clyrissa Brown, Commander; (Applause) Tennessee, Susan Evans, Commander; (Applause) Texas, Anita Lee, Commander; (Applause) Utah, June Schow, Adjutant; (Applause) Vermont, Lorraine Lyons, State Judge Advocate; (Applause) Virginia, Charlotte Roberts, Commander; (Applause) Washington, Carol Courreges, Commander; (Applause) Wisconsin, Carrie Willems, Commander; (Applause) Wyoming, Nancy Coffey, Commander; (Applause) and Puerto Rico, Anna Torres, Past State Commander. (Applause)

(Whereupon, as the representatives' names were called, they stood and were recognized.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: At this time I would like to call on Past National Commander Donna Adams to bring greetings.

(Whereupon, Judge Advocate and Past National Commander Donna Adams advanced to the podium.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DONNA M. ADAMS: Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

JUDGE ADVOCATE AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: To all our National Officers, Past National Commanders, our wonderful Adjutant and Assistant Adjutant, and to all of you wonderful delegates out there, welcome to the 94th Auxiliary National Convention.

It is with pleasure and with sorrow that I stand before you. Normally this is the time that we welcome our outgoing Commander and present her with a gift. I assure you that that will be sent to Linda's family.

As Pat said, we are going to buck it up and do our best here. And, again, would all the Past National Commanders just stand up and turn around if you are able to.

(Whereupon, the Past National Commanders stood and faced the audience, at which time they received a round of applause.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: You know, last year I was at our National Convention and one of our members from Florida had lost her son. And I went up to her and I said, "I don't want to cause any more hurt but I am so very sorry." And she said, "You know, I want people to remember him and talk to him."

Well, us National Commanders are the same way. We want people to come up and talk to us and remember that we aren't—we aren't "has beens" but we are "once weres." Okay. (Laughter)

And so please during the Convention if you don't know any of our Past National Commanders or, you know, if you have a—please go up and introduce yourself and make us still feel like we are somebody.

In the meantime, I wish you all a wonderful Convention. The Convention is only as good as what you put into it. And is this going to be one of our best?

Congratulations to all of you who are representing your units and your departments. And I thank you for the opportunity to bring greetings. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Judge Advocate and Past National Commander Adams withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Do you have to be so tall? (Laughter)

JUDGE ADVOCATE AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: I could (undistinguishable) a stool. (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: I've been that route today. (Laughter) At this time I would like to recognize any first-time attendees that are here in the hall today. Please stand and remain standing and first-timer ribbons will be passed out. (Applause)

(Whereupon, first-time attendees stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: This is wonderful, wonderful. Hey, Rich. Could some of the juniors in the back of the room come and assist, please, and NEC pages if you are able to assist. Please pass them out to people who are standing. They are here for the first time.

(Whereupon, first-time attendees were handed ribbons.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Once you receive your ribbon could you please be seated so the children know who has already received them.

(Whereupon, first-time attendees were seated after they received their ribbons.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Do we have everyone? Thank you. Thank you very much for assisting.

At this time I have the privilege of recognizing our Past National Commanders' Outstanding Member of the Year recipient, Matilda Brooks of New York. (Applause) Matilda, where are you? There you are. (Whereupon, Mrs. Brooks stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Anyone making or seconding a motion must go to the microphone, please, and state your name, unit, the state department, or they may not be recognized. Since our reporter hears this information through his or her headphones we need everyone's attention to that little detail.

Credentials report, Dorothy Guzman.

(Whereupon, Convention Credentials Committee Chairperson Dorothy Guzman advanced to the podium.)

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON DOROTHY GUZMAN: Fran, you found someone as short as you. I don't have to move the mic. (Laughter) Good afternoon and welcome to Atlanta.

National Officers, delegates and guests, the Credentials report is as follows. The total units registered, 156; total Departments registered, 39; National Officers registered, 4; Past National Commanders registered, 9; total guests registered, 170; total registered, 501.

Commander, National Officers, I move that we accept—Total delegates, 298; total alternates, 20; and then, again, the total registered was 501; and the total vote count is 1,093.

I move that—departments? National Officers that were registered is 4; total departments registered was 39. Do you want me to read this one more time?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's wrong.

(Whereupon, the Credentials Committee report was reviewed.)

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON GUZMAN: All right, we will start all over again. (Laughter) Total units registered, 156; total departments registered, 39; National Officers registered, 4; Past National Commanders registered 9; total guests registered, 170; total delegates, 298; total alternates, 20; total vote count is 1,093; total registered is 501.

I move that we accept the Credentials report.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: We have a motion to accept the preliminary report of the Credentials Committee. Is there a second?

MS. TERESITA MOREY: Tess Morey, Michigan, I second it.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Tess Morey, from Michigan, second. All in favor; any opposed. They ayes have it and the motion carries.

(Whereupon, Convention Credentials Chairperson Guzman withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: The first order of business is the adoption of the National Convention Rules. Printed copies of the Convention Rules have been furnished to all registered delegates. The Chair will now entertain a motion for adoption of these rules.

MRS. SYLVIA HEATH: Sylvia Heath, State of Maine, I so move.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: We have a motion to accept. Do we hear a second?

MRS. IRIS BRZEZINSKI: Iris Brzezinski, State Department of Nevada, Sunrise Mountain Unit 13, I second that motion.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. We have a motion and a second. All in favor; anyone opposed. The ayes have it and the motion carries.

May I have a motion to accept the agenda subject to changes?

MRS. HEATH: Sylvia Heath, State of Maine, I so move.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: We have a motion. Do I have a second?

MR. JERRY ROYSE: Jerry Royse, State of Oregon, I second.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Jerry Royse, State of Washington. Okay. We have a motion and a second. All in favor—Jerry, did you say Washington or Oregon?

MR. ROYSE: Oregon.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Oregon. Thank you. We're a little hard of hearing up here. Okay. We have a motion and a second. Is everyone in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

I will now call on the Finance Committee Chairperson, Rose Williams, for the National Finance Committee report and Budget Review.

(Whereupon, Finance Committee Chairperson Rose Williams advanced to the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: I did hear someone's phone. That I hear. Could you please silence your phones, either put them on vibrate or mute them so that it doesn't interfere with the order of business. Thank you.

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON ROSE WILLIAMS: National Senior Vice-Commander Fran Costa, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates, family and friends, good afternoon. (Response of "Good afternoon.")

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: The National Finance Committee meeting was held April 9th, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. at the Hilton Cincinnati Airport in Florence, Kentucky.

The voting members of the Committee present were Linda Stake, National Commander; Sylvia Heath, District 3 NEC; Linda Bailey, District 8 NEC; Breanna Chandler, District 15 NEC; and myself, Rose Williams, District 12 NEC.

Those present without a vote were National Senior Vice-Commander Frances Costa; National Adjutant Pat Kemper; and National Assistant Adjutant Bunny Clos.

The purpose of the meeting was to set up and adopt a budget for the 2017 year.

Due to an entry error discovered on the budget spreadsheet several weeks later the Committee reconvened in an online meeting via Go-To-Meeting on May 31st, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. and promptly addressed and resolved the discrepancy.

All Committee members were present as well as non-voting members—National Senior Vice-Commander Frances Costa, National Adjutant Pat Kemper, and National Adjutant, Assistant Adjutant Bunny Clos.

At this time I would like to thank the Committee for their—the Committee and the staff for all of their help.

The budget was included in your registration packets and at this time I move for the adoption of the budget.

MRS. HEALTH: Sylvia Heath, State of Maine, I second.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: A motion has been made and seconded to accept the Finance Committee budget. Is there any discussion? I can read lips, Sylvia. (Laughter) I can read lips. (Laughter)

Okay, the motion has been made and seconded to approve the budget. All in favor; anyone opposed. The ayes have it and the motion carries. Okay, thank you.

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Finance Committee Chairperson Williams withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: National Adjutant Pat Kemper will read the report of the National Commander Linda Stake.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper advanced to the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: When Linda realized she was not going to be in attendance she called and asked me if I would read this report for her, so this is the National Commander year-end report of Linda Stake, and it goes:

"National Adjutant Pat Kemper, Assistant Adjutant Bunny Clos, National Officers, National Executive Committee members, Past National Commanders, members and guests.

"When I first joined DAV Auxiliary I never dreamed that I would someday hold the esteemed title of National Commander. As my passion for the organization and the veterans and the families we serve grew, my life path journeyed along a course that would lead to my election on August 11th, 2015.

"Saying it has been a great honor to serve in this capacity would be an understatement as there are no words to truly describe how amazingly rewarding my term as National Commander has been.

"I owe this incredible experience to my family and to you, the members of this great organization.

"On September 7th I had the most wonderful opportunity to travel to Pittsburgh and participate in the annual Caring and Sharing Boat Ride for hospitalized veterans.

"This is a spectacular four-day event sponsored by the Pittsburgh VA, several veterans' organizations, corporate sponsors, and the city.

"Each day there are over 250 veterans onboard. As veterans await boarding, a band is playing, 'Spanky the Clown' is doing his routine, and members of different military organizations are greeting veterans.

"Once everyone is on board the fun continues, along with Elvis and Cher impersonators.

"When I arrived in Pittsburgh I was met by NSO Scott Hope and his son Daxton, a beautiful 19-month old. We had a great visit on the way to the hotel. Thank you Scott and Dax for your warm welcome.

"Laurie Stopyra met me at the hotel and accompanied me during my time there. Some of us were called 'VIPs'—she put that in quotes—and asked to come and introduce ourselves. I was so happy to represent you, the DAV Auxiliary.

"Later the VIPs passed out flags to the veterans, joined them in a tasty lunch, and cruised the three rivers. Yes, three rivers.

"We began on the Monongahela, then up the Allegheny, and finally came to the point where the two rivers confluence to form the Ohio River.

"At that point, as DAVA National Commander, I joined the Am Vet State Commander and Am Vets Auxiliary State Madam President to toss a wreath into the river to honor our deceased veterans.

"The veterans were given 'caring and sharing' gift bags before departing. They had a wonderful day and so did I.

"Laurie Stopyra, Diane Freeman and I had a wonderful few days while I was in Pittsburgh. And on the last night of my stay we met at the DAVA—we met the DAVA State Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, and State Adjutant of the Department of Pennsylvania for a marvelous dinner and comradeship.

"If you have a chance, please visit historical Pittsburgh, the City of Bridges. In a 2006 study it was determined that Pittsburgh has a total of 446 bridges. The place is beautiful.

"After returning to Arkansas on September 12th, State Commander Lily Williams and I attended the DAV and DAV Auxiliary Annual Picnic of Doctor Gannon Unit 3. This annual event is held at the Fayetteville Veterans' Park.

"Thank you DAV and Auxiliary for making us feel so welcome and feeding us so well. I want to commend you for all the hard work you did, you do to support our veterans. You are great.

"Located in Fayetteville is one of our VA hospitals and the infamous Razorbacks—Go Hogs.

"The National Fall Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, was fantastic. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves, gained a lot of knowledge and gathered many new ideas to take home to your state departments, units and membership.

"It takes a lot of time, hard work and much stress to put a conference together. It is almost miraculous when it all comes together without too many glitches.

"National Executive Committee members, you had many decisions to make and you all did a wonderful job getting the business done.

"National Chairmen, what wonderful programs we enjoyed. I received comments from many members saying that all programs were great.

"Thank you for all the hard work, thought and creativity that went into each of your programs. They were fun and meaningful.

"It is always great seeing the Past National Commanders in attendance at the National Fall Conference.

"To the members in attendance, I cannot thank you enough for being there. It is the members that makes our organization successful. Because of you it was a successful conference.

"November is such a special time of year. Two holidays make it even more special—Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving. It is a month to be thankful for our many blessings and a great time to honor our veterans and to thank them for our freedom.

"I attended two wonderful veterans' events during the month of November. The first was on November 6th. Joseph Didden, an Arkansas PDC, and now works in the office of Congressman Rick Crawford, U.S. Representative, called to make sure I was coming to Mountain View.

"The Stone Bank had its fourth annual Veterans' Day appreciation ceremony. The event opened with live music followed by a program with special guests, including U.S. Representative Rick Crawford, State Representative John Payton, and staff members representing other congressional offices, governor's office and myself as DAVA National Commander.

"Students from the Mountain View kindergarten class sang, the Stone Counted Quilters presented a beautiful quilt to a veteran, and Congressman Rick Crawford presented flags that were flown over the capitol honoring 12 veterans.

"A barbecue followed and the county showed their appreciation to the veterans and the veterans loved it.

"On November 9 to 11 I was in awe at the Veterans' Day activities in Birmingham, Alabama. This was a well-organized, non-stop three days of activities.

"Thank you DAVA State Adjutant Carolyn Harris, DAVA State Commander Danny Doss and Linda Doss for meeting me at the airport.

"We appreciate Chad Richmond who had everything scheduled for us. We knew exactly the time and place for all events.

"We had dinner that night at Dreamland Bar-B-Que. The next day we visited the VA hospital and new veterans' state home. An awards banquet was held followed an awards banquet was held followed the next day followed the next day by a World Peace luncheon.

"I was amazed that the head table consisted of 60 guests. There were three rows with 20 seats per row.

"On November 11th Alabama DAVA State Commander Danny Doss and I rode in the parade, driven down the parade route by the artillery group in a red pickup pulling a trailer with a cannon it. We sat on a seat in the front of the cannon.

"The most enjoyable part of the parade for me was waving and speaking to the people and thanking the veterans along the route.

"Another thing our group attended was a ceremony held in a park at the Raymond Weeks Memorial. He was the veteran who started the Veterans' Day parades. You can Google him and read a lot of interesting history on this.

"Thank you all members who showed your support to veterans in the hospitals, nursing homes and veterans' ceremonies on Veterans' Day.

"I hope everyone celebrated a wonderful Thanksgiving with family. We have a lot to be thankful for. Our men and women of the military appreciate you and so do I.

"January 2016, what a great year for new beginnings. First of all, let's begin with membership. It is so important to our organization.

"I asked that when you began the January meetings in 2016 to stress membership as a priority and that January is the month to plan the unit goals for the year.

"Preplanning is the key for getting things done. Always share your ideas so that they can be passed to others.

"In December 2015 I basically attended functions in Arkansas. My very favorite party was the Christmas party held at the VAMC in North Little Rock for hospitalized veterans.

"Each year units throughout Arkansas bake cookies, bring hors d'oeuvres, and serve with coffee or punch to veterans who attend the party. Entertainment is also provided.

"More than 100 veterans received a \$15 coupon booklet to spend on things they wanted or needed while hospitalized.

"Our nursing home veterans were remembered by my Unit Number 57. A treat bag, Christmas card, candy canes and a bottle of root beer decorated as a reindeer were given to 40 veterans in our two nursing homes.

"For our nine veterans living in Pine Mountain Veterans Home a \$10 Walmart gift card was given to each.

