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# NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

## COMMUNICATION

**from**

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

**transmitting**

2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, PURSUANT TO 44 U.S.C. 1332; 36 U.S.C. 50308; AND 36 U.S.C. 10101

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# LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

December 5, 2017

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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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, 2016, as described in 36 U.S.C. 10101.

Sincerely,

J. MARC BURGESS
National Adjutant
Chief Executive Officer

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## NATIONAL OFFICERS 2017–2018
## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

**National Commander**
Delphine Metcalf-Foster, 187 Nantucket Lane, Vallejo, CA 94590

**Senior Vice Commander**
Dennis R. Nixon, 2521 Meandering Way, China Spring, TX 76633

**1st Jr. Vice Commander**
Stephen Whitehead, 16095 Excel Way, Rosemount, MN 55068

**2nd Jr. Vice Commander**
Donald Day, 3112 Farragut Road, Brooklyn, NY 11210

**3rd Jr. Vice Commander**
Andrew Marshall, 750 Tomoka Drive, Palm Harbor, FL 34683

**4th Jr. Vice Commander**
Joseph Parsetich, 1801 1st Street South, Great Falls, MT 59405

**National Judge Advocate**
Michael E. Dobmeier, 404 25th Ave. South, Grand Forks, ND 58201

**National Chaplain**
Michael Dover, 13222 Warm Springs Road, Ellerslie, GA 31807

**Past National Commander**
David W. Riley, 11140 Cricket Hollow, Semmes, AL 36575

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | |
|---|---|
| First District | Coleman Francis Nee, Boston, Massachusetts |
| Second District | Chester Wisnesky, Jr., Constable, New York |
| Third District | Robert A. Nicodemus, Enfield, New Hampshire |
| Fourth District | James M. Kopley, Princeton, New Jersey |
| Fifth District | Samuel Blow, Jr., Melrose Park, Pennsylvania |
| Sixth District | Idalis M. Marquez, Toa Baja, Puerto Rico |
| Seventh District | John C. Raber, Bradenton, Florida |
| Eighth District | Johnnie Carver, Sevierville, Tennessee |
| Ninth District | Tincie M. Lynch, Marietta, Georgia |
| Tenth District | James R. Dempsey, Dexter, Michigan |
| Eleventh District | David C. Uetterling, Defiance, Ohio |
| Twelfth District | Alfred C. Reynolds, Mt. Zion, Illinois |
| Thirteenth District | George Hall, Harold, Kentucky |
| Fourteenth District | David P. Valtinson, Grand Rapids, Minnesota |
| Fifteenth District | Jim Shuey, Omaha, Nebraska |
| Sixteenth District | Michael Steinbaugh, Berkeley, California |
| Seventeenth District | Paul W. Jackson, Colorado Springs, Colorado |
| Eighteenth District | Richard Walker, Jr., Henderson, Nevada |
| Nineteenth District | Harvey E. Dixon, Boise, Idaho |
| Twentieth District | Percy Spence, III, Selma, Texas |
| Twenty-first District | Danny Oliver, Coweta, Oklahoma |

**Delphine Metcalf-Foster**
National Commander
2017–2018
Disabled American Veterans

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

## NATIONAL OFFICERS 2016–17
## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

**National Commander**
David W. Riley, 11140 Cricket Hollow, Semmes, AL 36575

**Senior Vice Commander**
Delphine Metcalf-Foster, 187 Nantucket Lane, 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 Road, Ellerslie, GA 31807

**Past National Commander**
Moses A. McIntosh, Jr., 1124 Fox Den Road, 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 |

# 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–<br>Aug.15, 1943: | Lawrence R. Melton, Dallas, Texas (deceased 1978) |
| Aug.15, 1943–<br>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
2016–17: David W. Riley, Semmes, Alabama

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE 96th NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HELD AT

## New Orleans, Louisiana

## July 29, 2017

## Joint Opening Session

- - -

The Joint Opening Session of the Disabled American Veterans 96th National Convention and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary 95th National Convention convened in the Grand Ballroom on the Lower Level of the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans, Louisiana, on Saturday, July 29, 2017, and was called to order at 8:30 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander David W. Riley.

COMMANDER DAVID W. RILEY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

COMMANDER RILEY: Welcome to New Orleans. Good morning. Please have a seat. I now call to order the 96th 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 96th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans to be convened in New Orleans, Louisiana, at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, July 29th, 2017. Consideration and disposition of business brought before this Convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws now in force.

COMMANDER RILEY: I would like to ask everyone in attendance please turn off your cell phones or other portable devices. I will now ask my shipmates from the United States Coast Guard District Eight Regional Color Guard—stationed right here in New Orleans—to deliver our national standard.

(Whereupon, the Colors were presented and posted by the United States Coast Guard District Eight Regional Color Guard.)

COMMANDER RILEY: Shurhonda Love is a service-connected disabled Army veteran. She was appointed as Assistant National Legislative Director in August of 2015. Prior to her appointment to the legislative staff, she served our fellow veterans, right here in New Orleans, as the supervisor of the DAV National Service Office from 2012 to 2015.

Ladies and gentlemen, our very own Shurhonda Love will now perform the National Anthem.

(Whereupon, the National Anthem was performed by Shurhonda Love followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Shurhonda. Now, please join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER RILEY: Post the Colors.

(Whereupon, the Colors were posted by the United States Coast Guard District Eight Regional Color Guard, after which the Color Guard withdrew.)

COMMANDER RILEY: Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in thanking the United States Coast Guard Color Guard. We thank you and Shurhonda. (Applause) We thank you Shurhonda for continuing service on behalf of the community and nation. (Applause)

I would like to call on National Chaplain Reverend Michael Dover, to lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN MICHAEL DOVER: Thank you, Commander. 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 RILEY: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of “Good morning.”)

COMMANDER RILEY: Welcome to the 96th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans. I am proud to introduce our National Convention Chairperson for 2017, but first I want to tell you about Eddie Figueron from the great State of Louisiana.

Eddie is a native of Lafayette and retired from the United States Air Force at England Air Force Base here in Alexandria. He and his wife Jenny have been married 43 years and have four daughters, 10 grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

Eddie is a member of Chapter 7 in Pinesville, joined DAV in 1984. He is a second-generation Department of Louisiana Commander. He represents DAV on the Alexandria VA Medical Center Veterans Advisory Council and serves as the DAV volunteer representative there.

He’s held every chapter office and most department offices. He served as the Eighth District National Executive Council representative from 2006 to 2008. He is no stranger to the stage, having served in his current capacity as convention chair the last time we visited here in 2011.

But before we let Eddie take the mic, who wants to experience something unique to this amazing city? (Applause) We’re blessed to have Eddie kick off a nice dancing lesson for us as we hear the genuine Second Line. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Eddie Figueron and the music of Kinfolk Brass Band.

(Whereupon, G. Eddie Figueron and the Kinfolk Brass Band playing, “When the Saints Go Marching In,” entered the room.)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN G. EDDIE FIGUERON: Good morning. Good morning.

(Response of “Good morning.”)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN FIGUERON: Thank you, Commander Riley, for that warm introduction. National Commander Riley, National Adjutant Burgess, National Line Officers, Commander Costa, distinguished guests and fellow DAV members, it is an honor to welcome you all to New Orleans. (Applause)

You know Louisiana is such a concoction as our gumbo, the spicy dish that has made it famous. The state has been strengthened by unique combinations of many nations and cultures and has kept the best of each.

So when it comes to fun, food, things to do, and places to go, you’ll have to pick out many fascinating activities, especially here in New Orleans, one of North America’s most distinctive and culturally diverse cities.

Whether it’s called the “Big Easy,” the “Crescent City,” or simply “N’Awlins,” when the sun goes down, New Orleans will enchant you with a unique array of sights, sounds and tastes. There is more than a city—it’s a legend.

I’ve been asked many times, “What is the difference between a Cajun or a Creole?” Well, a Creole is a term often associated with Louisiana, originally meant “born in the colony.” It can also refer to a combination of French, Spanish, African and American cultures. Today, it means mostly tasty food and hospitality. Just remember, meals here are judged by how many napkins you use in order to how much you have to clean up. (Laughter)

The Cajuns are known to have their French dialect, music, spicy foods, and the ability to live life to its fullest.

No city in the world takes fun more seriously than New Orleans. Here, the real magic is in the music, the food, the architecture and the people.

Mardi Gras; the French Quarter; jazz bands; king cakes; beignets; chicory; the Mighty Mississippi; and, of course the three C’s: Creole, Cajun and crayfish—or to some of you northerners crawdads, (Laughter) take your pick, New Orleans has it all.

Just a couple of trolley stops down the road you’ll find Jackson Square and bawdy Bourbon Street with its distinctive sounds and attractions. Near the hotel you can visit the Audubon Zoo and the Aquarium of the Americas.

The World War II Museum has added many new additions since the last Convention here. And they want to honor all your service in the DAV and the Auxiliary. It’s a short distance from the hotel and your convention credentials entitle you to a discount on your visit. It is truly one of our greatest national treasures and it reminds us all of the reasons we continue to serve through the DAV.