"I ended 2015 and brought in the new year of 2016 attending the Classic Melody Boys Quartet concert in Jacksonville, Arkansas.

"I want to thank the DAV Auxiliary, Department of Florida, for a wonderful Midwinter Conference. This conference was well-organized by State Adjutant Diane Franz, Commander Shirley Kirkland, line officers and chairmen.

"The programs were great and I believe everyone learned a lot of new things to take back to units. Thank you, Florida, for all you do.

"February was a great month for supporting our veterans. I know many of you had Valentine's Day parties for hospitalized and nursing home veterans.

"The nursing home veterans always love to see the DAV Auxiliary, whether it is a party or just visiting. It's a time for members to—quote—'make a difference.'

"I attended the national Veterans' Day activities on February 11th, 2016, at Fort Roots, the North Little Rock VAMC.

"When voluntary services chief Michael Dobbs introduced me as the DAVA National Commander, he said, and she quotes 'And the DAV is the organization that supplies transportation and brings veterans to their doctor appointments'—end quote.

"That was spectacular because many military organizations were there but the DAV was recognized. After speeches were over one gentleman came up to me and said, "We need a DAV van in Northeast Arkansas."

"What a wonderful few days on "The Hill" in our nation's capital. Many members of DAV and DAV Auxiliary attended the DAV Midwinter Conference.

"After arriving in Washington, D.C., I was honored to set a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Saturday, February 20th. That is one of the most touching and humbling experiences a commander can have.

"It was a special moment to engage in that experience with my three daughters accompanying me a memory we will always share.

"I am pleased that eight DAVA members from my unit attended Midwinter and saw the wreath presentation. That night we went on a night tour of the monuments.

"And if you have never done that, the next time you are in D.C. think about going on one of those tours. It was fantastic.

"I made remarks at the DAV C and A opening business session. It was enjoyable being in a room with so many of our American heroes. I attended the DAV workshops the rest of the day.

"The next day, after meeting with two of our Congressmen, the DAVA members from Arkansas took a tour of the Capitol hosted by Congressman Rick Crawford's aid, Rachael.

"When we passed by the Speaker of House's office, Rachael asked if she could take us out on the balcony. This is not something that is usually included in the Capitol tour and it was an awesome experience standing there looking over beautiful and historic Washington, D.C.

"The following day we visited the other members of Congress from Arkansas and ended with DAV National Commander Moses McIntosh presenting issues to the Joint Sessions of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. That evening the conference concluded with the DAV National Commander's Reception.

"After spending a night at the Houston airport it was good to arrive back home. Weather conditions were not cooperating with air travel; however, we made it home before noon the following day.

"April, what a busy time of travel for me. I traveled to Snowmass, Colorado for the 30th Annual National Disabled Veterans' Winter Sports Clinic, hosted by the VA and DAV.

"DAV Auxiliary is a Bronze Sponsor of this event. And I was excited to be there. I fully understand the descriptive phrase, "Miracle on a Mountainside" as many veterans were able to experience that true miracle.

"The views in that part of the country are breathtaking but not as awe-inspiring as seeing the smiles on those veterans' faces.

"I also attended the Auxiliary's National Finance Committee meeting in Florence, Kentucky, working with the Committee on preparing the 2017 budget. The Committee members worked diligently to achieve this goal.

"The Puerto Rico state convention was such fun and what a beautiful part of the world it is. I was met with wonderful Puerto Rican hospitality and was afforded the opportunity to visit many historical sites."

Excuse me a moment. (Coughing)

"On April 15th I was invited to speak at the Central Arkansas Veterans' Health Care System Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. What an honor it was to stand there among so many amazing volunteers from my home state. They presented me with a plaque that makes me smile just thinking about it.

"Although my testimonial dinner weekend plans went awry when I learned of the closing of the Mark Twain Riverboat just weeks before the scheduled event, we were able to locate another venue for everyone to attend and enjoy some good music and food.

"There was some two-stepping and down-home fun and I hope everyone enjoyed that evening as much as I did. My testimonial dinner was magical and humbling.

"So many friends from across the country came to celebrate this special event with me and showered me with their loving comments.

"It was a lovely setting and a night I will always remember, surrounded by friends and families. Thank you to all who were able to make it to the dinner and also to those who sent warm wishes for my special day.

"I attended the Annual Americanism Dinner program of Earnestine Schumann-Heink Auxiliary Unit 2 in Kansas City, Missouri. On April 28th I toured the World War I Museum in Kansas City which is packed with artifacts and such emotional and informative history.

"To enter the museum you cross a glass bridge above a field of poppies serving as a remembrance of the lives lost. If you have never visited this museum, I hope you get the opportunity to do so.

"I was also taken on a tour of the Kansas City VA hospital where they are making great strides for our ill and injured veterans.

"The Americanism Dinner program was an honor to attend. I'm just so proud of the members of our organization.

"From Kansas City I flew to Atlanta for DAV National Commander Moses McIntosh's testimonial. What an impressive celebration it was.

"I will take this opportunity to praise Moses for his contributions to the DAV and his staunch support of the DAVA. I know he will continue spreading the message of support for the Auxiliary. Moses, I love you.

"I traveled to Maine's state convention in Bangor. The beautiful scenery matches the hearts of our DAV and DAV Auxiliary members. From the north to south, my next convention was in Meridian, Mississippi. I want to thank the members in Maine and Mississippi for your gracious hospitality.

"Both conventions were successful and accomplished the business of the state departments. I wish you continued growth and success.

"I want to thank all of you for everything you do to make life easier for disabled American veterans and their families.

"It is you, the member, who makes our organization successful. Please keep recruiting and bringing in new members. DAV and DAV Auxiliary, nobody does it better. We are partners pulling together.

"I would be remiss if I did not thank my family since each of them has shared this journey. Not only have they supported me throughout the years they have walked with me and taken very active roles in the organization. I am so proud of them all.

"I also want to thank the National Officers, the NECs, the National Program Chairmen who accepted and mastered their respective program chairpersonships, and the DAVA Past National Commanders who have supported and mentored me along the way.

"And, finally, thank you, National Adjutant Pat Kemper, and the National Headquarters staff for all you do.

"This journey as National Commander has been an unforgettable and rewarding experience.

"I have been blessed tenfold with your warm friendships and want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to each and every DAV and DAV Auxiliary member.

"It has been an honor serving as National Commander of this great organization. May God bless all of you." (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper returned to her seat.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Very good. Very good. I move for the acceptance of Commander Stake's report. Do I hear a second?

MRS. BONNIE WHITE: Bonnie White, Unit 6, Department of Tennessee.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: I'm sorry, we didn't—

MRS. WHITE: Bonnie White, Unit 6, Chattanooga, Department of Tennessee.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Bonnie White.

MRS. WHITE: I second.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Bonnie, what is your last name? You're so soft we can't hear you up here.

MRS. WHITE: I am Bonnie White.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: White.

MRS. WHITE: W-h-i-t-e.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you.

MRS. WHITE: Okay. (Laughter) And that was my southern accent. (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. Thank you, Bonnie. We've had a motion and a second to accept the Commander's report. All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries. Thank you, Pat, for getting us through that.

We have a special guest at this moment. Could you bear with us for just one moment, please? Thank you for your patience. Okay, we had a guest but maybe that will be on for tomorrow.

At this time I would like to call on National VAVS Chairperson Nancy Mooney to approach the podium.

(Whereupon, National VAVS Chairperson Nancy O. Mooney advanced to the podium.)

VAVS CHAIRPERSON NANCY O. MOONEY: Senior Vice-Commander Fran Costa, Adjutant Pat Kemper, Assistant Adjutant Bunny Clos, Line Officers, Judge Advocate Donna Adams, Past National Commanders, Chaplain Aura-Lee Nicodemus, and VAVS Deputies Liz Eldridge and Ann Glende, DAV delegates, guests attending today's session of the 26th (sic) 94th Disabled American Veterans' National Convention.

As DAVA National Rep. for the VAVS program I was privileged to attend the VA NAC meeting in May in Albuquerque, New Mexico for their 70th Annual Meeting and Conference.

At that meeting the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary was honored with this presentation signifying our continued support and partnership with the VA system. We are one of the longest-serving service organizations in partnership with the VA. Yay. Yay. (Applause)

Our volunteering efforts do make a difference. And for everyone who gives in some way to our veterans in the VA system I thank you. I need to share a little story with you.

Linda knew that I liked to travel, as did she. And sometimes part of my luggage decides to have a little side trip. (Laughter) Last fall when I had the position of making the presentation at Fall Conference all my luggage came except for the printouts, which were on the same flight. They decided not to get off in Kentucky with me but to go all the way to Colorado. (Laughter) And then they had to be returned the following day.

This plaque, which I'm about to present to this organization, left Albuquerque—well, initially left D.C. to go to Albuquerque. From Albuquerque it was sent to Massachusetts. I have now taken it from Massachusetts here to Georgia. I got off the plane. The rest of my luggage did. This little guy decided to go all the way to Indiana. (Laughter)

But a well-traveled person always knows when it's time to come home so it's now home with us in our great organization. So that is my little tale for the process of everyone receiving this citation and plaque from the secretary—

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's upside down. (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: It's tired.

VAVS CHAIRPERSON MOONEY: And here we have it. (Applause)

(Whereupon, an official photograph was taken.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, Nancy.

(Whereupon, VAVS Chairperson Mooney withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: For anyone that has served on the NAC at any given point as a VAVS rep., it is quite educational to see what other organizations do and how the DAV and Auxiliary stand out amongst all the veterans' service organizations.

I'd like to now call on National Junior Activities Chairperson Darlene Spence to approach the podium.

(Whereupon, Junior Activities Chairperson Darlene Spence advanced to the podium.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRPERSON DARLENE SPENCE: Man, I'm out of breath. That was a long trip. (Laughter) Well, good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRPERSON SPENCE: Senior Vice-Commander Costa, Adjutant Kemper, Assistant Adjutant Clos, Line Officers, Past National Commanders, members and guests, I am so proud of all our juniors.

They continue to do a fantastic job. Junior members, will you please come to the platform for introduction. Junior members, will you please come up front. Don't be shy. Come on up. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the junior members advanced to the platform.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRPERSON SPENCE: They're going to introduce themselves and then we're going to give them a little treat.

MS. WINEMA MARTINEZ: Hi. My name is Winema Martinez. I'm from Texas and I'm with Unit 42. (Applause)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRPERSON SPENCE: I do need to make another announcement. Juniors, don't leave the room. We have something else to tell you so don't leave.

MS. MAGDALENA AGUINAGA: My name is Magdalena Aguinaga. I'm from Texas Unit 42. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Maya and I'm from Unit 9 from Alabama. (Applause)

JORDAN PARKER: I am Jordan Parker. I'm from Texas and I'm District 20. (Applause)

ASHTON JOHNIKEN: I'm Ashton Johniken. I'm Unit 9, Texas, District 20. (Applause)

MS. EMMA JOHNIKEN: Hi, my name is Emma Johniken, Unit 9 from Texas, District 20. (Applause)

MR. WILL JOHNIKEN: I'm Will Johniken, Unit 9 from Texas. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My name is (undistinguishable), Texas. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My name is Morgan. I'm from Wisconsin. (Applause)

ADDISON ROBERTSON: My name is Addison and I'm from Ohio. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Paige and I'm from Wisconsin. (Applause)

DEVIN GRAHAM: Hi. My name is Devin. I'm from Waynesville. (Applause)

THOMAS GRAHAM: My name is Thomas and I forgot what to say. (Laughter)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where is Thomas from?

(Response of "Missouri.")

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Missouri. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My name is Eva. I'm from Missouri. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: We also have Jeffrey Olson from Massachusetts. Is he still in the room? (Applause) We'll see him later.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRPERSON SPENCE: Okay, I'm going to ask all the juniors if you would just come around and stand in front of the audience here. They want to take a good look at you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the juniors advanced to the front of the podium.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRPERSON SPENCE: We have two more. Come on up, girls. Did you all get a bag? Go ahead.

MS. OLIVIA KASHNER: I'm Olivia Kashner from Delaware. (Applause)

MS. JOSIETTE HIGGINBOTHAM: I'm Josiette Higginbotham from Texas. (Applause)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRPERSON SPENCE: Okay. And let's get to the real fun part. Juniors, you can have a different fun experience this year by participating in a scavenger hunt. Everybody knows what a scavenger hunt is? Yes?

(Response of "Yes.")

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRPERSON SPENCE: This is not a race. And everyone has an equal chance to win one of the prizes. Now, the first prize is going to be a Kindle Fire 8. The second prize is going to be a Kindle Fire 6. And the third prize is a box of cash.

Okay. Okay, now listen up. Listen up. When this business meeting is over you must go to the Auxiliary Headquarters Office in Hanover B, Lower Level 1, to pick up your scavenger hunt information.

Remember, you have to be accompanied by your parent or guardian in order to get your information. Parents and guardians, you will need to sign a participation permission slip and remain with them at all times throughout the hunt.

Juniors, again, thanks again. And now you may return to your stations. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the juniors returned to their stations.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRPERSON SPENCE: Okay, now I would like to make a personal statement. And this is for our Commander Linda Stake. This is by Robert Louis Stevenson. And he said: "Like a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memories survive in times of sorrow."

Friendship, concern for my well-being, willingness to be of assistance, and overall support shown to me by Commander Stake are the memories for which I am most grateful.

Commander Stake touched me, each of us, in a special way. She is gone from sight but not from our heart. Sincere condolences to the DAV Auxiliary family and the personal family of our departed comrade, commander.

May all our memories give us peace and comfort. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Junior Activities Chairperson Spence withdrew from the platform.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Very nice, Darlene. Thank you. Now I will call on National Adjutant Kemper for any announcements.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, everyone, as you know, the President will be here tomorrow so in the announcements earlier this morning he said something about the area would be closed off so I am not privy to all the information on what the Secret Service requirements are but going from history when we were here six years ago today—the day my granddaughter was born and she is six years old today, by the way (Applause)—so—and I still have to do my grandma FaceTime with her but, anyway, I'm sorry. I digress. And where the heck was I? Okay. (Laughter)

So, anyway, what we're going to do for the National Chairmen, normally I would tell you to stop in the office in the morning and pick up your folders but if they have that blocked off you're not going to be able to get your folders, it's going to be a little challenging to conduct the meeting and come up with some winners.

So we brought the folders in here so I ask the National Chairmen to come up here after the meeting and Bunny will give you your respective folders for your Committee meetings tomorrow. And we're only doing that because there is a possibility they won't let us into our office.

So, and the Convention Committees do convene tomorrow. They are scheduled to start at 9:00 a.m. so you will want to be as efficient as possible so you can get that business taken care of and if you are interested in going in and listening to the President and going through the Secret Service you will once you have your business taken care of.

Legislative Committee, I've already told National Chairperson Ellen Timmerman that you only, you pretty much have an hour-and-a-half to conduct your business. So, again, make sure you are there on time and make sure that you get this business conducted. Yes, Sylvia.

MRS. HEATH: Pat, do you know if the NECs are sitting upfront during the President's—

ADJUTANT KEMPER: I have not heard anything. I actually asked someone just before this meeting and she said she still had to meet with Secret Service tonight to get final details. It's my understanding she was up until about 12:30 communicating with them as well. So they are still ironing out the logistics but I don't know.

All I can suggest is maybe when you get to the room that you say, "Is there reserved seating for the NECs?" That's all I can do.

I don't even know where I'm supposed to be or if I'm supposed to be anywhere. (Laughter) So—and that was an email I sent. I said, you know, if and when I'm needed where should I go? So I'm waiting for that message as well.

There will not be an Auxiliary business session tomorrow, as you know. We switched the agenda of the Convention around a few years ago to accommodate our members who wanted to attend some of the DAV seminars so please take advantage of that.

The Forget-me-not Luncheon is 12:30 on Tuesday. We still have tickets available so if you are really on the fence about going then you've got to get to Hanover B and buy your tickets.

So—and they are \$40. And I know that's a lot of money but those are hotel prices so we actually have to subsidize some of that meal, believe it or not, once you add the service charge.

Okay, we talked about the scavenger hunt. Some of their requirements are they may have to encounter an NEC. They may have to talk to different members and people. So please be receptive to the juniors, which I know you will. We love our juniors.

Oh, and we are asking some of the juniors, they are going to get their instructions in the office. If possible, take selfies at some of these, when you get your instructions and what is involved in the hunt you will see what we mean.

If you can take a selfie, please take a selfie. If you do not have any kind of a device that takes photos, don't worry about it, just check it off your list. It's just to have fun.

And, again, it's not a race. It's just let's participate and have a little bit of fun doing this. And it will keep you busy. But you've got to drag mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, an uncle or somebody around with you while you do it. (Laughter)

Okay. I'm giving it away but some PNCs and NECs—or PNCs and NECs, be prepared. National Officers, be prepared in case you are approached by a young person.

So, I believe we—I don't know. We were supposed to have two representatives from USAA. They have a booth out in the foyer at the exhibit level and when they, apparently when they came in and I was reading Linda's report they decided they didn't feel it was appropriate to talk about the USAA credit card so we'll see if we can get them back in here.

Yes, Karla.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: They did say that if you want them to come back that they will. But they felt like this was not the time to do it. That's how they felt.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay. Well, we invited them. Well, we're about ready to close out for the day so we also have—and what she is holding up there—at the NEC meeting the other night we had some of these.

These are just very rough sympathy notes. So if you are interested in taking one and writing a message of condolence for Linda Stakes' family you can take one. Feel free to take one. Jot a few notes in there and we are going to see that they are shipped to the family so the family can see them.

So that was just a little something we put together as well. So when you are done with them if you could give them back to Karla or one of the staff we'll all be happy to take it and then we'll make sure that it is sent to her family.

The Nominating Committee, what we did this time was normally we do our opening at this session and then the National Commander or the presiding officer, discharges the Nominating Committee.

So we are trying something a little different this year and it will, you will be impacted tomorrow. We wanted you to be present for this entire meeting. And you will have some impact tomorrow because of the President coming. So, again, I urge that Committee to work very efficiently and discretely.

So, again, as a reminder for that Committee—and I advise the advisor to also stress this, and the chairperson—what's discussed in that Committee stays in that Committee.

LeeAnn Karg is the advisor to the Nominating Committee and she has requested that the members of the Nominating Committee do go over to the meeting room—and I don't have that information here but it's in your programs—so immediately following this meeting please report for the Nominating Committee meeting.

That's all I've got.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Karla, they can get them at the end, on their way out, if they need it. We're going to have our Chaplain offer the closing prayer.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Nicodemus advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN NICODEMUS: A reminder, too, that the Stake family has asked that anyone who wishes can send a donation in her honor to Mr. Stake. As many of you know, she was out-of-state and when she passed away and they've got a lot of expenses and so they are asking memorial donations be sent directly to Mr. Stake, himself.

Dear Heavenly Father, we give thanks that we have accomplished the business of this meeting. We thank You, a special blessing, for our juniors and the light that they bring to each and every day here at National Convention. We can see our future is in good hands.

We thank You for all of our officers and members. And, most of all, we thank You for the year that Linda was able to share for this past year, an amazing year that provided memories, lasting memories not only for all of us but for her family.

We give thanks for the privilege to serve and to be with You. And we ask that You keep us safe until we meet again. In Your name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," after which Chaplain Nicodemus withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Excuse me. This meeting stands in recess until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. We will—I mean Tuesday morning. We will now have door prizes.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 3:29 o'clock, p.m., on Sunday, July 31, 2016.)

- - -

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
94th NATIONAL CONVENTION
Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia
August 2, 2016
Second Business Session

- - -

The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Regency VII Ballroom on Lower Level I of the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, on Tuesday morning, August 2, 2016, and was called to order at 9:04 o'clock, a.m., by Senior Vice-Commander Frances J. Costa.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER FRANCES J. COSTA: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. We'd like to begin. We have some guests to address us. I'd like to remind you about your cell phones. We heard one yesterday but beginning today are we sticking with the \$5.00 fine?

(Response of "Yes.")

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Okay. So please put them on mute or shut them off. Aura-Lee Nicodemus, would you please open with a prayer.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Nicodemus advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN NICODEMUS: Please stand. Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for bringing us together again. We thank You for the day yesterday that allowed us to celebrate our great accomplishments over the past year, that our advocacy and support of our veterans has led to such improvements.

We thank You for the chance to come together in friendship and a great evening celebrating our time together. We pray for our leaders of our nation, of our organization, and of our communities, that You will guide each and every one of us.

Help us to be open with our minds and our ears today as we listen to the information presented. Help us to listen to ideas. Help us to always be understanding of each other. We pray for our troops in harm's way. In your name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen" after which Chaplain Nicodemus withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, Aura-Lee. Now we will have Diane Franz lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice-Commander and National Americanism Chairperson Franz advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM CHAIRPERSON FRANZ: Free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart or render the appropriate salute and join in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice-Commander and Americanism Chairperson Franz led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which she withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, Diane. You may be seated. Margaret Scott, could you please approach the podium. We have guests and a presentation.

(Whereupon, Margaret Scott advanced to the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: I would like Marc Burgess, Moses, to come to the front, please. (Applause)

(Whereupon, DAV National Adjutant J. Marc Burgess, DAV National Commander Moses A. McIntosh, Jr., and DAV National Chaplain Michael Dover were escorted to the podium.)

MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Moses, this is a gift from Linda.

(Whereupon, Ms. Scott presented a gift to DAV National Commander McIntosh.)

DAV NATIONAL COMMANDER MOSES A. MCINTOSH, JR.: Thank you.

MS. SCOTT: The gifts I am presenting are from Linda Stake. Marc. And, Pat, this is from Linda.

(Whereupon, Margaret Scott presented the gifts to each individual.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you very much.

MS. SCOTT: I am proud to be up here presenting these gifts to them from Linda Stake. I am the Department State Commander from the State of Arkansas. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: We will now have just a few words from Commander McIntosh and Adjutant Burgess.

DAV NATIONAL COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Again, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

DAV NATIONAL COMMANDER McINTOSH: You know the last week, couple of weeks, has been kind of hard. Linda and I, we spent a lot of time together. And it's like being my better half. She's missing. And it feels sort of like an emptiness there to the left.

But the best thing we all can do is to remember the dedicated work that she did and carry on her legacy. And she will always live in our hearts.

And it will always give me great pleasure to address the Auxiliary because I want you all to know and most of you know that from the Departments I've been—I always took time out and addressed the Auxiliary.

And it's important to let you know that we, at the DAV organization, supports our Auxiliary. And I always believed it was a husband-and-wife-type covenant.

And I really appreciate the work that you all do. You do a lot of important work. And I just want you to know that I enjoyed this past year just, you know, just having conversations with you all because we all are a family.

And I don't want you to forget that. We are. You know we may come together at conventions and conferences, but in between when the Line Officers come to visit your Department, that's the way I would like for you to treat them, as a family, and remind them we are family.

And if we keep ingrained in these thoughts and change the behavior, eventually we will be where we need to be. And, like we said, we are a great organization and we will continue to improve.

You never become so great that you can't improve. There is always room for improvement. And I really appreciate everything that you do for the DAV and for the families and their survivors and their widows.

And, again, thank you from the bottom of my heart. And tell Linda and her family we love them and we thank them for the gift. Thank you. (Applause)

DAV NATIONAL ADJUTANT J. MARC BURGESS: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

DAV NATIONAL ADJUTANT BURGESS: How humbling it is to be here today to receive a gift from Linda Stake. I know that—I'm sure that, like all of you had a special relationship with Linda, I believe I did. She was just one classy lady, Southern style.

And we, you know we all wanted to be at the services this past Saturday. And certainly the Commander and I and other representatives from the DAV would have been there but I believe that Linda, looking down on us, understands, her family understands that we are here taking care of the business of DAV and the DAV Auxiliary. And I believe that's exactly where Linda would want us to be.

And the way to remember Linda and to honor her is in our efforts for DAV, for the Auxiliary and the men and women that we serve. And we are just going to carry her with us as we go forward.

So thank you all and as Moses said this is a team effort. It's a family effort. We get it done together. And I think Linda would be so proud to look out here and (Applause) see everyone here. So thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Madam Commander, I have something that Unit 30 would like to present to Moses while he is here.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Okay, if you would like to come. Would you give us one moment?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Chaplain Dover, would you care to share a few words with us?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: What does it say on it?

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: They want to know what it says.

DAV NATIONAL ADJUTANT BURGESS: Mine says, "Marc Burgess, Navy Veteran." (Applause)

DAV NATIONAL CHAPLAIN MICHAEL DOVER: Ladies and gentlemen, good morning and thank you for welcoming us with open arms. I had an opportunity to talk to Charlie, Linda's husband, prior, about two hours after her death.

And Charlie was very thankful for what the DAVA and what the DAV were doing for their family. And I had to put it in proper perspective for him. And I said, "Charlie," I said, "You and Linda make the DAVA and the DAV what it is." And he was very grateful and I shared our condolences to him.

And ladies and gentlemen out here, you do make what it is. We have no jobs without you. And it's really not a job for me and it's not a job for Marc or the Commander. We enjoy. As you know, we are people-people—people-persons.

And I would also like to say, so we can wrap this up and you guys can get to your business that you need to conduct, ladies, if you see me in the hallway, you get a free hug. (Laughter)

However—however, as we remember Linda Stake—and I think Marc said it best, that the best way we can remember her is to carry on the work that you do. I do have standards for the men, though. So if you men see me out in the hallway it's just a handshake or a fist pump, okay? (Laughter) Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. I appreciate your time.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: We have one other presentation. Could you come forward, please, Commander McIntosh.

(Whereupon, the delegate advanced to the podium.)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Line Officers and Commander Moses, you've been in our family for many, many years. You were stationed at Fort Smith Air Force Base with my dad. And we are very proud of you. And we had these made up for you and one for Linda Stake as well.

And it says, "Commander Moses McIntosh, DAVA Unit 130 thanks you for your service to our country and to our veterans 2015–2016". And what's even better about all this is we had a veteran make it for you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, DAV National Commander McIntosh was presented with the gift.)

DAV NATIONAL COMMANDER MCINTOSH: Thank you. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the delegate withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: I was asked if I would read the words on the plaque for Linda. It says, "DAVA Unit 130, thank you for your heartfelt hard work for our veterans 2015–2016". (Applause)

Thank you gentlemen for coming in this morning. We appreciate it. (Applause)

(Whereupon, DAV National Commander McIntosh, DAV National Adjutant Burgess, and DAV National Chaplain Dover were escorted from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: We will now hear the Credentials report.

(Whereupon, Convention Credentials Committee Chairperson Guzman advanced to the podium.)

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON GUZMAN: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON GUZMAN: National Officers, delegates and guests. Again, welcome to Atlanta. This is the Credentials report as follows.

Total Units registered, 158; total Departments registered, 39; National Officers registered, 4; Past National Commanders registered, 9; total guests registered, 193; total delegates, 305; total alternates, 23; total vote count, 1,103; total registered, 534.

Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials report.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: We have a motion to accept the credentials report. Do I hear a second? Please go to the mic.

MS. JENNIE HILL-CLARK: Jennie Clark, Unit 1, Portland, Oregon, I second the motion.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: We have a motion and a second. All in favor. Anyone opposed? The motion passed. Thank you.

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON GUZMAN: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Convention Credentials Chairperson Guzman withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: The Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairperson will come forward for the first reading of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws amendments. This is only a reading. Please hold all questions and comments for the second reading. Thank you, Judy.

(Whereupon, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairperson and Past National Commander Judy Steinhouse advanced to the podium.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JUDY STEINHOUSE: National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests to this 94th National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Constitution and Bylaws Committee met in the Teakwood Room at 9:02 on August 1st, 2016. Our advisor was National Judge Advocate Donna Adams. Susan Henry was elected as our secretary.

I would like to read the members of our Committee. As I read your name would you please stand. District Number 1, Ann Hurley; District Number 2 was Cheryl Connors—she was absent due to an emergency in her family and had to go home;

District Number 3, Sylvia Heath; District Number 4, Sarah Kashner; District Number 5, Loretta Nosko; District Number 6, Grace James; District Number 7, Delores Roussey; District Number 8, Susan Henry; District Number 9, R. Renee Jones; District Number 10, Carol Gray; District Number 11, Judith Uetterling; District Number 12, Rose Williams; District Number 13, Lynn Swanson; District Number 14 was myself, Judy Steinhouse; District Number 15, Breanna Chandler; District Number 16, Samantha Galliher; District Number 17, Nancy Coffey; District Number 18, Carol Rundell; District Number 19, Jenny Hill-Clark; District Number 20, Christopher Easley; and District Number 21, Linda Oliver. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

(Whereupon, the members of the Committee stood as their names were called and were recognized with a round of applause.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: I also appreciated the fact that they all had really easy names to pronounce. (Laughter)

These are the proposed bylaw amendments for 2016.

Page N-6, Article I, National Convention, Section 4, Delegates, Paragraph 2, Sentence 2, regarding units: Delete "elected" in four places. That sentence would then read:

"Each unit shall be entitled to one delegate and one alternate for its charter and one delegate and one alternate for each 25 life members or major fraction thereof whose unit strength has been verified by National Headquarters."

Rationale: In practice Unit delegates are often selected by asking "Who is going." With the reduction of the number of required meetings, some members may not be considered and there is not opportunity to hold additional elections.