You can also try your luck at Harrah’s Casino, catch a dinner cruise, a paddlewheeler, or just stroll the Riverwalk.

As you enjoy the Big Easy, please keep in mind the reason we are here—to do our very best to help the DAV remain the finest veterans' organization in the world. (Applause)

We are here to take care of business. There is a lot of work to be done. And there is a lot of fun to be had. So enjoy Louisiana's unique culture, consume food—lots of food, great food—work hard, make this a great Convention.

Before I'd like to go, though, I'd like to ask my Auxiliary convention counterpart, Carolyn Sensat, to the stage, as we'd like to recognize and thank our National Adjutants, Marc and Pat, and our National Commanders, Fran and Dave, with a small token of appreciation.

(Whereupon, Ms. Sensat advanced to assist with the presentation.)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN FIGUERON: Dave, on behalf of the Department of Louisiana, myself as Convention Chairman, we'd like to present to you this, at the 96th National Convention, a memento of a Cajun cabin from back 200 years ago.

COMMANDER RILEY: That's very nice. (Applause)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN FIGUERON: It's got the rail on the side and it's got an outhouse. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, Convention Chairman Figueron presented Commander Riley with the cabin, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN FIGUERON: And Marc Burgess as our adjutant, I'd like to present to you at this 96th National Convention on 29 July a picture of a, a sketch of a stained glass window of an eagle, created by Mrs. Brenda Guber from New Orleans. Please find a place for this. Brenda Guber. Brenda Guber. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Convention Chairman Figueron presented Adjutant Burgess with the window, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Thank you, Eddie.

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN FIGUERON: And now, Carolyn Sensat.

DAV AUXILIARY NATIONAL CONVENTION CHAIRMAN CAROLYN SENSAT: Miss Pat, Pat Kemper, will you come?

(Whereupon, DAV Adjutant Kemper joined Ms. Sensat at the podium.)

DAV AUXILIARY CONVENTION CHAIRMAN SENSAT: On behalf of Louisiana, we'd like to present this to you, and we thank you for your leadership. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, DAV Auxiliary Convention Chairman Sensat presented DAV Auxiliary Adjutant Kemper with a gift, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

DAV AUXILIARY CONVENTION CHAIRMAN SENSAT: Frances Costa.

(Whereupon, DAV Auxiliary Commander Costa joined Ms. Sensat at the podium.)

DAV AUXILIARY CONVENTION CHAIRMAN SENSAT: This is a special lady.

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER FRANCES COSTA: Thank you.

DAV AUXILIARY CONVENTION CHAIRMAN SENSAT: On behalf of Louisiana, we'd like to present this platter to you and may you always remember Louisiana in your heart. (Applause)

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you so much. It is beautiful. Thank you.

(Whereupon, DAV Auxiliary Convention Chairman presented DAV Auxiliary Commander Costa with the plate, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN FIGUERON: Okay, on behalf of the Department of Louisiana, my Commander Mason Causey and my Department Adjutant Paul Hermann, it is an honor to be the host state of the 96th DAV/DAVA National Convention.

In The words of my good friends Boudreaux and Thibodeaux—and if you don't know who they are, ask any native Louisianan and the National Convention Committee—"Laissez les bon temps roulez." Let the good times roll. Thank you, Commander.

(Whereupon, Kinfolk Brass Band played and escorted Convention Chairman Figueron off the stage and out of the room, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER RILEY: It is my honor to introduce our next speaker, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. David J. Shulkin.

Secretary Shulkin was nominated by President Trump to serve as the ninth Secretary of Veterans Affairs and was confirmed unanimously by the United States Senate in February of this year. He feels privileged and honored to represent and serve as an advocate on behalf of America's over 21 million veterans.

Before his confirmation, Secretary Shulkin served as VA's Under Secretary for Health for 18 months, leading this nation's largest integrated health care system, with over 1,700 sites of care serving nearly 9 million veterans.

During his time as Under Secretary, Secretary Shulkin worked closely with veterans' groups, including DAV, to ensure veterans were a main part of the discussion on how to revamp the VA health care system.

He spent his time in that position working to reduce wait times and improving veterans' access to care. That partnership has continued into his current role overseeing the entire department, where in just a short time in his position, he has pushed for accountability and whistleblower protections within the VA; support appeals modernization legislation; and has advocated for better and more complete care for women veterans.

Before joining VA, Secretary Shulkin served in numerous chief executive roles at Beth Israel Medical Center, Morristown Medical Center and the Atlantic Health System Accountability Care Organization.

He has also served in numerous academic and business executive roles, and he maintains an active practice of internal medicine at the VA system.

Secretary Shulkin has been named among the "50 Most Influential Physician Executives in the Country" and among the "100 Most Influential People in American Health Care" by Modern Healthcare magazine.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. David J. Shulkin. (Standing Ovation)

THE HONORABLE DR. DAVID J. SHULKIN: Well, good morning, everybody.

(Response of "Good morning".)

SECRETARY SHULKIN: Thank you. First of all, I am so pleased to be here. This is always such a terrific conference and great group. I do want to give a disclaimer this morning, and I appreciate the flexibility in the time.

I don't know how many of you have ever had back pain, but I'm having one of those instances of where it's really severe back pain, so I'm going to try to get through this. And I apologize if it seems a little bit stilted, but it's so important to me that I get a chance to spend some time to you that I'm going to try to grin and bear through this.

And so, Dave, I want to thank you for that introduction. He has just been a miraculous leader and I'm so inspired by everything that you've done. And I can't imagine anybody having to follow in your footsteps because you've done such a great job. That's right. Right.

So I always like to start with our mission and talking about why we're here at VA. And of course, we're here because of you. And it started with President Lincoln. And every day we wake up and we take that mission very seriously. We really couldn't do the work that we're doing without groups like you at DAV.

Just yesterday, we saw the impact of the results of what your organization is able to do. The House voted 414 to Zero to (Applause)—thanks. And of course, you're going to hear later on from the guy who really helped lead that, a really terrific leader, Congressman Tim Walz who stood up for veterans, as he's always done. But it was really DAV and the other VSOs that made sure that we were doing the right thing for veterans.

And so, with that vote, which will go to the Senate next week—and we certainly expect their support, as well—we're going to be able to do many, many more things and design the system in the way that it should be designed for veterans.

So DAV has always been there for us. And the work that you do is truly incredible. I'm not going to go through the many, many ways that we couldn't do what we do every day without you, but 670,000 rides to VA medical centers, processing 300,000 claims to help your fellow veterans, just truly amazing work and a truly amazing staff.

So, let me just tell you a little bit about what has been going on in VA since I became Secretary. I believe the way that we're going to fix this system is by being honest and open about where our problems are, because if you don't talk about where your problems are then you can't really begin to start finding the right solutions to solve those problems and to work with groups like yours and to work with leaders like Tim Walz.

So early-on, since becoming Secretary, I came out and I talked about the 13 areas that put us at risk. Some of these areas have been at risk for decades and we just haven't had the courage to tackle them. But I think it is more important for us to talk about our current situation if we're really going to fix and transform the VA than to pretend that everything is all right.

So, I'm not going to go through these 13 areas but I do want to tell you that I do believe that there are many issues that we need to, together, resolve if we're going to keep this system strong and robust and we're going to keep it for generations to come, which is absolutely essential, not only for all of us in this room, but really for the national security of the country.

Now, having said that I'm talking about the risks and talking about the problems in VA, I do believe that we are making progress, and we are moving in the right direction.

We've seen more appointments being scheduled in the VA than ever before. We've seen a 46 percent increase in the ability of veterans to be able to get choice of care out into the community just since January of this year. We've seen our wait times reduced, a 64 percent reduction since the crisis in 2014.

In terms of quality, 82 percent of our VAs actually showed significant improvement in their quality scores just since last year. And in terms of what our veterans are saying about us, when we measure whether they have trust and confidence in the VA, two years ago, 42 percent of veterans said they had trust and confidence; today that stands at 65 percent. That's not anywhere near where we need to be, but it is showing that we're moving in the right direction.

Just last week, there was a study that was published—and the reason I like this study is because this is veterans directly talking about what their experience is at hospitals—and so, going on Yelp where veterans directly rate their experience, you can see that veterans rate VA hospitals at a 3.7, which is higher than non-VA hospitals. So this is unfiltered data that comes directly from veterans showing that we are making progress.

Now, my perspective is that we have five key areas that we have to focus on to be able to transform the VA and make sure it is the type of system, a sustainable system, that we're looking for in the future. So I'm just going to walk through these five areas very briefly.

The first is to give you and to give all veterans greater choice in their decisions about where they get their care. And, as you know, we have the Choice Program now, but the Choice Program, while certainly doing a lot of good, is really a program that's based on administrative rules. You can only access choice if you live more than 40 miles from where a service is offered or you're waiting more than 30 days for care.