Additionally, notices of elections are becoming increasingly costly. This will still require that the single state department delegate and alternate be elected.

Page N-5, Article I, National Convention, Section 3, Composition, delete "elected". This paragraph would then read:

"The National Convention shall be composed of the elected National Officers, the past national commanders, and the delegates representing the state departments and units of the organization."

Rationale: To allow for elected delegates from state Departments and selected delegates from Units.

Page U-16, Article XVI, Conventions, add new Section 2. New Section 2 would then read:

"Section 2. In the event there are more members who wish to be delegates than delegate votes available an election will be held to select the delegates and/or alternates to a convention."

Rationale: Provision must be made to democratically select delegates. If new Section 2 is approved, the articles will be, the article will be renumbered. Former Section 2 will become Section 3.

Page S-18, Article IX, Supplement to State Bylaws, State Standing Rules, Section 1, Supplement to State Bylaws/State Standing Rules, Paragraph 1: delete "the first business session of a state convention" and substitute with: "A vote to adopt or amend." The paragraph would then read:

"A copy of the completed supplement to state bylaws adopted at the previous state convention and a copy of any proposed amendments to the state standing rules shall be distributed to the delegates prior to a vote to adopt or amend."

Rationale: Since the state standing rules may be adopted at any business session it is not necessary to distribute proposed changes prior to the first business session.

Page S-19, Article IX, Supplement to State Bylaws, State Standing Rules, Section 1, Supplement to State Bylaws/State Standing Rules, Paragraph 4, Items A, B, and Note: Delete "three" in all items and substitute "two." Items A, B, and Note will then read:

"A. Two (2) copies of the completed supplement to state bylaws.

"B. Two (2) copies of any adopted amendments to the state standing rules. If there are no amendments to the state standing rules, it shall be indicated on the supplement to state bylaws.

Note: If a state department reprints their state standing rules, two (2) copies shall be submitted to National Headquarters for review and notification by the National Judge Advocate prior to their distribution."

Rationale: With the availability of electronic duplication three copies are no longer necessary.

Page U-2, Article VI, Election of Unit Officers, Section 1, Sentence 3: Delete the words "in writing". Section 1, Section 3—excuse me, Section 1, Sentence 3 will then read:

"The adjutant shall notify all life members at least ten days prior to any nominations and/or elections."

Rationale: Many units combined election notification with fundraising efforts in order to pay for these large-scale mailings. As fundraisers by mail is no longer allowed, the current system will prohibit units

from remaining in compliance due to extensive costs of this required written notification that, in most states, does not increase participation in the elections.

Page U-25, Membership Initiation Ceremony, Paragraph 2: Delete "silently". Paragraph 2 will then read:

"Commander: Members, please stand. I invite each of you to participate again in the membership initiation ceremony."

Rationale: Provides for all members to share in the ceremony as an expression of camaraderie and support for the new member.

Thank you.

(Whereupon, Convention Constitution and Bylaws Chairperson and Past National Commander Steinhouse withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, Judy. We will now hear from LeeAnn Karg, the Education Scholarship, for her report.

(Whereupon, Education Scholarship Convention Chairperson and Past National Commander LeeAnn B. Karg advanced to the podium.)

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LEEANN B. KARG: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Senior Vice-Commander Fran, our missing, lovely Commander Linda, National Adjutant Judy and Assistant Adjutant Bunny, Line Officers, Past National Commanders, members and guests.

I have served on the DAV Auxiliary National Scholarship for the past three years and this year I had the honor of chairing that Committee along with National Commander Linda Stake and Senior Vice-Commander Fran Costa and assisted by National Adjutant Pat Kemper and Assistant Adjutant Bunny Clos.

Thank you so very much for all of your hard work. This is not an easy task and you wish that you could give everyone a scholarship.

On April 26th we met via teleconferencing. We had 40 applications and were able to award 31 of them a scholarship. Congratulations to all the recipients. We wish you the best for your future and we are proud to have been a part of that.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of the units to promote the scholarship program that the DAV Auxiliary has. It can make a big difference in someone's life. It is open to all fully-paid members, life members of the DAV Auxiliary.

Scholarships are available for both full-time and part-time students as well as students with unique requirements. You can receive up to \$1,500 for a full-time student and up to \$750 for a part-time student.

There are no age restrictions. So, grandma, if you want to go get a scholarship, we're here to help you out. Okay? (Laughter)

Most important is that we must receive your application prior to the deadline. We had so many good applications but they didn't get to us in time. So, please, make sure if you are coaching someone in your family or in your unit and they want to send an application to us, make sure it gets to us on time. It's very important.

The applications are available online on the DAV National Auxiliary website.

I'd like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve you in this capacity as National DAV Auxiliary Scholarship Committee Chairperson. It has been my honor and my privilege. Thank you. (Applause)

And we will be taking donations down in front here so if those of you—have you got it? Sorry. She's got it. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, Education Scholarship Convention Chairperson and Past National Commander Karg withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: For those planning to make donations at this time we do not have a ramp to the podium so please step to the microphone here in front of the podium and then step to the table to my right. Ann will be there to accept the gifts.

(Whereupon, the delegates lined up to begin presenting their donations.)

MS. IRENE STEVENS: I'm Irene Stevens, the Department of Florida. I wish to present you with a check for the scholarship fund. (Applause)

MS. BONITA MITCHELL: I'm Bonita Mitchell. I'm representing Earnestine Schumann-Heink Unit Number 2, Kansas City, Missouri. I have a check for the education loan. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Sorry, they want pictures over to our right, your left.

MS. MARY MONTGOMERY: I'm Mary Montgomery, State Commander for the State of Missouri. I'm also with Unit 49 out of Waynesville, the Harry Eltherin Unit. I have two checks to present to you for the educational fund and then the service support.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you.

SECOND JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER ELLEN TIMMERMAN: I'm Ellen Timmerman from New Mexico, Unit 9. I'm also Second National Junior Vice-Commander. From the National Order of Trench Rats, Dugout 347, Los Cruces, New Mexico, I have a \$1,200 check here for Camp Corral. (Applause)

MS. THELMA STEINMAN: I'm Thelma Steinman and in loving memory of my best friend who passed away on June 22nd, Janice (undistinguishable), I'd like to make a donation to the veterans' service fund. (Applause)

MS. EVELYN COUTURE: I'm Evelyn Couture, State Commander for the State of Illinois and I've got two checks here from Will County District 103. One is for \$100 for the education fund and one is \$100 for the Auxiliary service fund. (Applause)

MS. LORRAINE LYON: Hi. I'm Lorraine Lyon from Vermont and I have two checks to present to you, one for the National service program and one for the education fund. (Applause)

MS. MARION SAWDEY: I'm Marion Sawdey and I have two checks to present to you from the State Department of New York, DAV National Education Fund for \$500 and the support fund for \$500.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. ANITA LEE: I'm Anita Lee from Waco 3 Unit in Texas. I have a scholarship fund check for you and a National service support program for you.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you very much. (Applause) Good morning.

MS. SIENNA STEWART: Good morning. Sienna Stewart, Second Vice for the State of Idaho. I have a check for the scholarship and for the service program.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MS. JANET VOGEL: Janet Vogel, Department of—Janet Vogel, Department of Arkansas. I've been asked to bring this up here by Mary Roden. This is a memorial in honor of Evelyn Bowen and Linda Stake for the education department. (Applause)

MS. MARGARET SCOTT: I'm Margaret Scott from the Department of Arkansas and we have two checks, one for the educational scholarship which was \$100 and one for the national support which was \$200. (Applause)

MR. ALLEN HERRICK: I'm Allen Herrick, past State Commander of Massachusetts and I have one check from the service fund. And I also have—I'm a senior vice—I mean I'm Treasurer of the Unit 72 of Massachusetts. And I have a service fund check and a Camp Corral check.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you very much. (Applause) Hello.

MS. ANN MARIE HURLEY: Hello. I'm Ann Marie Hurley and I'm the State Commander for the Massachusetts State Department. And I have a donation for the education scholarship fund.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. LINDA BAILEY: I'm Linda Bailey, Eighth District NEC. I forgot my checkbook so I hope cash will be okay. (Laughter) Here's a \$50 contribution for the education fund in memory of Linda Stake.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. JONI BUNDY: Joni Bundy the Department of Oklahoma, I have a \$500 check for Winter Sports Clinic.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you so much. (Applause)

MS. CAROL PARKER-PARK: Hi, this is Carol Parker-Park from the Department of Ohio. And I have two checks to present to you, one \$300 check for the scholarship fund and one \$300 check for service support.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Wonderful.

MS. PARKER-PARK: Isn't that wonderful? (Applause)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Good morning.

MS. BARBARA FISHER: I'm Barbara Fisher from Indiana 23. I would like to give a donation to the education fund. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you.

MS. JOSEPHINE RIVERA: Josephine Rivera, Unit 118, State of New York, I was asked to present these two checks here by Cheryl Connors. Unfortunately, she had to leave, an emergency. So I have two checks here, one in the amount of \$5,000 (Gasps) and another one for a total of \$8,193 for a total of \$13,193 for Camp Corral. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you hear me now?

(Response of "Yes" and laughter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The Department of Florida wishes to present this check in memory of Linda for the support fund.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. REGINA FORTNER: Good morning. Regina Fortner—Regina Fortner, Unit 130, Michigan, and we are giving a donation to the scholarship fund in memory of Linda Stake. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. Good morning, Susan.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SUSAN HENRY: Good morning. Susan Henry, Unit 116, Millington, Tennessee, we have checks for Camp Corral, education scholarship, service fund and Freedom's Foundation. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: Forgot to write it—and Winter Sports Clinic but I forgot to write it.

MS. JOANN ATKINSON: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. ATKINSON: JoAnn Atkinson from Marietta, Georgia, Unit 6, on behalf of my commander, Karen Lebleu we donate \$50.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MS. ATKINSON: For the scholarship fund.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: How are you?

MS. DOROTHY GUZMAN: I'm good. Dorothy Guzman, I am the state Commander for Georgia. And I would like to make a donation on behalf of Linda Stake for the education fund. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you.

MS. SHIRLEY HEAL: Shirley Heal, Ninth NEC, would like to make a donation to the scholarship fund, \$50, in Linda Stake's memory. (Applause)

MS. EDITH JACKSON: Good morning.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Good morning. How are you?

MS. JACKSON: I'm good. I am Edith Jackson from Saint Augustine, Florida. And I am donating to the scholarship fund. I don't want to say how much but you can if you'd like. (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Come here, between us. (Applause) Hello, how are you?

MS. LINDA CHILDERS: I'm wonderful, how are you?

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Good.

MS. CHILDERS: Linda Childers. I'm the commander of Unit 16, Jacksonville, North Carolina. And I'm going to brag on Unit 16. We gave eight \$1,000 scholarships this year. And we want to make a donation from Unit 16.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. ERLINDA LOUBIER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. LOUBIER: I'm Erlinda Loubier, Unit 1, in Jacksonville, Florida. We're donating for the education fund. Thank you.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you very much. (Applause) Thank you all so very much for your great support of this worthwhile program. We need to make sure that our youth and ourselves and our memberships are growing as strong as they can so thank you all so much. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you all for your wonderful donations to our worthy causes. We do need someone for or an officer to sign the checks for the State Department of Florida, please. (Laughter) Sorry, New York. False alarm. (Laughter)

So an authorized signer for the Department of New York please come up and sign these checks so we can go cash them and get them in the bank. (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Okay, we will now enter the award phase of this Convention for all the hard work that our Units and members do.

Monetary awards are given in each category of the respective programs to the first-place winning units. And the checks will be mailed out by National Headquarters after Convention.

When called upon, the Convention Committee chairperson will approach the podium and announce the winners. Since we do not have a ramp to the podium, I ask the advisors to step to the awards table, to the right of the podium, for award presentation and photo ops.

As winners are announced, please step forward to the awards table to receive the awards. And if needed form a line so we can get those distributed.

I would now like to call on the Americanism chairperson from that Committee, the Americanism Committee, could you please step forward. Come on up here. Didn't know you had to do that, did you?

(Whereupon, Americanism Convention Committee Chairperson Shirley Mercer advanced to the podium.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON SHIRLEY MERCER: No. (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Surprise.

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MERCER: Shirley Mercer with the State Department of Louisiana. I had the privilege to be on this Committee for Americanism. And the outstanding one we chose was from Arnold Brandt Unit 27, Michigan.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Minnesota.

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MERCER: Minnesota. I'm sorry. (Applause) I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: That's okay. We'll take it. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award, followed by a round of applause.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MERCER: And that was the 10 to 50 members.

Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Edward G.—is it Gallant?—Memorial Unit 212 from New York.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award, followed by a round of applause.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MERCER: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, John Woodall, Unit 6, Georgia.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award, followed by a round of applause.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MERCER: Group Number 4, 201 members or over, Lt. Alfred Lucius (sic) Unit 118, New York. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MERCER: And our only recommendation we had, on the reports we found that in judging—okay, I'm sorry. I have to do the special Americanism.

Ten to 200, Fort Sherman, Unit 9, Idaho?—Idaho. Group Number 2, 201 and over, Venice Guff Unit 101, Florida. (Applause)

The only recommendation we had is that (undistinguishable) the other forms, we think that the forms should have a place for how many meetings are held a year.

And could I have all my committee members stand: Massachusetts, Chapter 110, Richard Hersom; New York, Chapter 88, Diane Wisnesky; Rhode Island, Deborah Burrows; Maryland, Margaret Mills;

District 7, Florida, Brandy Giles; Unit 8, me; Unit 9, District 9, North Carolina, Linda Childers; District 10, Michigan, Carol Lee; District 11, Ohio, Darlene Hanneman; District 12, Illinois, Patricia Dempsey; District 13, Indiana, Terri Young; District 14, Minnesota, Nancy Berndt; Missouri—I'm sorry, District 15, Missouri, Gracie Caldwell; District 16, California, Leslie—and I'm not going to try to slaughter your last name; (Laughter) District 17, Colorado, Leslie Sandoval; District 18, Nevada, Carolyn Walker; District 19, Idaho, Sienna Stewart; District 20, Texas, Richard Ag—

MR. RICHARD AGUINAGA: Aguinaga.

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MERCER: Thank you, Richard. (Laughter) District 21, Arkansas, Bradley Roden.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called and were recognized with a round of applause.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MERCER: And I want to thank you all for your help. (Applause) And you get all this.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you, ma'am.

(Whereupon, Americanism Convention Committee Chairperson Mercer withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, next, the awards, we need the chairperson for the Community Service Awards. And while she is waiting to come up here someone, has someone lost a gold earring? It looks like a leaf with some little rhinestones in it. So if it's yours just walk up here. I'll set it right here. Okay?

(Whereupon, Community Service Convention Committee Chairperson Micki Kraft advanced to the podium.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MICKI KRAFT: National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of our 94th Auxiliary Convention.

The National Community Service Convention Committee met in the University, Level 3 at 9:00 o'clock, August 1st, 2016. Our advisor was Lynn Helms Prosser. The secretary was Sonja Caswell. Okay.

And as I call—let's see, as I call your name would you please stand on who was on the Committee. We had Allen Herrick; Helen Mazza; okay, District 3, Sonja Caswell; District 6, Dorothy Chandler; District 7, Margaret Henderson; District 8, Carolyn Harris; District 9, Karen Jacobs; District 11, Vicki Johnston; District 12, Carla Reynolds; District 13, Cynthia Hines; District 14, Laurie Pekarik; I don't think we had a 15—oh, yes, we did; District 15 was Kerin Brader; District 18 was Patricia Hedrick; District 19 was myself; and District 20 we had Jessica Ross. (Applause) Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON KRAFT: The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Community Service Awards. Group 1, 10 to 50 members, the Mary T. Klinker Unit 27, Lafayette, Indiana. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON KRAFT: District 2, Units 51 to 100 members was London, Kentucky, Unit 66. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON KRAFT: District or Group 3, 101 to 200 members was Savannah, Georgia, Unit 8, Georgia. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON KRAFT: And 201 and over was Unit 118, Lieutenant Alfred Lucia of New York. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON KRAFT: And our recommendations were whoever is filling out the forms please make sure that all monetary amounts match with the itemized items on the back.

(Whereupon, Community Service Convention Committee Chairperson Kraft withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Now we call on the chairperson for the Hospital Committee, Judy Davis from Ohio. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Hospital Convention Committee Chairperson Judy Davis advanced to the podium.)

HOSPITAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON JUDY DAVIS: Thank you. Senior National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of the 94th National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Hospital Convention Committee met in the Kenshaw Room at 8:55 a.m. on 8/1/16. Our advisor was Terry Grabowski. And the secretary is Joyce Jefferson, was elected/appointed secretary.

As I—would the Committee members please stand as I read your names. District 1, Dorothy Raymond; District 2, Matilda Brooks; District 3, Lorraine Lyon; District 6, Maria Torres; District 7, Shelley Clausen; District 8, Tracy Perkins; District 9, Dorothy Reese; myself, Judy Davis, from District 11; District 13, Melissa Driver; District 14, Joyce Jefferson; District 15, Mary Cummings; District 17, Victoria Salazar; District 19, Florence Riley; and District 20, Elaine Moreland. (Applause) Thank you very much. I appreciate all the help that was given.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called and were recognized with a round of applause.)

HOSPITAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON DAVIS: The following units were judged for the best in their category for the National Hospital awards. Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Veterans City Number 68, Missouri. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

HOSPITAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON DAVIS: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, was Raul Lopez Number 19, Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

HOSPITAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON DAVIS: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, John Woodall Number 6, Georgia. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

HOSPITAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON DAVIS: Group 4, for 200 members and over, Elkhart Number 19, Indiana. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

HOSPITAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON DAVIS: Suggestions. More detail for Number 6 and Number 8 on what was done.

And the other suggestion, no crossing out on the applications. Thank you very much and it was my honor to serve. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Hospital Convention Committee Chairperson Davis withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Next we have the Junior Activities Convention Chairperson. Please step forward Carol Parker-Park from Ohio. I'm just going to stand up here for a minute. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, Junior Activities Convention Committee Chairperson Carol Parker-Park advanced to the podium.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON CAROL PARKER-PARK: (Singing) Sisters. Sisters. Da-da-da-da-da-da. (Laughter)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: It's all yours, I don't sing. (Laughter)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON PARKER-PARK: All right. Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON PARKER-PARK: National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 94th National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Junior Activities Convention Committee met in the Inman Room at 9:00 a.m. on August 1st, 2016. Our advisor was the lovely Darlene Spence. It was her first time and she did an exemplary job. And my lifesaver was Secretary Carrie Willems.

And the following Units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Junior Activities awards. Group 1, 1 to 25 members, was Pikeville, Unit 134, of Kentucky. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON PARKER-PARK: Group 2, 26 to 50 members, John Woodall, Unit 6 of Georgia. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON PARKER-PARK: Group 3, 51 to 100 members, Glendale Unit 20, Arizona. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON PARKER-PARK: Group 4, 101 and over, Murphy-Borelli-Klumker of Unit 7, Colorado. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON PARKER-PARK: There was no junior activities book submitted so we go on to the National Junior Awards.

Brandon C. Kinsley, Pikeville, 134, Kentucky. (Applause) That was the category of 15 to 17.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON PARKER-PARK: National Junior, 11 to 14: Lennon Alexandria Henry, Stanley County Unit 12 of North Carolina. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON PARKER-PARK: National Junior Award, 7 to 10, Paige Lundt, Manitowoc Unit 53, Wisconsin. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON PARKER-PARK: At this time I would like to thank my Committee members on the Junior Activities: District 1, Helen Martelli; would you please stand as I call your name;

Linda Trulio, District 2; District 3, Ann Schatz; District 4, Mary Wischmann; District 6, Danielle Chandler; District 7, Betty Hess; District 8, Lee Benoit; District 9, Steven Truscello; District 11, myself, Carol Parker-Park; District 12, Carrie Willems; District 13, Tana Penland; District 15 Linda Gerke; District 16, Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh; District 17, Marilyn Hogue; District 20, Charlene Parker; District 21, Terese Vance. Thank you for your wonderful work. You were absolutely great.

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

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON PARKER-PARK: We do have recommendations. And there was also a comment. As far as the 51 to 100 group commented if you have more than 10 junior members why not have a chartered unit? That was a recommendation.

And then we had some concerns with the point system. It should be graded from 1 to 10 points not just 10 points for filing in. Bring back ages of juniors participating. Juniors under 12 cannot go to VA hospitals but should yet get consideration.

And then clear guidelines for grading. Each person should have a grading rubric. Points given 1 to 10 depending on quality. Grading sheet for each application.

Each member of group collects their own point score. At that point compare totals to fairly select a winner. This will make the grading more objective rather than subjective.

Thank you. Have a blessed day. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Junior Activities Convention Secretary Parker-Park withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, Legislative. Will the Convention Committee chairperson please step forward? And, sir, we have a microphone down here.

(Whereupon, Legislative Convention Committee Chairperson Michael Clark advanced to a microphone.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MICHAEL CLARK: Thank you. Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON CLARK: Good morning. National Commanders, National Adjutants, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates, and guests of the 94th National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Legislative Convention Committee met in the Baker Room at 9:00 a.m. on August 1st, 2016. Our advisor was Ellen Timmerman. My secretary was Janet De Santis, was appointed secretary.

The following Units were judged in the best in their category for the National Legislative awards. Ten to 50 was Group 1, Unit 33, Massachusetts. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON CLARK: Group 2, 51 to 100 was Unit 35, Massachusetts. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON CLARK: Group 3, 101 to 200 was Unit 156 out of Kentucky. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON CLARK: Group 4, 200 members and over, Unit 20, Arizona. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON CLARK: Our recommendations was to read the directions and follow them to the letter. (Laughter) When you fill it out please put the bill number on the right-hand side where it belongs. If you're going to handwrite the report, please be legible and readable or do it on a computer.

At this time I'd like to read my Committee. If you would stand. District 1 was Nancy Hoey from Massachusetts; District 2 was Carrie Robinson from New York; District 3 was Leanne Fournier from Maine; District 6 was Amy Bowser from Virginia; District 7, Amie Raber from Florida; Michael Clark, myself, District 8, Alabama; District 9, Janet De Santis from South Carolina; and I hope I pronounced that correctly; District 10, Regina Fortner from Michigan; District 11, Judith Lenhart, Ohio; District 12, was Patricia Davis, Wisconsin; District 13, Linda Peek from Indiana; District 14 was Linda Wenzel from Minnesota; District 15 was—

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Icilda Marley.

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON CLARK: Thank you—Ms. Marley from Missouri; District 17 was Jay Alexander, Colorado; District 18 was Marilyn Dolan from Nevada; District 20 was Gwendolyn Sewell from Texas; and District 21 was Angela Sellers from Oklahoma. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the members of the Legislative Convention Committee stood as their names were called.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON CLARK: At this time I'd like to thank our, my Committee members for the great work you did. And thank you, National Commander. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Legislative Convention Committee Chairperson Clark withdrew.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, VAVS. Will the chairperson please step forward? No folder?

(Whereupon, VAVS Convention Committee Chairperson Lorraine Barton advanced to the podium.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON LORRAINE BARTON: My name is Lorraine Barton. I am from Unit 6 in Michigan. National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 94th National Auxiliary Convention.

The National VAVS Convention Committee met in the Greenbriar Room at 9:00 a.m., on August 1st, 2016. Our advisor was Nancy Mooney. And the secretary who was appointed was Marian Sawdey.

Would my Committee members please stand as I read your names: District 1, Sharon Dufault; District 2, Marian Sawdey; District 3, Donna Folcarelli; District 6, Wilma Myers; District 7, Maria Holloway; District 8, Carolyn Sensat; District 9, Kathryn Miller; District 10, myself; District 11, Elizabeth Hamel; District 12, Michael Black; District 13, Mae Ewing; District 15, Velma Steinman; District 17, Earnestine Bennett; District 20, Joanne Johnson; and District 19, Carol Courreges. Thank you all for your help. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called and were recognized with a round of applause.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON BARTON: The following Units were judged to be the best in their category for the National VAVS Awards. Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Andy Nomland Unit 2, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON BARTON: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Cumberland County Unit Number 46, North Carolina. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON BARTON: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Titusville, Unit 109, Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON BARTON: Group 4, 201 members or over, Jacksonville Unit 1, Florida.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON BARTON: The Committee submitted the following recommendations. Check figures. Make sure your totals match on front and back. Make sure hours are listed to match activities you have done.

Put only VA activities on this report. Some non-VA and community service items on sheet. No VA community service items on sheet. Please include your number of volunteers on the report. Example: you cannot hold 50/50 without volunteers.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve on this Committee. And have a good day. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

(Whereupon, VAVS Convention Committee Chairperson Barton withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, now we will move forward with the Mae Holmes Committee awards. Will the Mae Holmes Chairperson please come forward?

(Whereupon, Mae Holmes Convention Committee Secretary Leslie Victorine advanced to the podium.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY LESLIE VICTORINE: National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 94th Annual excuse me National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Mae Holmes Convention met in the Harris Room at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 1st, 2016. Our advisor was Frances Costa. Our Committee Chairperson was Joni Bundy. Excuse me. And the Secretary appointed was myself, Leslie Victorine.

The Committee members, if you will please stand when I call your name: District 1, Diane Sullivan; District 2, Josephine Rivera; District 3, Aura Nicodemus; District 7, Juanita Slavinsky; District 8, myself, Leslie Victorine; District 9, Mary Anne Jensen; District 11, Deborah Hall; District 12, Sandra Black; District 13, Mildred Brown; District 15, John Kenney; District 17, Cheryl Edwards; District 18, Lola Parocua; District 19, Mary Miller; District 20, Anita Lee; and District 21, Joni Bundy, was also the chairperson.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were read and were recognized with a round of applause.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY VICTORINE: The following Units were judged to be the best in their category—the following Units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Mae Holmes Awards. Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Lafayette Unit Number 2, Louisiana. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY VICTORINE: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Mary T. Klinker Number 27, Indiana. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY VICTORINE: And Group 3, 101 to 200 members, J.W. Cantrell Unit Number 63, Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY VICTORINE: Group 4, 201 members and over, Frances J. Beaton Unit Number 1, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY VICTORINE: And the Committee submitted the following recommendations. Please don't leave anything blank on the report. It all counts. Write in a zero rather than "N/a," non-applicable. And if over \$1,000 you must have an attachment securely stapled to your report.

Thank you very much. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Mae Holmes Convention Committee Secretary Victorine withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Now the State History Book Award, Joyce Humes and your Committee. So we will have the State Convention Committee Chairperson step up front.

(Whereupon, State History Book Convention Committee Chairperson Mary Montgomery advanced to the front.)

STATE HISTORY CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MARY MONTGOMERY: Good morning, Senior Vice-Commander, National Officers, National Adjutant, National Past Commanders, delegates, and guests.

First off, I want to wish everyone from July and August a happy birthday. (Applause) My name is Mary Montgomery. I am from—I am the state commander for the State of Missouri, Unit, with Unit 49 and District 15.

When I read the members or my Committee's names would you please stand. District 1, Janet Pratt, Massachusetts, Unit 29; District 2, Jameione Winston-Day, New York, Unit 28; District 3, Linda Folcarelli, Rhode Island, Unit 1; District 6, Carol Simmons, Maryland, Unit 22; District 7, Donna Joyner, Florida, Unit 16; Susan Evans from District 8, Tennessee, Unit 42; District 9, Margaret Snelling, North Carolina, Unit 1; District 10, Teresita Morey, Michigan, Unit 14; District 11, Anita Marcum, Ohio, Unit 9; Shelby Hunt, District 13, Indiana, Unit 15; Darlene Hopper from District 14, Montana, Unit 17; Myself, District 15 and I'm with Unit 49; Beth Maughan from Utah, Unit 4, District 17; Delores Knapp, District 19, Idaho, Unit 22; and Ava sorry, Eva I'm sorry, I'm not going to butcher your last name and she is from District 20 from Texas, with Unit 42.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were read and were recognized with a round of applause.)

STATE HISTORY CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MONTGOMERY: We met in the Spring Room on August 1st. We convened at 9:20 a.m. Our advisor was Joyce Humes and our secretary was Beth Maughan. Sorry.

The following state Department was selected to receive the National State Department History Book award: the State Department of Texas, State Historian Book Chairperson Elaine Moreland. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative advanced to receive the award.)

STATE HISTORY CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MONTGOMERY: The recommendations for this is if you put in a title page, please make sure the pictures follow and don't put so many title pages.

(Whereupon, State History Convention Committee Chairperson Montgomery withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: And now we come to our National Membership Awards, Craig Johniken, National Chairperson, please step forward.

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice-Commander and National Membership Committee Chairperson William Craig Johniken advanced to the podium amid calls of five bucks and telephone as someone's telephone rang.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON WILLIAM CRAIG JOHNIKEN: Don't answer it. It's probably a bill collector. (Laughter) Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSON JOHNIKEN: Line Officers, National Adjutant Pat, National Assistant Bunny, Past National Commanders, members and guests.

The first thing I want to do is to thank everybody for their efforts as far as membership goes this year. We truly got some good numbers out of all of this. And my understanding is that a few people didn't get my report for the year in their bags, by the way, and I don't have that with me to give you the actual totals.