I believe our system should be designed on the clinical needs of our veterans, not on the administrative rules. So we're working with Congress to be able to design a better, improved system of choice where it would actually be based upon the clinical needs of the veteran and, in addition, offer additional services like walk-in clinics and to able to make sure that veterans are getting the very best care in the community that they live.

So let me give you an example. If we have a 68-year-old veteran who needs—this is their clinical need, they need—to see a cardiologist in the next seven days, under the system that we're proposing if the VA doesn't offer the service they would be able to immediately go out into the community. If the VA offers the service but the next appointment in the VA is 16 days away—remember, we said they need their care in seven days—they'd be able to go out and get their care in the community.

Or, even if the VA can offer the care within seven days but it's not feasible for the veteran to get there—they don't have the transportation; their condition doesn't allow them be able to get to the VA—we'd get them to the closest provider that's available. So this is the type of clinical flexibility that we're looking for in our system.

The second of the priorities is really to modernize the VA. And so we see time and time again where the VA has fallen behind, where we haven't provided the right types of resources to be able to make sure we're getting the very best services to veterans.

We have recently announced a decision that we're going to be replacing our 35-year-old electronic medical record with the same system that the Department of Defense uses, a commercial, up-to-date system.

And that's going to allow a veteran from the time that they enlist until the end of their life, if they choose, to be on the same modern system of care so that there is no information that's dropped between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veteran Affairs.

We also need to update our facilities. And I've recently announced that we're going to be disposing of 1,100 facilities that are either vacant or under-utilized so that we can reinvest that money back into the facilities where veterans are being cared for.

Many of you know that many of our facilities are old. You can see on some of these slides, off to the left, a building from 1895. We have over 500 buildings from the Civil War and the Revolutionary War in the VA.

On the other hand, we have some facilities that are truly world-class and modern. Yesterday I had a chance to spend some time at our facility two miles away from here, our newest VA. And I hope that many of you have a chance to visit that. I know Congressman Walz is going to be over there this morning.

It is truly a miraculous, world-class facility that you feel proud of, that you know this country is giving the very best that it can to our veterans. I want all of our facilities to be like that. And I want us to reinvest to make sure that we have those types of modern facilities.

The third priority that I'm focusing on is to improve the timeliness of how we deliver services. We know three years ago, in 2014, we failed the country with our wait-time crisis. We know we have to do better on appeals. It takes, right now, six years if you file an appeal until you are going to be able to get a decision. And we also know that people are waiting too long for their disability claim decisions.

So, in terms of wait times, what we've done is we now actually publish our wait times, and we let all of you know how long it will take to be seen in every one of our VA medical centers. It's available. We update it every week so you can see the progress that we're making.

So if you haven't had a chance to go to the website—it's right off of our VA website—you can put in the city or your ZIP code that you want to be seen in, and you can see how many days it will take for you to be seen so that you can make a decision about which location you'd like to be seen in and whether that's a good enough wait for you to be able to wait in the VA or request to be able to go out into the community.

As you know, we established same-day services in every one of our VA medical centers for primary care and mental health because if you have an urgent problem we don't want you waiting even a day; we want to be able to help you resolve that, that same day. And that's a commitment that we have to you.

We're also using telehealth. The VA is the largest telehealth provider in the country, by far. This is actually a picture of me in my office in Washington where I see patients in Grants Pass, Oregon, and we're able to provide care where we have doctors to places in rural areas where it's hard to find health care professionals. Nine million episodes of telehealth we've provided in the VA.

On our claims, our disability claims, which we're committed to doing better on, two years ago we had 611,000 disability claims that were waiting greater—within 125 days. We're currently now at 92,000. That's not good enough, but we are making progress.

And we're about to introduce a new process in September called the Decision-Ready Claim where we will commit to being able to process that claim within 30 days. And that will begin to start rolling out. (Applause)

I talked about the appeals process, that it takes six years to be able to get an appeal resolved, which is far, far too long. Our appeals laws were last updated in 1933. Again, thanks to the House and the leadership of Congressman Walz and Chairman Roe, we were able to get through the House Appeals Modernization Legislation to be able to help fix that process.

We're waiting for the Senate. And we hope that the Senate will act on that in the very short future so that we can begin to start changing that to fix this for veterans, as well. And so, our commitment towards timeliness is essential.

Our fourth priority is to actually focus our resources in a different way than we have been doing in the past. We have to make sure that what we're doing for veterans, that is essential for veterans, we are doing the very best we can.

And that means we have to double-down on those areas. We have to invest more money. The bill that the House passed yesterday provides $1.4 billion more to reinvest in these types of services so that we can do a better job.

We also have to work closer with the Department of Defense. And I will tell you, Secretary Mattis and I have a very good relationship where we're committing to be able to make sure that our organizations are working closer together than ever before so that we can do better for not only veterans but also active service members.

And part of what we have to do in focusing our resources more efficiently is to make sure we're using modern best-practices in management. And so, when we talk about investing in services, we're talking about those services that VA really is a leader in like spinal cord injury, prosthetics and orthotics, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress.

And these are areas that you're going to see even more investments in to make sure that we're doing these better than ever before. We're looking across the country at our DoD relationships and how we can work closer with them in all of our communities.

And, finally, when I talk about the management practices I'm talking about making sure that everybody understands that we believe it is a privilege to be able to work in the VA, not a right to be able to work in the VA. (Applause)

And so, once again, you're going to hear a repeat theme of this partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs, members of Congress, and leaders like Tim Walz and the President, who has a

strong commitment where we've been able to get legislation this year where many other parts of the government have struggled to get legislation through.

But thankfully, again, with the leadership of Congress and the President, we passed the VA Whistleblowers and Accountability Act of 2017 (Applause) where I now have the authority to be able to make sure that every employee understands that if they deviate from the values and the ethics of what we believe it takes to be able to serve in the VA that they will no longer have a place in the VA.

And because of that we've been able to, since January of this year, remove about 700 employees from the VA. And what we're doing (Applause)—what we're doing to show you that we're going to be held accountable for this is we're publishing, every week, the employees that are disciplined and that we are holding accountable so that we, ourselves, can be held accountable. So, again, this is on our website.

There is no other government organization that, anywhere around, that is publishing their accountability actions, that is publishing the wait times. We are going to be publishing settlements that we do with our employees. We are committed to being the most transparent organization in government. And we think we owe you that. (Applause)

The last of the priorities, the fifth priority, and really the only clinical priority that I talk about right now is suicide prevention. Twenty veterans a day taking their life is just totally unacceptable. I think we all agree with that.

Now you can see that suicide is actually not just a veteran issue; it is an American public health crisis. We've seen, in the last 14 years, a 23 percent increase in the American population of suicide, but for veterans it's even higher at 31 percent. You can see, for female veterans, extraordinary increases in terms of a 62 percent increase over the past 14 years in female veteran suicides.

Now, one of the things, and why it's so important to work with groups like yours, that we know is that, if we can get veterans connected into the VA system, that we can save lives and we can help reduce this terrible statistic.

And so, you can see that among veterans that those that were using VA services we saw a 5.4 percent increase in veteran suicides in the last 14 years; but for veterans that were not connected with the VA that was 38 percent. And so, that's an extraordinary figure.

Just look at the number for women veterans. If you were a woman veteran getting your care in the VA, you actually saw a 2.6 percent decrease in the rate of suicides; but for a woman that's not connected in the VA, an 81.6 percent increase.

So this is where we all have a responsibility to reach out to those that are isolated, need help, not doing well, and make sure that they know that we're here for them and that we can help.

We're introducing new tools. This is using large databases to predict who may be at risk for suicide. And now, we're actually out there calling and reaching out to people before anything bad happens, inviting them in and making sure that they know that we're there for them.

We've put a lot of new resources into our Veterans Crisis Line. I don't know if you're aware we get about 2,300 calls a day. We dispatch over 60 emergency response teams a day to help veterans who are really struggling with emotional issues.

We used to—it was so busy that we had a 30 percent rollover rate. We weren't able to get to 30 percent of those calls. That's completely unsatisfactory. We've now added a large number of resources so that we are getting to more than 99 percent of those calls right now. And that's helping save lives.

The other decision that I made as soon as I became Secretary was to extend our services in mental health to those that were Other Than Honorably discharged—not Dishonorably discharged or committed crimes, but those that the Department of Defense did not give an Honorable Discharge to, in many cases because they had issues with behavior and emotional issues.

And as we know, suicide tends to be highest among those that don't have a place to get help, like those that were Other Than Honorably discharged without access to the VA, and among homeless veterans that have trouble getting access to services. So now, every veteran with an Other Than Honorable Discharge has access to VA mental health services. (Applause)

We have been working hard to decrease veteran homelessness, almost a 50 percent reduction since 2010. We're not done. We have a lot more to do. And we're working hard to make sure that we end veteran homelessness. Each community we're engaged with local groups like yours and other community groups and local governments. And we're tackling this one community at a time.