But I want to thank our National staff for everything that they are doing towards—they've hired Anthony and he's doing a fantastic job putting us out on Twitter and Facebook and things like that. (Applause) And my hats are off to you for that.

So let's get down to who the winners are here. Group 1, 10 to 50, Lafayette, Louisiana with a 14-member increase.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSON JOHNIKEN: Group 2, Huntington Number 2, West Virginia, a 25 member increase. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSON JOHNIKEN: Group 3, 101 to 200, Stanley County 12, North Carolina, a 19 member increase. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSON JOHNIKEN: Group 4, 201 and over, Manatee County 18, Florida, a 145 member increase. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSON JOHNIKEN: Group 5, new Units, Most New Members, Clark County 13, Ohio, 68 new members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSON JOHNIKEN: Group 6, the largest percentage increase over quota was the State Department of Louisiana with a 104.80 percent increase over quota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSON JOHNIKEN: And I would like to add that they made quota before we ever even made it to Fall Conference this year. (Applause) Their whole state did. (Applause)

Group 7, the largest numerical increase over quota, the State Department of Ohio, 166 members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSON JOHNIKEN: And the top membership recruiter, goes to Kimberly Taylor, Ohio Number 13—beat this one if you can—136 new senior members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSON JOHNIKEN: Once again, I want to thank you all for your efforts. Without everybody pulling together and as Linda's theme was everybody pulling together to make this happen there wouldn't be a membership award.

And I want to thank the—you know if you are a membership chairperson you've got it made, really, because Pat and them do all the work for you. All you've got to do is stand up here and look good. (Laughter)

Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice-Commander and National Membership Committee Chairperson Johniken and Adjutant Kemper withdrew from the podium as Senior Vice-Commander Costa advanced to resume the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Seeing time permits could we have Judy Steinhouse come up for the second reading of the Constitution and Bylaws? Oh, okay. Your districts can have 15 minutes, please to caucus and then Judy will come up and we will begin the second reading.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed to caucus at 10:33 o'clock, a.m. on August 2, 2016; the meeting reconvened at 10:48 o'clock, a.m. August 2, 2016.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you for your attention. We will get started. Chairperson Steinhouse, would you come up, please.

(Whereupon, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairperson and Past National Commander Steinhouse advanced to the podium.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: The first proposed Bylaw amendment:

Page N-6, Article I, National Convention, Section 4, Delegates, Paragraph 2, Sentence 2, regarding units: Delete "elected" in four places. That sentence would then read:

"Each unit shall be entitled to one delegate and one alternate for its charter and one delegate and one alternate for each 25 life members or major fraction thereof whose unit strength has been verified by National Headquarters."

Rationale: In practice Unit delegates are often selected by asking "Who is going". With the reduction of the number of required meetings, some members may not be considered and there is not opportunity to hold additional elections.

Additionally, notices of elections are becoming increasingly costly. This will still require that the single state Department delegate and alternate be elected.

Madam Senior Vice-Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CAROL GRAY: Carol Gray, Past National Commander, seconds the motion.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: There has been a motion and a second by Past National Commander Carol Gray. All in favor; opposed on the question. No? The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Page N-5, Article I, National Convention, Section 3, Composition, delete "elected". This paragraph would then read:

"The National Convention shall be composed of the elected National Officers, the past national commanders, and the delegates representing the state departments and Units of the organization."

Rationale: To allow for elected delegates from state Departments and selected delegates from Units.

Madam Senior Vice-Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: Susan Henry, Past National Commander, seconds.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: We have a motion and a second by Past National Commander Susan Henry. Any discussion? All in favor; any opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Page U-16, Article XVI, Conventions, add new Section 2. New Section 2 would then read:

"Section 2. In the event there are more members who wish to be delegates than delegate votes available an election will be held to select the delegates and/or alternates to a convention."

Rationale: Provision must be made to democratically select delegates. If new Section 2 is approved, the article will be renumbered. Former Section 2 will become Section 3.

Madam Senior Vice-Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

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

MS. TERESITA MOREY: Teresita Morey, Holland 14, Michigan. I second it.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: A motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Page S-18, Article IX, Supplement to State Bylaws, State Standing Rules, Section 1, Supplement to State Bylaws/State Standing Rules, Paragraph 1: delete "the first business session of a state convention" and substitute with: "a vote to adopt or amend." The paragraph would then read:

"A copy of the completed supplement to state bylaws adopted at the previous state convention and a copy of any proposed amendments to the state standing rules shall be distributed to the delegates prior to a vote to adopt or amend."

Rationale: Since the state standing rules may be adopted at any business session it is not necessary to distribute proposed changes prior to the first business session.

Madam Senior Vice-Commander, I vote for the adoption of this amendment.

MS. DELORES ROUSSEY: Delores Roussey, Unit 18, Florida, seconds.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: There has been a motion and a second. Any discussion?
All in favor; opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND PAST NATIONAL
COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Page S-19, Article IX, Supplement to State Bylaws, State Standing
Rules, Section 1, Supplement to State Bylaws/State Standing Rules, Paragraph 4, Items A, B, and Note:
Delete "three" in all items and substitute with "two." Items A, B, and Note will then read:

"A. Two (2) copies of the completed supplement to state bylaws.

"B. Two (2) copies of any adopted amendment/amendments to the state standing rules. If there
are no amendments to the state standing rules, it shall be indicated on the supplement to state bylaws.

Note: If a state department reprints their state standing rules, two (2) copies shall be submitted
to National Headquarters for review and notification by the National Judge Advocate prior to their
distribution."

Rationale: With the availability of electronic duplication three copies are no longer necessary.

Madam Senior Vice-Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: A motion has been made. Do I hear a second?

MS. EDITH JACKSON: Yes, Edith Jackson, Jacksonville Number 1, I second the motion.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: A motion has been made and seconded.

MS. JACKSON: Oh, I just wanted to say it was Jacksonville, Florida. (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: A motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion?

All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND PAST NATIONAL
COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Page U-2, Article VI, Election of Unit Officers, Section 1, Sentence 3:
Delete the words "in writing". Section 1, Sentence 3 will then read:

"The adjutant shall notify all life members at least ten (10) days prior to any nominations and/or
elections."

Rationale: Many units combined election notification with fundraising efforts in order to pay for
these large-scale mailings. As fundraising by mail is no longer allowed, the current system will prohibit
units from remaining in compliance due to extensive costs of this required written notification that, in
most cases, does not increase participation in the elections.

Madam Senior Vice-Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: A motion has been made. Do I hear a second?

MS. REGINA FORTNER: I second it, Regina Fortner, District 10, Unit 130, Michigan.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: A motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion?

All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND PAST NATIONAL
COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Page U-25, Membership Initiation Ceremony, Paragraph 2: Delete
"silently". Paragraph 2 will then read:

"Commander: Membership, please stand. I invite each of you to participate again in the membership
initiation ceremony."

Rationale: Provides for all members to share in the ceremony as an expression of camaraderie
and the support of the new member.

Madam Senior Vice-Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: A motion has been made. Do I hear a second?

MS. CHRISTINA ALEXANDER: Second by Christina Alexander, Unit 1, Detroit, Michigan and
delegate from Michigan.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. A motion has been made and seconded. Is
there any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

(Whereupon, Convention Constitution and Bylaws Chairperson and Past National Commander
Steinhouse withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: I would like to now call on National Adjutant Kemper for
announcements. But before I do that I do have one. For those attending the reception this evening it's
going to be the Lower Level I, International South Room from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Just it wasn't publicized
so I just wanted to let everyone know where the room was.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, we will have our Forget-me-not Luncheon at 12:30. The Forget-me-not
Luncheon at 12:30 in the International Ballroom over in the International Tower. It's the room North and
South. Be sure and show your ticket at the door.

The Texas reception tonight is in the Grand Hall East Room at 6:00 p.m. Grand Hall East.
This tower.

Also, a reminder about the sign in the back. And we will be taking it to the luncheon. We are going to try to get someone to get that over there for us so please take a moment to sign it. And we will have it back in the room in the morning again.

And then we want to tell the juniors if you participated in the Scavenger Hunt turn your sheets in to the office by noon if you can because we want to make sure that everybody has an opportunity to win a prize.

Now, we are going to draw for the winners at the luncheon. Now you are probably not going to be there. Some may, some may not. You do not have to be at the luncheon to win. So, if your name is drawn you will get your prize.

I would like to have Anthony take a photo of the juniors so immediately following this meeting if we can get the juniors up here in the front, please, and we will take a group photo. And we hope to get some photos printed to hand out to you tomorrow so you can have a little keepsake.

Tomorrow for the meeting make sure you wear your delegate badges. And that's all I have. And if you didn't get an opportunity to fill out a little condolence note for Linda Stake's family see Karla. She still has some blanks. Thank you.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Before we have our drawings we will have prayer by Chaplain Aura-Lee.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Nicodemus advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN NICODEMUS: Before we ask our blessing to end our meeting I would also like that we have a moment of silence for Janice Howard. She was one of our younger members who was killed in a car accident within the last couple of weeks, also. And her friends are really grieving here today so I'd like to have a moment of silence for her.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence in memory of Janice Howard was observed.)

CHAPLAIN NICODEMUS: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for one of the greatest gifts we share here which is the ability to support each other, stand beside each other, and help each other not only through the bad times but also through the good times.

We pray for our members who are not here with us today, those that are currently undergoing treatments to help their health, those that are home and are lonely, that You will be with each of them.

We pray for our troops in harm's way, that You will care for each of them. We pray for Your blessings today and give thanks for our officers that have stepped forward to serve in the upcoming year.

We thank You for all the blessings that we share in this free country. In Your name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen", after which Chaplain Nicodemus withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: This Convention stands in recess until 9:00 a.m. Wednesday morning. And we will now have door prizes.

(Whereupon, the meeting was recessed at 11:04 o'clock, p.m., on Tuesday, August 2, 2016.)

- - -

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
94th NATIONAL CONVENTION
Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia
August 3, 2016
Final Business Session
- - -

The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Regency VII Ballroom on Lower Level I of the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, on Wednesday morning, August 3, 2016, and was called to order at 9:03 o'clock, a.m., by National Senior Vice-Commander Frances J. Costa.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER FRANCES J. COSTA: Ladies and gentlemen, it's three after nine. We'd like to get started. Please take your seats. We will have the opening prayer by Laura-Lee—Aura-Lee Nicodemus.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Nicodemus advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN NICODEMUS: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for bringing us together and we thank You for the many acts that have come together this weekend to provide us all more serenity and peace over the loss of our commander and our other friends.

We thank You for the comradeship we've shared and for the wonderful memories that we've made. We thank You for the gift of the wonderful friends that we've shared, sometimes just for one Convention and for many people the gift of friendship for a lifetime.

Today as we go forward in our meeting we ask Your guidance as we select our path for the next year in choosing our new officers. And we ask that You guide each and every one of them along that new path. In Your name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," whereupon, Chaplain Nicodemus withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Diane Franz will now lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice-Commander and National Americanism Chairperson Franz advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER AND AMERICANISM CHAIRPERSON FRANZ: Free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart or render the appropriate salute and join in on the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice-Commander and Americanism Chairperson Franz led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which she withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. Please be seated. At this time we are going to hold a collection. We will be passing a bag for a collection to be donated to the Stake family.

Pat and I had spoken on this early-on, before Convention started. And Tess Moray from Michigan had also approached us early in the Convention. So we would like to do that at this time, with your indulgence.

And while they are doing that if I could continue to have your attention I will give you the totals of the other collections that we have had so far.

Camp Corral, \$6,260.00; (Applause) Scholarship Fund, \$2,585.00; (Applause) Service Support Fund, \$2,005.17; (Applause) Winter Sports Clinic, \$550.00; (Applause) Freedom's Foundation, \$25.00; (Applause) For a total donations to this point of \$11,425.17. (Applause)

Okay, while we are also doing this Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh and Laurie Stopyra both asked to come forward for a donation. We could do that at this time.

(Whereupon, Ms. Weissman-Steinbaugh and Ms. Stopyra advanced to the podium.)

MS. LAURIE STOPYRA: I have a check for \$100 for the National Service Fund. I have a check for \$100 for the camp for kids. And I have \$100 for the Winter Sports Clinic. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. Thank you, Laurie.

MS. JULIE WEISSMAN-STEINBAUGH: On behalf of my friends and myself I would like to give \$1,000 to the Scholarship Fund.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, Julie. (Applause) A thousand dollars to the scholarship fund. Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, Ms. Stopyra and Ms. Weissman-Steinbaugh withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: I'd like to call the Credentials Chairperson to the podium at this time, Dorothy Guzman.

(Whereupon, Credentials Committee Chairperson Guzman advanced to the podium.)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATES: Telephone. Telephone.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Okay, we will give just a reprieve for that first one because I did not make a reminding announcement. Please put your cell phones on mute or turn them off. Thank you.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON GUZMAN: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON GUZMAN: I hope everyone had a good time yesterday and that you all experienced a little bit of the Georgia hospitality. I would like to give the Credentials report, the final one.

National Senior Vice-Commander Fran Costa, National Adjutant Kemper and the National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests. This will be the final reading of the Credentials report.

Total Units registered, 160; total Departments registered, 39; National Officers registered, 4; Past National Commanders registered, 8; total guests registered, 193; total delegates, 308; total alternates, 22; total vote count, 1,129; and total registered, 535.

Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials report.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: We have a motion. Do I have a second?
Please go to the mic.

MS. MOREY: Tess Morey, Michigan, I second it.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: We have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion?
All in favor; any opposed. The motion carries. Thank you, Dorothy.

(Whereupon, Credentials Committee Chairperson Guzman withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: The National Adjutant will now call the roll of the newly-elected National Executive Committee members and alternates. As your name is called please come forward for the purpose of installation.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper advanced to the podium and the newly-elected National Executive Committee members and alternates advanced to the front of the room as the National Adjutant called their names.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 1 NEC, Lillian Halpin; District 2, Terry Grabowski; District 3, Sylvia Heath; District 4, Linda Applegate; District 5, Loretta Nosko; District 6, Grace James; District 7, Delphia Marie Bare; District 8, Charlene Williams; District 9, Shirley Hill; District 10—you know what? I apologize. I should only be calling the new-elected so let me please start over.

District 2, Terry Grabowski; District 4, Linda Applegate; District 8, Grace James—6, Grace James; District 8, Charlene Williams; District 10, Teresita Morey; District 12, Karla Reynolds; District 14, Laurie Pekarik; District 16, Melissa Valdez; District 18, Carol Rundell; District 20, Christopher Easley.

And now for the alternates: District 2, Cheryl Connors; District 4, Sara Kashner; District 6, Maria Torres; District 8, Juanita Upton; District 10, Regina Fortner; District 12, Sandra Black; District 14, LeeAnn Karg; District 16, Adrienne Mack; District 18, Carolyn Walker; District 20, Darlene Spence.