The way we're doing this is with the Housing First philosophy which means the first thing to do is to get a veteran a safe place to be able to call home and get them off the streets so that they can begin to start dealing with many of their other issues. And this is a strategy that works.

The other strategy that we're working on right now with 461 of these around the country are veteran treatment courts. When we can get veterans in front of people and judges who understand that it's better to help get them treatment and resources to help deal with their issues rather than put them back in jails, we can see this is doing a lot of good; an 88 percent reduction in the re-arrest rate and a 30 percent reduction in homelessness just by getting people to environments that understand them.

We're also focused on getting veterans jobs. And this, fortunately, has been easy because employers now understand that you can't do better than to hire a veteran.

Veterans coming back out of our current conflicts are more likely to volunteer in their community, more likely to vote, more likely to do better in school, more likely to earn higher incomes than their non-veteran counterparts. And so, these are some of the best leaders and employees in the country. And so, we've been able to get a commitment of over one million jobs to be able to hire veterans. And that's something that is really going very well.

Finally, let me just (Applause). Thank you. Let me just talk about what's to come as we begin to start debating the budget. The President's budget is a very good budget for VA—$186.5 billion. That's a 3.6 percent increase in funding. As you know, many domestic parts of the government agencies did not get this type of support from the President and so we feel very, very fortunate.

It provides more money for mental health. It provides more money for women-specific health care. It provides more money to end homelessness, as we talked about. And it gives us these types of resources that we believe are necessary to be able to do our mission and to able to do right by you.

Now, there is some discussion about that. There is money to be able to help provide veterans to get care out in the community, but I want to make sure everyone understands what the budget really says. While we do get additional money, almost a billion dollars, $965 million, to expand veterans to get care in the community, there is over $2.7 billion reinvested in the VA. So there is a balance here.

This is not a budget that supports privatization. This is a budget that supports an integrated system of care, reinvesting in the VA to make us strong and sustainable while at the same time working with the private sector, where it makes sense for veterans because the goal is to get veterans the best of care that's available in the VA and when that's not available, the best of care that's available in the private sector.

You're going to see a VA that, not only now is increasingly transparent, talking about the problems, but acting quicker and more decisive. And so, every month you will see that we are committed to announcing new programs, new decisions, new ways to make this VA better. And you're going to be able to actually see it as we make these changes throughout the upcoming years.

I just want to, again, thank you and tell you that without your support, without your leadership, great leaders that are up here and a terrific executive director in Garry Augustine, we could not be making the progress we're making. And I can't thank each of you enough.

We want to hear from you. We want to continue to be good partners with you. We want you to feel proud of the type of VA that we're building. And I appreciate having the time with you this morning. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. We're grateful for our continued partnership and all you've been doing to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs is in a position to keep its promise to our nation's veterans.

Rear Admiral David Callahan serves as the Commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District headquartered right here in New Orleans. The Eighth Coast Guard District oversees Coast Guard operations in 26 states to include the Western Rivers, the Gulf Coast, and the Outer Continental Shelf.

His previous flag assignments include Assistant Commandant for Human Resources, Commander of the Coast Guard Personnel Command, Director of Reserve and Military Personnel Policy in Coast Guard Headquarters.

Rear Admiral Callahan is a Coast Guard Aviator with over 30 years of military and civil flight experience. This is his fifth tour of duty on the Gulf Coast. And over the span of his career he has led and served in the Atlantic and Pacific theatres of operation, to include the Great Lakes Region and Alaska.

A native of Littleton, Colorado, he graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Management. Rear Admiral Callahan also has earned a Masters' degree in National Security Studies and is a 2005 distinguished graduate of the Air War College.

Please allow me to welcome Admiral Callahan. (Applause)

REAR ADMIRAL DAVID CALLAHAN: Well, thank you, Dave, for that great introduction. And I was going to ask if you could send that, a copy of that, to my sister in Colorado because she thinks I'm still a lifeguard or something. She doesn't understand who I am. (Laughter)

Well, good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for the warm welcome this morning. I will tell you, when I walked into the Hilton this morning, I immediately felt amongst kindred spirits. And for those of us on active duty right now, it's wonderful to mix and spend time with the giants on whose shoulders we all stand. So thank you all for the warm welcome this morning.

You know I was asked to come up here. Actually, I was supposed to speak a little earlier. I was supposed to be part of the "welcome wagon," I think. But that was my job this morning, was to be part of the welcome wagon.

But let me tell you what an honor it is to stand and listen to the Secretary this morning. What a great opportunity. And I will go after him any day, any day of the week and twice on Sunday. So it was wonderful to hear his great comments.

So, to our Disabled American Veterans National Commander and fellow Coast Guardsman, Dave Riley, (Applause) you know we're a small service. We don't get to say it that often, so I feel pretty good about doing that. Thanks for that.

To all of the DAV members and to the DAV Auxiliary members, thank you to every single person in this room. Thank you for your sacrifices. Thank you to the family members and all the friends who have supported and stood by for all of that steadfast support you see out there.

Thank you to all of you for the way you support each other which, by the way, to me is an example for the rest of the country. It is an amazing thing to see how you all support each other. And a lot of people could learn from that, I will tell you, in this day and age. That is a fact.

It is truly an honor to be standing up in front of you this morning. You know, speaking of my fellow "Coastie." And you know it's okay to call him "Coastie." As long as it is okay that I can call some of you "Grunts," "Jarheads," "Zoomies," "Squids," you can call us "Coasties." But the first time I hear "Shallow water sailor" or "Puddle pirate" I'm going to get pretty mad. All right? (Laughter) All right.

Now, to my fellow Coast Guardsman Dave Riley, by the way a gentlemen with whom I have served on active duty back in the days when Dave actually jumped out of perfectly good helicopters. (Laughter) We actually served together. And I will tell you that we in the Coast Guard are so proud of Dave, so proud to see him rise to the level of leadership within DAV, the organization that we all aspire to be like. It's a wonderful organization.

Thanks, Dave, for your past service. Thank you for continuing to serve. And, by the way, you know that's something that I have noticed about DAV, you members, you never stop serving. It's in your DNA, yet another thing that this country could learn from.

So for over 35 years I've been privileged, like many of you, to wear the cloth of our nation, serving in the greatest Armed Forces, the greatest nation in the world. My good fortune didn't stop just there because, as Dave introduced me as, I've spend the past two years as the Commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District, which is based right here in the Big Easy.

Now the Eighth District is a pretty good sized Coast Guard District. It ranges from Brownsville, Texas, all the way over to Apalachicola, Florida, deep out into the Gulf of Mexico and then all the way up the river system to Minneapolis-Saint Paul. And if you do the math and the geography, it's about 26 states.

Now, I will grant you that I do not have a lot of Coast Guard equities in North Dakota. Okay? (Laughter) I understand that. But I still count North Dakota as one of my states. All right? So, you North Dakotans out there, I'm with you. All right? (Laughter) I know there is a few of you in the room.

So for us in the Coast Guard, and, really, like all of the services, every day is a unique challenge. But the Coast Guard is a service whose mission's spectrum is broad. Anything from search and rescue to defense operations to regulatory and safety duties, you name it, we do it.

Being in the Coast Guard, I like to say, is kind of like Forrest Gump's box of chocolates. I swear. And I am not saying I am Forrest Gump, all right? (Laughter) I am not Forrest Gump. But it is like Forrest Gump's box of chocolates: you never know what you're going to get as a Coast Guardsman, especially in my District.

Some days you know you reach for what you think is that coconut cream, the one you want, and you get it. Right on. Life saved. Great day. And other days, like all of the military services, you reach for what you think is the coconut cream and you bite into it, and it is that crappy Russell Stover's jelly thing. (Laughter) And you know? And that is what service is all about. We take the good and the bad. But all of us together get it done and get it done for our country.

But my Coast Guardsmen are always busy and always doing things. But it's really like all of the services. Any soldier, sailor, airman, marine or coast guardsman, the less than 1 percent of our nation who serve or have served, the less than 1 percent who raise their right hand and make a promise

to their fellow citizens that they will defend them, they will protect them, they will save them, and, if necessary, they will give their lives for them.

Now, I know in this room, especially in this room, I am absolutely preaching to the choir. But you know, every once in a while, even in this room, it's worth all of us stepping back for a second and thinking about that, thinking about the less than 1 percent—the less than 1 percent that you are part of. That's an extraordinary thing.

We need to think about that all the time. And, quite frankly, our country needs to think about that all the time. It's special, the less than 1 percent who have served or are currently serving, raised their right hand and made that promise. It's an amazing thing. And, quite frankly, it's what makes this country great and we should never forget that. So thank you, all of you, for being part of the less than 1 percent. (Applause) So—yes, to you.

(Whereupon, Rear Admiral Callahan applauded the audience.)

REAR ADMIRAL CALLAHAN: So, here is the part where I'm going to get done here. I know I'm only supposed to go a short piece here, but I need to welcome you to New Orleans. Now, Eddie already did a fantastic job. Who could do better than Eddie at welcoming folks to New Orleans? (Laughter) I mean, where is my band? Where is my brass band? I don't have one, I guess. (Laughter)

But you heard it from Eddie. You know the mantra in New Orleans is "Laissez les bon temps roulez." And that's the only French I know, I'll tell you that—oui, I know that, too. But "Laissez les bon temps roulez," "Let the good times roll," and when you are in New Orleans the good times will undoubtedly roll.

So embrace the good times. And you noticed I used the word "embrace." I did that for a reason. I didn't use the word "hug" because, I'll tell you what, New Orleans loves its visitors and she will hug you back. She will hug you back bigtime, sometimes in the form of a bear hug that takes a few hours to sleep off. (Laughter) So, Safety Rule Number 1 for New Orleans is—it is a wonderful city. I love New Orleans—embrace it. Don't hug it. All right? Remember that.

So I hope each and every one of you—no, Eddie did a great job. You know, I'm not the Tourism Bureau here, but he did a great job by telling you to get out there and explore this city. See its history. Have some great fellowship amongst your members in a wonderful environment.

Between the food and the museums and the great architecture and—New Orleans has so much to offer, and much more to offer than just Bourbon Street—which ain't half bad, too, by the way. But I would tell you that you need to get out there and look around a little bit.

But if I might give you a personal recommendation because we are in the middle of what we would call the "warm season" here in New Orleans—and I know some of you coming from northern climates are going, "What? What did he just say? Warm?" But my wife and I—my wife Kathi and I, our favorite thing to do this time of year is get out there and stroll along the Riverwalk. And you will be able to do that. It's just right over there.

But do it early in the morning or around sunset because it's a peaceful, beautiful walk. You might even get a little breeze off the river. And, quite frankly, it's a gorgeous sight. You need to do that. You will remember that from New Orleans.

And, most importantly, when you do that walk, you're never too far away from that iced coffee or that cold beer or that plate of beignets that you definitely have to try here in New Orleans. So enough of me talking today. Please enjoy yourselves here. Welcome to New Orleans. Welcome to the wonderful city that "Laissez les bon temps roulez," "Let the good times roll."

Thank you so much. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. As we say in the Coast Guard, Semper Paradis, always ready. Thank you very much. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, sir. And it's an honor to have you with us here today.

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

And now your DAV National Officers: Your Past National Commander and Chairman of the Board of Directors, from Hephzibah, Georgia, Moses A. McIntosh, Junior; from Ellerslie, Georgia, your National Chaplain, in His Service for You, Reverend Michael Dover; (Applause) the pride of Grand Forks, North Dakota, our National Judge Advocate, Mike Dobmeier; (Applause) your Fourth Junior Vice Commander, from Palm Harbor, Florida, Andrew Marshall; (Applause) your Third Junior Vice Commander from

Brooklyn, New York, Donald Day; (Applause) your Second Junior Vice Commander, from Rosemount, Minnesota, Stephen "Butch" Whitehead; (Applause) and your First Junior Vice Commander from China Spring, Texas, Dennis Nixon. (Applause)

MS. ASHLEIGH BYRNES: And last but by no means least, your Senior Vice Commander from Vallejo, California, Delphine Metcalf-Foster. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER: Thank you. Ohhh, that sounded so good. All right. All right. And good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER METCALF-FOSTER: It is my distinct pleasure to present a man who needs no introduction. He is well known throughout the disabled veteran community and has lived a life of service to his fellow veterans for the past two decades.

DAV National Commander David W. Riley is a service-connected Army and Coast Guard veteran. Then, he had got a wild hair and joined the Coast Guard in 1983. There, he was a rescue swimmer, a pioneer in that elite career field who shaped Coast Guard rescue doctrine.

Shortly after taking a brief leave of duty, Commander Riley developed an illness that would change his life forever. Most likely the result of a waterborne illness, a near fatal infection cost him both his arms and his legs and caused multiple internal injuries.

But, like so many of you gathered here, that injury did not stop him from embracing life. He went on to become an entrepreneur, a DAV hospital volunteer and a leader in the organization at nearly every elected level.

Commander Riley mentors younger multiple amputees from today's current wars, taking a personal interest in their well-being and serving as a living reminder that the only limitations in life are those we place on ourselves.

Because of his upbeat and "never quit" attitude, he was awarded the DAV's most prestigious annual award in 2010 when he was named the DAV Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year.

A life member of the Department of California (sic) he was unanimously elected to lead the DAV in last year's National Convention in Atlanta.

Commander Riley has provided exemplary leadership throughout his tenure. He led our advocacy efforts to strengthen and reform the VA health care system. He called on Congress to pass legislation to support caregivers in all eras. And he has made our opposition to taking away veterans' hard-earned benefits through budgetary or administrative gimmicks very clear.

He has been a living example of the compassion, commitment, hope and renewal that our organization represents.

Please give a rousing DAV welcome to your National Commander David Riley. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER RILEY: Hello, everyone. Welcome to the Big Easy. Adjutant Burgess, Executive Director Jesinoski, Executive Director Augustine, fellow veterans, families and friends and honored guests, thank you so much for that warm welcome.

Last year in Atlanta, I was clear that things were going to stay busy for the DAV. There was, and still is, much work to do. I've worked with many of you over the past year, so let me hear from you. DAV, were we busy this year? (Applause) You bet we were.

But before we talk about that, let's recognize our folks who are out there on the front lines every day. If you're a National, Chapter, Department or Transition Service Officer, please raise your hand.

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

COMMANDER RILEY: Hospital Service Coordinators, community volunteers and DAV Transportation Network drivers, where are you?

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

COMMANDER RILEY: Thanks so much for your hard work. And thank you to all our Chapter and Department leaders. You keep DAV strong and your service to veterans and families is vital to our mission. Let's put our hooks together for your hard work. (Applause)

We have a lot to be proud of as we reflect back, from last summer to now. We were indeed busy people. In Atlanta, I asked for your help in furthering our mission of providing a lifetime of support to veterans and their families. And I have to thank you all. Together, DAV has accomplished many things. And we have much more to do as our mission continues.

There are nearly 1.3 million of us in DAV. I'm very proud of that, as you should be as well. Last year our charity secured more than $4 billion in new and retroactive earned benefits for veterans and their families. That's billions with a capital B. (Applause)

Our message of service this past year was seen on Good Morning America, Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, World News Tonight, and heard numerous times on national television, radio, and even on billboards across the country.

Our local chapters remain the go-to voice for veteran-related issues in their communities. DAV's message of continued service to veterans and their families is being told now in more places than ever. And through your work, the voices of ill and injured veterans are being heard.

We are continuing our advocacy on behalf of women veterans. The voices of our women veterans are sounding off louder than ever. Sisters-in-arms, let me hear you. (Applause) Tell New Orleans you're with us. (Applause)

Something near and dear to my heart is continuing to champion our cause for the support of caregivers of all generations. (Applause) We should not allow lawmakers to limit it to post-9/11 veterans.

Unless you experience what people like Yvonne go through every day, you can't fully appreciate the sacrifices they make. It meant a lot to me to stand up for her. And she does so much for me. So, earlier this summer, we gave a couple of DAV cameras an all-access tour to the real world of my favorite veteran caregiver.

(Whereupon, a clip from the documentary on caregivers was previewed, followed by a standing ovation.)

COMMANDER RILEY: You all got a little witness of my daily waterboarding there. Yvonne, you have been my rock for more than two decades. Without you, there would be no way for me to serve. Without your love and partnership, there would be no joy in my life. Without, you this year would not have been possible.

And dammit, we're not going to stop fighting for equal treatment for you and all our caregivers until justice is served. (Applause)

Thanks to our members, DAV has a lot to be proud of, but there is still much more work to do. We must remain strong to be the organization that follows veterans and their families and supporters.

They must be there for somebody to turn to when a veteran is in need. DAV must remain the thought-leader on Capitol Hill. We must continue our efforts in addressing veteran employment, especially employment for disabled veterans and veteran under-employment.

I hope you leave New Orleans with the mindset of recruiting other veterans under our banner. The solidarity we enjoyed in uniform is here with us in this room. It's a feeling that only we can understand. But we can share it with our fellow veterans.

I'd like to take a moment to thank my fellow members of the Department of Alabama. Please raise your hands.

(Whereupon, the member present from the Department of Alabama raised their hands and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER RILEY: Serving in the DAV is never easy, but it was a very rewarding experience and I made many friends along the way. The memories of my year as your Commander will last a lifetime.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together. I cannot begin to thank the many people among you who have been with me since the beginning of my journey. I was encouraged to lead, given lots of free advice, and was supported when tough decisions had to be made. You know who you are, and I'm very grateful.

I'm remiss, though, if I don't offer a special thanks to my good friend and DAV's National Adjutant, Marc Burgess. (Applause) Behind every decision our membership makes for the organization, there is a careful and well-crafted strategy put in place to execute the mission.