(Whereupon, as Adjutant Kemper withdrew from the podium someone sneezed.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Bless you. The audience is requested to remain silent during the ceremony of installation.

As newly-elected National Executive Committee members and alternates are you willing to take the oath of your office?

(Response of "Yes.")

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Members, please stand. Place your right hand over your heart and pronounce your name and repeat after me the oath of your office.

"I, having been selected as a National Executive Committee member or alternate of this Auxiliary, do most solemnly pledge myself to faithfully and impartially perform in letter and spirit all duties of the office I am about to enter.

"I promise to obey the lawful orders of my superior officers and exact the obedience of others there to the best of my ability and means.

"When my successor has been duly selected and installed I promise to surrender all the property of the organization in my possession, all of which I now affirm."

You may lower your hands and the audience may be seated. Delegates, members and guests, I now present to you the National Executive Committee members and alternates of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

I trust you will aid them in the performance of their duties. With your help their term of office will be highly successful. Would the newly-installed Executive Committee members and alternates please return to your seats. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the newly-elected NEC members assumed their appropriate seats.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Will the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee please come forward to give the Committee report?

(Whereupon, the Nominating Committee Chairperson Karla Schwartz advanced to the podium to give her report.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON KARLA SCHWARTZ: Laurie Stopyra, could you please bring me the report? Technical difficulties, you all. But it's all good. (Laughter) Okay, we are going to wing-it.

Okay, the Committee met July 31st at 9:00 a.m. And I don't have my Committee members yet. It's on its way here. But we met and they were a great group. I had to keep them in line a little bit but we did it.

Just, they did an awesome job. Fran was our advisor—I mean LeeAnn. Oh, my god, she's going to kill me. No, LeeAnn was our advisor and she was great. I kept her hopping.

But if you ever have a chance to get on there, get on there. You learn a lot about the people who are coming up and it's wonderful. It really is. It's an experience. And if you get in there and do your job it don't have to last two or three days. Really.

All right, the slate of officers are National Commander Frances Costa; National Senior Vice-Commander Craig Johniken; National First Junior-Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman; National Second Junior Vice-Commander Diane Franz; National Third Junior Vice-Commander Lynn Prosser; National Fourth Junior Vice-Commander Dorothy Reese; National Judge Advocate Donna Adams. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the report was presented to Ms. Schwartz.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON SCHWARTZ: Thank you. All right, the secretary who served on the Committee was Laurie Stopyra.

And the Committee is Donna Tanner—if you would stand, okay; Lucita Christian; Sally Campagnone; she's not here but she; Linda Applegate; Laurie Stopyra; Charlotte Roberts; Irene Stevens; Kathleen Wenthe; Jane Troutman; Christina Alexander; Joyce Hutchinson; Evelyn Couture; myself, Karla Schwartz; Sandra Dobmeier; E. Mitchell; Melissa Valdez;—What?—okay, Bonita Mitchell; it just has "E" here; okay; Aletha Jackson—Althea; (Laughter) oh, my goodness, Iris Brzezinski; Jerald Royle; Darlene Spence; and Mary Roden.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And the mascot.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON SCHWARTZ: And the mascot. We have a mascot in there. I want to thank the Committee. They did a great job. (Applause) And we worked very well together.

(Whereupon, as the Nominating Committee Chairperson withdrew from the podium Adjutant Kemper advanced to the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: When two or more candidates are nominated for any one office roll calls shall continue until completed unless a candidate or candidates withdraws. The person receiving the majority of the roll call votes shall be elected.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: I wish to thank the members of the Nominating Committee for their time and their efforts. I am now discharging the Nominating Committee and all other Convention Committees.

I now ask all the officers here at the podium to go to your respective Districts for the purpose of nomination and elections. NECs, please join your District as well.

(Whereupon, the National Officers withdrew from the podium and, along with the NECs, joined their respective Districts.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Could I have your attention for just a moment, please. I need to appoint three tellers to come and have a seat up here as soon as the caucus is through. Donna Horton, would you? Sylvia Heath.

(Whereupon, something was called out from the delegates.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: All right, let's find somebody else. Christina what's your Alexander, right? Okay. Thank you. Christina Alexander and Terry Grabowski would you be a teller, please?

MS. THERESA GRABOWSKI: Yes.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the tellers advanced to the table at the front of the room.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Another reminder while we are waiting, the picture in the back of the room, the card to sign for the Stake family, if you haven't done it and you wish to, please take this opportunity to send your condolences. Thank you.

Is Cheryl Ginn in the room? Ginn or Gynn.

(Response of "Here.")

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Cheryl, could you come forward and receive your prize from the junior scavenger hunt, oh, for signing up. I'm sorry. I thought this was still part of the scavenger hunt. This is for signing up the most members.

She's a new member that just signed up. If she is in the room, would she come forward? She's not here. I still don't see her.

Is Eva Graham in the room, one of our juniors? Eva?

(Whereupon, Eva Graham advanced to accept her prize.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Congratulations, Eva.

MRS. HEATH: Fran, where would you like this gentleman? Front and center?

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Yes. (Laughter) Could I have your attention for just a moment? I'd like to give you the total of the collection. I'd like to give you the total of the collection for the Stake family—Thank you all so much for your generosity. I know it will mean a lot to them \$1,508.84. (Applause) That will be sent to Charles.

We will now proceed with the elections.

You have heard the report of the Committee on Nominations. Frances Costa has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DONNA TANNER: Madam Presiding Officer, may I approach?

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Yes.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Tanner advanced to the podium.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: My name is Donna Tanner. I'm the Past National Commander. And it is an honor and a privilege to second the nomination of my friend—oh, you're making me cry. (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: I've been trying to hold it together this Convention. Don't get me going.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER:—Frances J. Costa for the high office of National Commander of the DAV Auxiliary. Give me a minute. Okay.

Fran is the daughter, wife, and mother of disabled veterans. Her father, Gerald Brillion, served in World War II in the U.S. Coast Guard on the U.S.S. Rose, a Navy destroyer escort.

Her husband, Joe, served in the Army in Vietnam as a tunnel rat and with the First Field Forces. Her oldest son, Paul, served in the U.S. Coast Guard in the first Persian Gulf War. And her youngest son, Joseph, served in the U.S. Navy in Kosovo and Bosnia as a corpsman assigned to a combat Marine unit.

Fran's parents, Gertrude and Gerald Brillion, had ten children and then, as Fran says, "they got a TV." (Laughter)

Fran and Joe are the proud parents of three successful children—Paul, Jennifer, and Joseph and the grandparents of seven—two girls and five boys.

Fran first became involved in the DAVA when Joe came home from a meeting and had signed her up. (Laughter) Since then she has always supported the organization, signing up all the eligible members in her family—and that is a lot—as well as her friends in her community.

Fran has held all elected and appointed positions in her Unit as well as the Department of Massachusetts, serving as State Commander in 1998–99. She then served many years as the State Adjutant.

In 2007 Fran was appointed as the DAVA National VAVS representative where she served for five years, representing our organization with integrity and dignity.

Fran became the chairperson of the National Advisory Committee, reporting to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. She was also president of Partners, Inc. During her term as VAVS representative and through her rise as a national officer she always kept the membership well informed through her articles in the Headquarters Newsletter.

Through it all Fran worked, raised a family, and she even raised chickens. (Laughter) She found time to be active in an all-women's Lion's Club as well as her church and always has time to serve America's veterans.

Her dedication and commitment to her family carries over to include her DAV and Auxiliary family.

Fran takes her obligations seriously. She has worked hard all her life in everything she does and I guarantee that she will bring the same passion to the high office of National Commander. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Tanner withdrew from the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, Donna. Now I have a lump in my throat.

(Laughter) Are there any other nominations? Hearing none I declare the nomination closed for the office of National Commander.

All those in favor of Frances Costa for the office of National Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed. (Laughter) They ayes have it. Frances Costa has been elected to the office of National Commander. (Standing Ovation)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you all. It's not often you run your own election. (Laughter)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Does that mean you accept?

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: I do. (Laughter) Craig Johniken has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Senior Vice-Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the National Senior Vice-Commander.

All those in favor of Craig Johniken for the office of National Senior Vice-Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed. The ayes have it and Craig Johniken has been elected to the office of National Senior Vice-Commander. (Applause)

Ellen Timmerman has been nominated by the Committee for the office of First Junior Vice-Commander. Are there any other nominations?

(Whereupon, a cell phone rang and someone called out five dollars.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Five dollars. Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National First Junior Vice-Commander.

All those in favor of Ellen Timmerman for the office of National First Junior Vice-Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed. The ayes have it and Ellen Timmerman has been elected to the office of National First Junior Vice-Commander. (Applause)

Diane Franz has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Second Junior Vice-Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Second Junior Vice-Commander.

All those in favor of Diane Franz for the office of National Second Junior Vice-Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed. The ayes have it and Diane Franz has been elected to the office of National Second Junior Vice-Commander.

Lynn Prosser has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Third Junior Vice-Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Third Junior Vice-Commander.

All those in favor of Lynn Prosser for the office of National Third Junior Vice-Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed. The ayes have it and Lynn Prosser has been elected to the office of National Third Junior Vice-Commander. (Applause)

Dorothy Reese has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice-Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice-Commander.

All those in favor of Dorothy Reese for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice-Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed. They ayes have it and Dorothy Reese has been elected to the office of National Fourth Junior Vice-Commander. (Applause)

Donna Adams has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Judge Advocate. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Judge Advocate.

All those in favor of Donna Adams for the office of National Judge Advocate please signify by saying aye; those opposed. The ayes have it and Donna Adams has been elected to the office of National Judge Advocate. (Applause)

I would like to dismiss the tellers and thank you for being willing to do that. (Laughter) We have to be prepared. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the tellers returned to their seats.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Will the current, 2015-16, National Officers please return to your seats for the head table.

(Whereupon, the National Officers resumed their stations at the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: The election having been completed, I now ask for the National Sergeant-at-Arms to come to the podium for the purpose of introducing the National Executive Committee members and those who served as pages.

(Whereupon, Sergeant-at-Arms Schwartz advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: Okay, first of all, I need four to set in these chairs. Okay, we won't worry about it. Okay, as I call your name come up front: Laynie Beyers; Maya Grubbs; oh, my, Josiette Higginbotham; Ashton Johniken; Jeffrey Olson; Jordan Christine Parker; Addison Robertson; Morgan Synski; Paige Springstun; Atticus Woodwork; Savannah Gould or Gold; okay, that one is a tough one—

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Magdalena Aguinaga.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: Winema Martinez; Olivia Kashner-Forwood; Eva Graham; Devin Graham; and Thomas Graham;

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Emma Johniken.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: Emma Johniken. Did I miss any juniors?

(Whereupon, a name was called out.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: She's not a junior. She's 19-years old. Can you believe that?

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: She's grown up now.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: Did one of the junior boys want to come up and say something? If you do, come on up. Come on.

(Whereupon, Thomas Graham advanced to the podium.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: Smile for the camera. You're all right. Come on. Come here. You can say whatever you want to say. Tell them what your name is.

MR. THOMAS GRAHAM: My name is Thomas Graham and the thing that I learned from my experience, always to have fun and care about others. (Applause)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: Thank you, sweetie.

(Whereupon, Thomas withdrew from the podium and Jordan Parker advanced to the podium.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, Thomas.

JUNIOR JORDAN PARKER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

JUNIOR PARKER: My name is Jordan Parker. I am from District 20, Unit 3, Waco, Texas. As a junior member I would like to thank the people who were involved in everything, in all the activities for our junior members.

The scavenger hunt was fun and crazy. And we got to meet a lot of veterans and each other. And this is my first time here so I will be back. And I wanted to thank Miss Pat, your staff, and Miss Darlene. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Jordan withdrew from the podium.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: You know, I've got to say something. These juniors have been awesome. Do any of the others want to say anything? You want to say something? If you want to there is a microphone down there. Anybody want to say anything?

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Go ahead.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: You can if you want. This is your only time. (Laughter) Okay. I've got to say this has been the best group. And several of them—raise your hand if it's your first time. Raise your hand if it's your first time.

(Whereupon, the juniors attending for the first time raised their hands and were recognized with a round of applause.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: And they were all so excited to do it and did a great job. Okay, go ahead and speak. Who is going to?

All right, as I read off these names please just stand. The NECs, First District, Sandra Fincel

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Would the NECs who served as pages this year please stand to be recognized.

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

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: Okay, are there any other pages we haven't recognized? Okay, I tell you, I want to thank all of them that helped me out. Excuse me. (Applause) Yes, but I still call her junior.

I told her to do it while she can get by with it because soon enough she won't be able to pass for a junior. But I've got to say, they all did awesome. Thank you, NECs. You guys have been great.

And I've got to tell a little story yesterday. My little buddy over here, Atticus, I am up here after everything is over and he comes up and he kind of taps me and he hands me this card.

He is just looking at me and I was kind of doing something and he just looked at me, "Open it." So I opened this card and it was so cute. And he wrote in it himself (sic) and he put a little—you know, it was a big "thank you" card or whatever and he put a little Texas pin in there.

And I'm going to tell you, it brought tears to my eyes. And then he come up and gave me a hug. He was just such—but he was so excited to do this. (Applause) But they have all done a wonderful, wonderful job. Thank you. Juniors stay right there, I have something for you.

(Whereupon, the Sergeant-at-Arms withdrew from the podium and gave gifts to the juniors.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Once the pages receive their little gift they are all dismissed. And thank you all very much for helping us this week.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: I also—can everybody hear me?

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: There is a mic right there.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: I also had one of them come up and you know how all the juniors got bags at the beginning? He come up to me that next day and he said, "I really feel bad." He said, "They gave me that \$5.00. It probably could have went somewhere else."

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Aw, how sweet.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: But then he said, "Can I spend it?" (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: We have one young man—is it Devin?

JUNIOR DEVIN GRAHAM: Thank you guys for everything you've done. And no matter how much fun you have in your life just remember you have tried to be nice to one another. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Very nice. Thank you. Thank you, Thomas and Devin. They can be dismissed.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SCHWARTZ: Okay. Pages, dismissed.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you very much. (Applause) Is there any further business to come before this Convention? Hearing none, I now declare the 94th—

MR. LARRY SNYDER: Close. Sorry. I'm Larry Snyder, Unit 13, Glen Burnie, Maryland. I just wanted to ask some questions about the fundraising that we got dropped with last Fall Conference.

It's kind of hard to take the fact that it takes four to five months to do a fundraiser now. But the problem is we can't advertise. Is there anything that the National is going to do to go to the other side of the aisle to at least get us to be able to advertise a \$50 fundraiser that's not going to hurt their national quota for getting money for them?