Marc, Barry, Garry and our directors form the strategic force that makes the DAV so successful. They honor our volunteers and people in the field with their thoughtful leadership. They are impressive people. After all, they kept up with me all this year (Laughter)—and I was rolling. (Laughter)

It's been a great honor for me to serve. There have been so many special people I've had a chance to meet, and I've learned so much from all of you. I'm not going anywhere. I hope, in the years to come, I'll get to know more of you and continue my service—just in a different capacity.

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

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

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER METCALF-FOSTER: Commander, under your leadership, this has been an outstanding year for the DAV. Thank you for setting the inspiring example for all of us. I move to accept the National Commander's report.

MR. WILLIAM “BILL” BAKER: Bill Baker, District 8, great State of Alabama, (undistinguishable), I second that motion.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER METCALF-FOSTER: And all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Commander.

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Delphine. (Applause) 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 RILEY: And I will ask the Auxiliary National 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 RILEY: When it comes to fulfilling our promises to America’s 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.

Last year, shortly before our 2016 National Convention, we mourned the passing of DAV Auxiliary National Commander Linda Stake.

In the wake of such a tremendous loss, and working through grief herself, then Senior Vice Commander Fran Costa stepped up and led the Auxiliary through the Convention, before being elected as Auxiliary National Commander. She has been a steadfast leader and held true to the Auxiliary’s commitment to families and caregivers.

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

AUXILIARY COMMANDER FRANCES COSTA: Thank you. Thank you, Commander Riley. Thank you all. What a year this has been, right? It has been my absolute pleasure to represent the Auxiliary at conventions from Massachusetts to Hawaii, from the Presidential Inauguration to visiting the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor, and returning to watch our heroes in action at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass, Colorado.

These things are important, but our most important mission this year has been ensuring DAV and the Auxiliary work together to take care of our disabled veterans, their families and caregivers.

This year, we have really pushed hard for Congress to correct the inequities between caregiver benefits for post- and pre-9/11 caregivers. I understand the struggles of caregivers and family members.

Along with my siblings, we cared for our recently deceased parents and, just within the past two weeks, buried our 93-year-old father, who was a World War II veteran. Without our family’s commitment, both of them would have required expensive in-home nurses or private care facilities.

That is my story, but it is not unique. It is the story of hundreds of thousands of caregivers throughout the country: caregivers like Yvonne Riley, Donna Joyner and Jason Courneen, who have devoted their lives to their veterans. These folks are genuinely unsung heroes.

Caregivers save the government hundreds of millions of dollars a year and all we are asking for is to be treated equally across all eras. I urge you to go to the DAV Commander’s Action Network and contact your representatives to help us correct this gross inequity. You can also check out UnsungHeroesInitiative.org to learn more about this critical campaign.

Caregiver benefits and families were at the top of the list this year, but there was another objective that we pushed for as well: promoting harmony among DAV and Auxiliary chapters. (Applause) There are times we have our differences, but we can’t lose focus on our mission. We have to find ways to work together, even when personalities clash.

Promoting peace, unity and harmony in our chapters and units should be at the top of all of our lists. We need to work together to focus on our mission of helping veterans, their families and caregivers. The most important thing to consider is that it isn’t about the individual. Our mission is greater than one person. It takes all of us working together.

Growing as an Auxiliary and DAV means putting our egos aside and serving our nation’s heroes. It also means serving each other. I have met so many great people this year. But nothing drove the point home for me more than laying a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery with my husband, Joseph.

We serve the veterans, families and caregivers, our nation’s heroes and protectors. I urge you to think about your special moment, too, that moment when you knew your mission was greater

than yourself. This mission of service takes all of us, working together. When it gets tough or you get stressed, remember your moment.

Before I conclude, I have a very important and special presentation to make.

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 and the Auxiliary and our community activities that are truly above and beyond the ordinary.

The 2017 Award is being presented to a lifelong volunteer for veterans and her community—Melissa Pierce. Melissa is the Iowa State Commander of DAV Auxiliary, a post she has executed flawlessly for five years.

Melissa is a lifetime DAV Auxiliary member with more than 28 years of service on behalf of disabled veterans, families and caregivers. Her passion for service is paralleled only to her commitment to the veteran community.

If you were to ask Melissa about all she does she will tell you that she "hasn't really done anything." Those who know her, however, will tell a wildly different story. She doesn't contribute her time in search of recognition or thanks. Instead, she humbly offers her service to those who need it, because she feels it is the right thing to do.

Melissa is the top Auxiliary recruiter for Iowa. Her and her sister have dedicated the past five Christmas mornings to the Iowa City VA Medical Center. And she helps out with countless other veterans' activities throughout the state. She even helps out at the Iowa Veterans Home, which is a three-hour round-trip drive from her home.

Melissa is not only the go-to person for her state of Iowa, she is also the go-to person for her family. She cared for her Vietnam veteran father before his passing, waking every moment (sic) at 4:30 to take him to dialysis, caring for the needs of her sister with MS, raising children and helping with nieces and nephews. Her heart is truly the size of Iowa.

Her DAV Auxiliary membership is through her father, a disabled veteran who served in Vietnam.

And in addition to her state commander role she also acts as the adjutant for Unit 20 in Des Moines.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very proud to present this award to Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year Melissa Pierce. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Ms. Pierce was presented with her award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MS. MELISSA PIERCE: You will have to excuse me. I'm not the greatest speaker. But I'd just like to thank Commander Costa for the kind words and also to the PNC Committee for selecting me for this award. I am extremely honored to accept it.

Both my parents, as you heard, served in the military. My dad was a USMC Vietnam veteran. My mom was a Navy Vietnam veteran nurse. They've both been active in DAV and Auxiliary.

As a child growing up in the DAV organization, the values of volunteerism have been instilled in me for a long time, and it's not something—I don't know how to stay this—it's just something that I do. It's not anything special.

Working for veterans and their families will always be an essential part of who I am. And I just want to say thanks again for the award. (Applause)

AUXILIARY COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, Melissa. And thank you, Commander Riley, for your friendship and partnership this year. It's been an honor to serve alongside you. This concludes my report. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: When it comes to firsts, A&W Restaurants has an impressive list.

This iconic American brand was our country's first restaurant chain, and now our oldest. They served their first mug of root beer in 1919 at a parade welcoming home World War I veterans. They became America's first franchised restaurant chain in 1921; and in 1963 they were the first restaurant to add a bacon cheeseburger to their menu. (Laughter) What's more American than that? It's starting to make me a little hungry. (Laughter)

What many people do not know is that A&W served their first root beer in 1919 during a welcome home parade for World War I veterans.

With all that in mind, it is only fitting that DAV and A&W, two great American institutions, founded within a couple of years of one another, stand together today in support of our nation's veterans and the sacrifices they have made throughout our history.

This year, as a part of National Root Beer Float Day, Sunday, August 6th, A&W Restaurants nationwide will be partnering with DAV to raise money and awareness for our nation's veterans and to help ensure our promises are kept to the men and women who served and their families.

All day long, participating restaurants will give away free small root beer floats with any purchase, and A&W patrons will be encouraged to contribute to our cause from early in July through National Root Beer Float Day on August 6th.

I can only speak for myself, but since I wasn't there in 1919, (Laughter) I will be there August 6th. (Laughter) And I encourage as many of you as possible to go collect that float.

Ladies and gentlemen, let's raise a frosty mug for a very special guest from A&W. Please give a big round of applause for Sarah Blasi, Vice-President of Marketing. (Applause)

DAV ANNOUNCER: A&W's Sarah Blasi is a magna cum laude graduate of Columbia Southern University. She began her career as an intern in KFC Marketing in 2007, made her way to A&W in 2008, and stayed with the brand through its divestiture from Yum! in 2011. Her love for A&W root beer floats is unmatched.

MS. SARAH BLASI: Thank you, Commander Riley, Marc, and to the entire DAV community for inviting me to attend this incredible event. This is my first time at a DAV convention. I must say I'm a little emotional even being allowed here on stage to represent A&W. My grandfather, my hero, was a U.S. Navy veteran and minesweeper who was stationed at Pearl Harbor. And I would like to think he is smiling down on all of us right now.

You heard just a little bit of A&W's long history of supporting our nation's veterans. But in addition to that first parade, that first root beer in 1919, A&W's big boom in the 1950s was actually built on the back of returning World War II veterans that used their GI loans to open up A&W Restaurants all across the country. And, since 2012, we have raised $550,000, over $550,000 in support of veteran-related charities.

So, we are so excited about our new partnership with DAV and this year's event, National Root Beer Float Day, next Sunday on August 6th. And to give you just a taste of what this event is about we've put together a short video talking all about Root Beer Float Day. Let's watch that.

(Whereupon, an A&W Root Beer Float Day video was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

MS. BLASI: So, I think you can see it's nearly impossible to have a bad day when you're enjoying a root beer float.

(Response of "Yes.")