ADJUTANT KEMPER: If you have an approved fundraising event, properly approved fundraising event, you may advertise the event. That is my understanding. You just can't specifically ask for money. You can post that there is an event scheduled, state what the fundraiser is, and invite people to come and partake in the fundraising event.

MR. SNYDER: So you are saying that I can then go to my local paper and put it in the paper saying

ADJUTANT KEMPER: And tell them there is an event. Don't tell them, "bring your money." You are just advertising the event.

MR. SNYDER: So if I'm doing a strawberry shortcake sale you are saying I can't do that? (Response of "Yes.")

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Yes. If you are having a bake sale, if you are having any kind of event, you can advertise the event as long as it has been properly approved.

You may advertise that you just cannot ask for money. But you can advertise the event. And then the people who see the advertisement are welcome to attend the event. And then it's up to them if they want to donate and participate.

MR. SNYDER: Okay. Well, I just wanted to clarify because I was getting a different

ADJUTANT KEMPER: And I'm not prepared today to talk about some changes that have occurred since we had our meeting last fall because there have been some further clarifications.

But I don't want to stand here today and say what those are because even as recent as last night someone told me something and I said I need to get clarification from the DAV. So we are in communication with them.

So once we get something definite we are going to update the fundraising guidelines. But until I know for certain and get every word in that document approved, I cannot release that to our members.

But we are working very hard to try to make this a much easier process for the members. But we are restricted by the requirements of the DAV Constitution and Bylaws. So—but we are working to see what we can do to help our units and states with their fundraisers.

MR. SNYDER: Okay. Thank you.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER COSTA: Hearing no further business, I now declare the 94th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary hereby adjourned.

We will immediately go into our National Executive Committee meeting which I will now call to order. (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:03 o'clock, a.m., on Wednesday, August 3, 2016.)

- - -

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters

Financial Statements as of and for the
Year Ended December 31, 2015, and
Independent Accountants' Report

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT

To the National Finance Committee of
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters:

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters (the "Auxiliary"), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2015, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of the Auxiliary's management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

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.

Accountants' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

Accountants' Conclusion

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



April 8, 2016

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
GENERAL ASSETS:		LIABILITIES:	
Cash	\$ 463,995	Accounts payable and other liabilities	\$ 1,861,298
Accounts receivable	35,588	Contributions distributable to state departments	345,656
Inventory	14,109	Deferred membership fees	239,768
Investments	7,384,023		
Accrued interest receivable	7,109	Total liabilities	2,446,722
Prepaid expenses	4,959		
Office equipment	6,967		
SERVICE PROGRAM ASSETS:		LIFE MEMBERSHIP—Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	
Cash	32,787		6,242,328
Investments	318,658		
Accrued interest receivable	346		
Receivable from General fund	9,633		
DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM ASSETS—Cash		NET ASSETS:	
	4,018	Unrestricted	5,470,029
EDUCATION LOAN/SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ASSETS:		Temporarily restricted:	
		Service Program	361,424
		Disaster Relief Program	4,018
		Education Loan/Scholarship Program	1,181,346
		Total net assets	7,016,817
Cash	248,354		
Investments	493,720		
Accrued interest receivable	411		
Loans receivable (less reserve of \$19,185)	76,725		
Receivable from General fund	362,136		
LIFE MEMBERSHIP ASSETS:			
Investments	5,002,763		
Accrued interest receivable	4,798		
Receivable from General fund	1,234,768		
TOTAL	\$ 15,705,867	TOTAL	\$ 15,705,867

See independent accountants' review report and notes to the financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

		Temporarily Restricted			
	Unrestricted General	Service Program	Disaster Relief Program	Education Loan/ Scholarship Program	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:					
Membership fees and mandates	\$ 17,015	\$ 1,521	\$	\$ 566	\$ 19,102
Life membership distributions	486,207				486,207
Contributions	195,817	8,112		8,865	212,794
Contributed facilities	10,387				10,387
Conference and meetings	25,600				25,600
National convention	21,756				21,756
Interest and dividends	233,199	8,267		15,068	256,534
Realized investment gains (losses)	21,898	(2,959)		1,938	20,877
Net assets released from restrictions	60,136	(13,636)		(46,500)	
Other	38,302				38,302
Total support and revenue	1,110,317	1,305		(20,063)	1,091,559
EXPENSES:					
Program services	739,389	3,876		49,094	792,359
Fundraising costs	79,793				79,793
General and administrative	278,908				278,908
Total expenses	1,098,090	3,876		49,094	1,151,060
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) OF INVESTMENTS	12,227	(2,571)		(69,157)	(59,501)
CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) OF INVESTMENTS	(274,198)	(8,340)		(16,223)	(298,761)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(261,971)	(10,911)		(85,380)	(358,262)
NET ASSETS—Beginning of year	5,732,000	372,335	4,018	1,266,726	7,375,079
NET ASSETS—End of year	\$ 5,470,029	\$ 361,424	\$ 4,018	\$ 1,181,346	\$ 7,016,817

See independent accountants' review report and notes to the financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	Program Services	Fund Raising Costs	General and Administrative	Total Expenses
Salaries and wages	\$ 210,666	\$ 17,965	\$ 94,546	\$ 323,177
Employee benefits	96,782	8,144	39,245	144,171
Distributions to state departments	102,514			102,514
Fundraising expenses		51,340		51,340
Payroll taxes	18,270	1,392	7,218	26,880
Conferences and meetings	76,083			76,083
Expenses of national convention	91,838			91,838
Printing, stationery and office supplies	5,359		10,089	15,448
Expenses of national commander and officers	57,542			57,542
Contributed facilities	7,407	694	2,286	10,387
Postage	16		17,678	17,694
Travel	8,060			8,060
Professional fees			63,796	63,796
Service program benefits	13,636			13,636
Scholarship program benefits	46,500			46,500
Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services, memberships, and other awards	1,372			1,372
Other	<u>56,314</u>	<u>258</u>	<u>44,050</u>	<u>100,622</u>
Total	<u>\$ 792,359</u>	<u>\$ 79,793</u>	<u>\$ 278,908</u>	<u>\$ 1,151,060</u>

See independent accountants' review report and notes to the financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Change in net assets	\$ (358,262)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:	
Change in unrealized appreciation in investments	475,307
Realized investment gains	(28,134)
Changes in assets and liabilities:	
Accrued interest receivable	(1,055)
Inventory	(14,109)
Accounts receivable	(35,588)
Prepaid expenses	(3,438)
Receivable from General Fund	46,001
Accounts payable and other liabilities	94,402
Education loan write-offs	46,065
Contributions distributable to state departments	(86,642)
Deferred membership fees	(26,274)
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	(37,216)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>71,057</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Purchases of investments	(4,918,853)
Proceeds from sale of investments	4,541,053
Collections from repayment of education loans	33,516
Purchases of property and equipment	(2,599)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(346,883)</u>

NET DECREASE IN CASH (275,826)

CASH:

Beginning of year	<u>1,024,980</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 749,154</u>

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

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 in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

New Accounting Standards—In January 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued ASU 2016-01, *Financial Instruments - Overall (Subtopic 825-10) – Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities*. ASU 2016-01 revises the accounting related to the classification and measurement of investments in equity securities and the presentation of certain fair value changes for financial liabilities measured at fair value. The ASU also amends certain disclosure requirements associated with the fair value of financial instruments. The effective date of ASU 2016-01 is for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018. The ASU has not yet been adopted. Management is currently evaluating the impact to the financial statements.

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. ASU 2014-09 requires an entity to recognize revenue in a way that depicts the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods and services. ASU 2014-09 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018 and is to be applied retrospectively; early adoption is permitted. The ASU has not yet been adopted. Management is currently evaluating the impact that this ASU will have on the financial statements.

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

Education Loan Receivable—Students who receive education loans are required to begin repayment six months after completion of their educational programs. DAVA maintains a reserve for uncollectible loans. The amount of the reserve is equal to 20% of the unpaid loan balances.

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

Deferred Membership Fees—DAVA accounts for membership fees by deferring fees received in advance of the membership year (July 1 to June 30) and amortizing them to revenue ratably during the membership year for which they apply. Effective with the membership year beginning July 1, 2015, DAVA no longer offers annual senior and annual junior memberships. The only memberships available are life memberships.

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

Use of Estimates—The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with 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 2015 in the reserve for future distribution of life membership dues are as follows:

Balance—January 1, 2015	\$ 6,279,544
Additions:	
Membership dues received	568,754
Earnings on invested assets	157,617
Gain on sale of investments	7,133
Total additions	<u>733,504</u>
Deductions:	
Dues to National Headquarters	499,504
Dues to local units	26,893
Dues to State Departments	56,683
Investment fee	11,095
Total deductions	<u>594,175</u>
Change in unrealized appreciation(depreciation) of investments	<u>(176,545)</u>
Balance—December 31, 2015	<u>\$ 6,242,328</u>

Life membership net earnings on invested assets of \$157,617 are comprised of gross interest and dividends of \$168,712—net of investment fees paid of \$11,095.

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, 2015, are summarized below:

2015	Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
General fund:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 184,437	\$ 184,437	\$ -
Mutual funds/ETFs:			
Domestic fixed income funds	5,470,753	5,342,336	(128,417)
International fixed income funds	576,889	476,885	(100,004)
Domestic equity funds	845,679	1,018,639	172,960
International equity funds	387,580	361,726	(25,854)
Total	<u>\$ 7,465,338</u>	<u>\$ 7,384,023</u>	<u>\$ (81,315)</u>
Service program:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 15,967	\$ 15,967	\$
US government securities	16,870	16,792	(78)
US government agency notes	3,124	3,114	(10)
Corporate bonds	17,663	17,723	60
Common stocks	61,789	68,019	6,230
Mutual funds/ETFs—domestic equity funds	199,742	197,043	(2,699)
Total	<u>\$ 315,155</u>	<u>\$ 318,658</u>	<u>\$ 3,503</u>
Education Loan/Scholarship program:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 12,794	\$ 12,794	\$
US government securities	17,894	17,803	(91)
US government agency notes	4,165	4,151	(14)
Corporate bonds	20,903	20,964	61
Common stocks	69,107	75,603	6,496
Mutual funds/ETFs—domestic fixed income	235,501	216,841	(18,660)
Mutual funds/ETFs—domestic equity funds	147,486	145,564	(1,922)
Total	<u>\$ 507,850</u>	<u>\$ 493,720</u>	<u>\$ (14,130)</u>
Life membership:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 114,319	\$ 114,319	\$ -
Mutual funds/ETFs:			
Domestic fixed income funds	3,712,426	3,621,866	(90,560)
International fixed-income funds	388,920	323,787	(65,133)
Domestic equity funds	569,707	697,891	128,184
International equity funds	286,310	244,900	(41,410)
Total	<u>\$ 5,071,682</u>	<u>\$ 5,002,763</u>	<u>\$ (68,919)</u>

As of December 31, 2015, the amount of securities in a continuous unrealized loss position for a duration of greater than twelve months is not material.

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 2015.

The DAVA's policy is to recognize transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no transfers between Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3 during 2015.

Asset Valuation Techniques—Valuation techniques used 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, 2015.

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.

U.S. Government Securities (U.S. Treasury Notes) and Common stocks, categorized as Level 1, are valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the individual security is traded.

U.S. Government agency notes and Corporate bonds, categorized as Level 2, 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 financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2015, 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	\$ 184,437	\$ -	\$ 184,437
Mutual funds/ETFs:			
Domestic fixed income funds	5,342,336		5,342,336
International fixed income funds	476,885		476,885
Domestic equity funds	1,018,639		1,018,639
International equity funds	361,726		361,726
Total mutual funds	7,199,586	-	7,199,586
Total	\$ 7,384,023	\$ -	\$ 7,384,023
Service program:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 15,967	\$ -	\$ 15,967
US government securities	16,792		16,792
US government agency notes		3,114	3,114
Corporate bonds		17,723	17,723
Common stocks	68,019		68,019
Mutual funds/ETFs—domestic equity funds	197,043		197,043
Total	\$ 297,821	\$ 20,837	\$ 318,658
Education Loan/Scholarship program:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 12,794	\$ -	\$ 12,794
US government securities	17,803		17,803
US government agency notes		4,151	4,151
Corporate bonds		20,964	20,964
Common stocks	75,603		75,603
Mutual funds/ETFs—domestic fixed income funds	216,841		216,841
Mutual funds/ETFs—domestic equity funds	145,564		145,564
Total	\$ 468,605	\$ 25,115	\$ 493,720
Life membership:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 114,319	\$ -	\$ 114,319
Mutual funds/ETFs:			
Domestic fixed income funds	3,621,866		3,621,866
International fixed-income funds	323,787		323,787
Domestic equity funds	697,891		697,891
International equity funds	244,900		244,900
Total mutual funds	4,888,444	-	4,888,444
Total	\$ 5,002,763	\$ -	\$ 5,002,763

6. FREEDOMS FOUNDATION

DAVA has designated \$5,761 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. This amount is included in Other Liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

7. DONOR RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Service Program—Donations from individuals and amounts received from each unit as a mandate for the Service Program are recorded as temporarily restricted net assets, which are used for persons eligible for DAVA who are in need of temporary financial assistance in accordance with the bylaws of DAVA. The total amount of assistance is limited to \$1,000 per individual and in the aggregate is limited to total temporarily restricted net assets. Benefits are paid directly to the service provider and not to the individual.

Disaster Relief Program—Donations from units and individuals for disaster relief are recorded as temporarily restricted net assets, which are used for members of DAV and DAVA who are in need of temporary financial assistance due to natural disaster, such as flood, earthquake, etc. Donations from this fund are made to DAV and benefits are paid by DAV directly to the individual.

Education Loan/Scholarship Program—Effective in 2011, the Education Loan Program was discontinued and replaced with a scholarship program. Donations from individuals and amounts received from each unit as a mandate for scholarships are recorded as temporarily restricted assets from which scholarships are awarded to students in accordance with the by-laws of DAVA. In 2015, there were 34 scholarships in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500 issued to selected Auxiliary member applicants for a total of \$46,500. The existing education loans are still required to be repaid in accordance with the terms of the original loan agreements, which includes full repayment within 7 years of graduation or withdrawal from school. At December 31, 2015, the total amount of loans outstanding was \$76,725, net of reserve.

8. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Certain 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 2015, DAV charged DAVA \$144,171 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 2015, DAV did not charge DAVA for these benefits. Such amounts are immaterial.

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 \$10,387 in 2015 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, 2015, DAVA owed approximately \$172,171 for such costs, which is recorded as an accounts payable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

DAV National Headquarters also processes membership dues on behalf of DAVA. The amounts collected are remitted to DAVA. As of December 31, 2015 DAVA was due approximately \$35,588 for dues collected, which is recorded as an accounts receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No events have occurred after December 31, 2015, but before April 8, 2016, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

* * * * *