MS. BLASI: So even though August 6th is next Sunday—we won't have the official donation totals until after the event—I wanted to come here, today, and in expression of our gratitude for our new partnership with DAV, present the organization with a check for $100,000 in honor of our new partnership. (Applause)

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

MS. BLASI: One last thing. We're either—we're probably really crazy for trying to do this, but I wanted to let you know that at 11:30 right across the hall we're going to host an A&W Root Beer Float Party for all of you here. (Applause)

I say we might be crazy because the most we've ever served root beer floats for is 250 people so, hey. (Laughter) We'll see how this goes. But, thank you, and we will see you later across the hall. Thank you so much. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: I'd like to pause for a moment and reflect on the life of a DAV institution—the incomparable Fred Bristol. We recently lost our dear friend, Fred, which is not only a loss to the organization but to the entire veterans' community.

Fred made DAV his life's calling. In particular, he played a pivotal role in correcting DAV's course years ago, putting us back on solid financial footing after near disaster in the early 90s. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Fred for the passionate work he did on behalf of the nation's ill and injured veterans.

At this time, let's hear from some of the individuals who knew Fred best.

(Whereupon, a video memorial to Fred Bristol was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER RILEY: Joining us here today is Fred's spouse and best friend, Roger. Roger, you have been part of our DAV family for many years and we thank you for all the time you and Fred have shared with us. While I know you have always been proud of Fred's involvement with the DAV, know that we are equally grateful for your contributions and continual and unwavering support.

The hearts of all our members and families are with you in this difficult time. And I echo the words you heard from the video—there will never be another Fred Bristol. (Applause)

Golden Corral was the first restaurant to nationally recognize the service and sacrifices of veterans after 9/11 with a free meal in conjunction with Veterans' Day. And over the last 16 years, DAV chapters and departments have benefited enormously through our partnership with Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Night program.

In 2016 alone, DAV was able to reach out to more than 300,000 veterans who received free meals. We were also able to raise more than $1.4 million. And since the program's inception, more than five million free meals have been served to veterans and $12.9 million have been raised to support state and local programs. (Applause)

It has been our pleasure to stand with Golden Corral since the founding of Camp Corral in 2011. Camp Corral provides a free, life-changing experience to the children of military members and injured veterans through a week-long summer camp.

The camps have grown tremendously in scope and popularity and now have a waiting list. It is our goal to clear out the waiting list and get every interested military and veteran child to a camp.

For a better understanding of the impact of Camp Corral and the appreciation of its campers, we have a short video.

(Whereupon, a video on Camp Corral was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

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

Just B Kids empowers chapters and departments to raise funds through DAV. So far this year, DAV departments and chapters have raised over $230,000 to get kids to these camps. In recognition of your hard work, these funds will be matched by the national organization. (Applause)

As of early July, our top local fundraiser was Chapter 37 of Greenville, North Carolina. Its members raised more than $36,000—with matched totals it's more than $73,300. (Applause)

I have a check for $620,000 here today. 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.

Combined, these funds will provide scholarships for more than a thousand camp attendees. (Applause) We will now invite some special friends to the stage to send them to the bank with this thing.

DAV ANNOUNCER: Representing our partners at Golden Corral is Amanda Brown, Senior Manager of 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 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 officer 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 transition out of the military, and has worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the needs of veterans on the UNC Chapel Hill campus.

Joining them is Auxiliary National Commander Fran Costa and Charitable Service Trust Chairman Dick Marbes.

Mary Beth, would you like to say a few words?

GOLDEN CORRAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MARY BETH HERNANDEZ: Thank you, DAV. It is a pleasure to be with you again this year. And I have some great news for you. With your ongoing support this year, we were able to send 400 more children to camp than we did last year—400 children. (Applause)

That is a total of 3,700 children of wounded, ill, injured and fallen military service members who were able to experience Camp Corral, and we can't thank you enough.

I want to read—I can tell you about the impact of Camp Corral but I really want you to hear it from the parents, themselves, so I just want to read you a few comments that we have received from parents this summer after their children have gone to a Camp Corral Camp.

"Because we live in a non-military town my daughter's friends do not understand her father's PTSD and other physical and emotional issues which sometimes make her feel a bit of an 'oddball.'

"At Camp Corral she has been able to make friends who deal with similar issues, and it has helped her understand the special sacrifices her father has made for our country and has helped to instill pride in her dad."

Another parent says:

"I believe Camp Corral is important because it gives my daughter a boost of confidence to be able to step up without us. She seemed to grow a lot from just that one week there. I also noticed it helped her understand that she can be a leader.

"The camp is important because it gives kids a chance to be independent from their parents and family. I believe that's a lesson all kids need to have to be successful in life."

And, finally:

"It allows my son to interact with other kids, get out and have fun, experience life. It's something I've always wanted to do as a kid and never got the chance.

"I feel humbled knowing that I can give my son an opportunity to go to camp and not 'break the bank' doing it. If it wasn't for Camp Corral, he wouldn't otherwise be able to go. It definitely means the world to us."

So I leave you with those words and just know how much of an impact you are making on not only the children, but their families. Thank you so much. (Applause)

(Whereupon, an official photograph was taken as a ceremonial check was presented to CEO Hernandez, followed by another round of applause.)

COMMANDER RILEY: DAV's commitment to fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served is clear through the work of the nationwide Transportation Network.

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

Since 1987, the National Organization, Chapters, Departments, National Service Foundation and Columbia Trust have purchased 3,286 vehicles at the cost of more than $73.1 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 215. (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.

(Whereupon, "Mustang Sally" played as Ms. Cabrera advanced to the podium.)

DAV ANNOUNCER: Yisel Cabrera is a community relations manager at Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan. In this role, Ms. Cabrera is responsible for developing and directing philanthropic, charitable and community relations programs that meet the goals of the Ford Motor Company Fund and the Ford Motor Company.

Ms. Cabrera also oversees all projects undertaken and proposed in Operation Better World Cities, and maintains relationships with community leaders to confirm Ford's commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the communities they serve. (Applause)

MS. YISEL CABRERA: Thank you, National Commander Riley, National Adjutant Burgess. I am so honored to be here with you and the men and women of the DAV this morning.

As a young girl growing up in Miami, I never dreamed that I would one day work at Ford, much less have the opportunity to address all of you and express my deepest gratitude for your service to our country.

I know that the words "thank you for your service" can sometimes sound trite and insincere but, for me, it's not about being politically correct. These words represent how I truly feel about our military service members, veterans and their families, because I know firsthand that without your sacrifices, I would not be able to enjoy the freedom I now have.

You see, I wasn't born in this country. My family fled from Cuba when I was four years old and received political asylum in the U.S. shortly thereafter. It was a difficult time for my family. We had to leave everything behind and start new in a foreign country. But, we were reassured by the warm welcome we received from the U.S. government and its citizens, who made sure we had every opportunity to succeed in our new homeland.

And 30 years later, I am proud to say that we have achieved the American Dream. My parents worked two, sometimes three, jobs to provide for my older sister and I, and through their hard work were able to buy a modest house and put us both through college.

It wasn't easy, and we have certainly had our challenges, but none of it would have been possible in Cuba. My family and I are so thankful to this country and to you for providing us with the freedom to live happy and productive lives.

And I am so grateful to work for a company that recognizes the role our military has had in the success of our country and that also supports our service members and veterans.

As many of you know, Ford and the DAV have a relationship that dates back to 1922, when Henry Ford provided 50 Model T's so that veterans could attend the Second National DAV Convention in San Francisco.

And here we are 95 years later still supporting the important work that DAV is doing to ensure that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them and also educating the public about their great sacrifices.

Assisting veterans is one of Ford's signature community missions. Our support includes assisting veterans with medical transportation and rehabilitation, as well as scholarships and job training opportunities. Please take a look at this video.

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

MS. CABRERA: Thank you. 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, 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 that our veterans have done. And this is just one of the ways we try to show our appreciation.

And I am proud to announce that Ford was recently certified by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency as a Silver-Level Veteran-Friendly Employer for the company's veteran hiring and retention practices.

At Ford, we really value the military experience of our nation's brave service men and women, the technical skills they gain while serving our country and the leadership qualities that they bring.

A big thanks to all of you for supporting Ford, as well. According to a Polk vehicle registration study, when American military families buy a new vehicle, they prefer Ford trucks, utilities and cars over any other brand.

And that is no surprise to us because, since 2001, DAV members and their families have purchased more than 24,000 vehicles from Ford through the Ford Partnership Recognition program or the X Plan. Those numbers put DAV members second among the 3,700 organizations that utilize this program to purchase our vehicles. Thanks to all of you for your loyalty to Ford.

And while you are here, please make sure to visit my colleagues at the Ford booth. They can help with any questions you have about the X Plan vehicle purchase program. And this year, any DAV members attending the conference may take part in a special offer so stop by to find out what it is.

We are also giving out prizes, including a Shinola Watch, made in Detroit; small scale die-cast Raptors that are signed by Bill Ford, himself; Mustang gift items; special Ford Challenge Coins to represent our 95th Anniversary with the DAV; and lots of gift cards, just for filling out a short survey. So please stop by the Ford booth and say hello to our team because I know they would like to meet you, as well.

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

(Whereupon, Commander Riley and Adjutant Burgess joined Ms. Cabrera at the podium.)

MS. CABRERA: Ford began donating vehicles to DAV in 1996. And last year, Ford vehicles assisted nearly 700,000 military veterans to reach their medical appointments.

Today, I am proud to announce we are donating eight new Flex utility vehicles for use by the DAV in seven cities around the country. (Applause) This year's recipients at VA medical centers in: Augusta, Georgia; Des Moines, Iowa; Topeka, Kansas; two in New Orleans; Asheville, North Carolina; Memphis, Tennessee; and Waco, Texas. (Applause)

We are so happy to be able to provide these 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 this ceremonial check which represents the value of the vehicle donation.

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

MS. CABRERA: This gift means that Ford Motor Company has donated a total of 215 vehicles to DAV, representing a value of nearly $6 million.

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

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

MS. CABRERA: Thank you, National Adjutant Burgess. National Commander Riley, would you please stand here with me; and I would like to ask Auxiliary National Commander Fran Costa to please join us at the podium.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Burgess withdrew and DAV Auxiliary Commander Costa joined Ms. Cabrera and Commander Riley.)

MS. CABRERA: 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. They're kind of heavy.

(Whereupon, Ms. Cabrera presented gifts to DAV Commander Riley and DAV Auxiliary Commander Costa.)

AUXILIARY COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you so much. Thank you.

COMMANDER RILEY: I'll just let you do that. Thank you.

MS. CABRERA: Thank you again for your hard work and leadership. You have truly made a difference in the lives of every veteran this past year. (Applause)

In closing, on behalf of the more than 202,000 men and women of Ford Motor Company, it is truly an honor to be here and to be of service to you and the men and women of DAV.

Thank you for your bravery. Thank you for your loyalty. And thank you for helping to preserve our freedom. I am especially thankful for all that you have done. And may God bless each and every one of you and our great country. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Ms. Cabrera, and Ford Motor Company.

DAV is all about serving those who put their lives on the line and put their country before themselves. And we are pleased that so many of today's young men and women have chosen to dedicate themselves to aiding our cause through voluntary efforts. DAV is proud to recognize tomorrow's leaders who have made an astonishing commitment by serving our nation's veterans.

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

DAV ANNOUNCER: The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship is named after one of the most respected and renowned leaders in the history of DAV.

A Marine veteran who was wounded in Vietnam in 1965, Jesse Brown's injuries only deepened his conviction to pursue his life's purpose—service to others. He joined DAV in 1967 and would go on to become our Executive Director in Washington in 1989.

His steadfast dedication of service to ill and injured veterans inspired others to follow. In a testament to his unwavering devotion to veterans and his outstanding leadership, he was selected by then President Bill Clinton to become Secretary of Veterans Affairs in 1993.

The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship program each year honors outstanding young volunteers who are active participants in the VA Voluntary Service programs or DAV's Local Veterans Assistance Program or LVAP.

These scholarships are awarded to deserving young men and women who have selflessly donated their time and energy to assist injured and ill veterans in their local communities.

This year, we have chosen eight of the nation's most patriotic and dedicated young volunteers to receive the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship.

COMMANDER RILEY: This remarkable and important program not only incentivizes volunteerism but also connects future leaders with veterans and encourages a lifelong commitment on their behalf.

I'll ask DAV National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst to the stage.

And now, it's my extreme pleasure to recognize our top recipient to the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship—Jonathan Lee of Brookfield Wisconsin. (Applause)

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

MR. JONATHAN LEE: I'd like to start off by saying thank you. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity—this organization and all of you for giving me this opportunity to speak in front of you and serve you every day.

I think over the years I've realized something and it's that I always felt like I was doing something for you guys—I was giving back, serving those who have served me. But, in reality, you guys were changing me, you guys were changing who I am and what I was going to become. And so, I thank you so much for that opportunity and that impact that each and every one of you have had on me.

I also would like to end with a vision I have had while volunteering and it's this vision that American holidays, there is only a couple that surround veterans: Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. Now what's the problem with that? All you guys are like, what? What problem? (Laughter)

But there is a problem, because it's only a couple of days. It should be 365 days a year when we honor veterans. (Applause) Every day there should be a civilian, a parent, a teacher, anyone, coming

up to you and saying, “Thank you for your service. I recognize you as my American hero.” And so, it’s a vision that we’re so far from, but it’s a vision that I promise to keep working towards, that eventually every day of the year we will be recognizing and celebrating those who have served.

So thank you, once again, for this wonderful opportunity. (Applause)

DAV ANNOUNCER: Jonathan Lee began volunteering in June of 2012 and has spent the last five years volunteering at the Milwaukee Veterans Affairs Medical Center, where he has accumulated more than 730 volunteer hours serving veterans.

Jonathan has done more than just volunteer his time in service to our nation’s ill and injured veterans—he has lived with the lasting impacts of war. At the tender age of five, his father was critically-injured by a suicide bomber in Iraq.

This has not deterred him from wanting to serve in the military but, rather, has given him a resolve, a passion and an understanding that few have. He plans to use the $20,000 to aid him in his goal of following in his father’s footsteps and becoming a commissioned medical officer in the Army and, later, a VA physician.

Volunteerism in DAV is a family tradition. Jonathan’s sister, Leah J. Lee, was awarded a $10,000 scholarship from DAV in 2014. Jonathan has been accepted into the same program as his sister at Case Western Reserve University, where she majors in biology. She, too, plans on continuing her service to veterans as a VA physician. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: Members of DAV and the 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 toward 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 2017 George H. Seal Memorial Trophy. The winner of this year’s DAV George Seal Award is Army and Air Force veteran Harlan Plummer. (Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to present the George H. Seal Memorial Trophy to Harlan Plummer. (Applause)

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

DAV ANNOUNCER: Harlan Plummer has volunteered for 32 years and has given more than 10,500 volunteer hours to his fellow veterans at the Chillicothe VA Medical Center in Ohio.

At 97-years young, Harlan has overcome health and family issues to always find his way back to the place he loves—surrounded by his fellow veterans.

Having served in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam before his retirement from service in 1968, Harlan brings a unique blend of experience, knowledge and compassion to his daily duties as a volunteer.

A life member of Chapter 71 in West Union, Ohio, his life’s journey is a story of patriotic selflessness. Between his 24 years of service in the military, 14 years with the U.S. Postal Service, and 32 years with DAV, Harlan has devoted 70 years of his life in service to our country. (Standing Ovation)

MR. HARLAN PLUMMER: Thank you. After 40-some years, I never dreamed I would be up on this side of the stage. (Laughter) I don’t know what to tell you, but I thank you for the award. And the only way I got that thing is to be nosey. (Laughter)

I would get out there and help the veterans get their claims in there, and you find out a lot of information you didn’t know by being nosey. Other than that I’m going to keep going. I’m just too nosey to die. (Laughter) Thank you. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: For this special presentation, I would like to ask Auxiliary National Commander Fran Costa to join us at the podium. This year’s DAV Auxiliary George H. Seal Memorial Trophy winner is Dorothy Propst, an enthusiastic volunteer at the Hampton VA Medical Center in Virginia. (Applause)

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

DAV ANNOUNCER: Dorothy Propst began her volunteer work with DAV 15 years ago by first volunteering as a driver with the Transportation Network. It was there she found her life’s passion—interacting with and supporting veterans and their families.

Dorothy brought integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect and excellence to the patients she served. You may recognize these as VA’s “I C.A.R.E.” core values; and Dorothy is a true testament to these values and to the mission of DAV and the Auxiliary.

A life member of Auxiliary Unit 20 in Virginia Beach, Virginia, Dorothy has accumulated over 10,600 volunteer hours and touched a countless number of veterans' lives. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: Ladies and gentlemen, DAV is continually on the 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 has been a time of evolution. Our membership continues to increase incrementally towards 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 and direct impact on the lives of veterans. And we have developed new resources to ensure that we are reaching and assisting more than one million veterans every year in positive, life-changing ways.

At the helm of our great ship is a thoughtful and diligent captain and Navy veteran. National Adjutant Marc Burgess 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 charity.

Under his direction, we have grown as an organization and continue charting a clear path to success. For our mission 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 veterans' 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 continue to carry us closer to achieving our mission and to help us better serve our nation's heroes and their loved ones.

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 are doing around the country has been paying off in the lives we've improved and the promises that we have kept for the men and women who have served. It is only through their sacrifices that our nation can enjoy the unrivaled liberties and prosperity that have come to define the American way of life.

Through your dedication to DAV's mission and 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 Commander Riley noted, this year our organization has been a witness to tremendous change: a new president, Congress, and Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

For nearly a century DAV has continued to adapt and remain a pivotal voice for veterans, in our communities and on Capitol Hill.

The party affiliation of our president or elected leaders does not matter to us, however. Our organization is not one of Democrats or Republicans. We have much more in common than partisan ideas. We are a group of men and women committed to promoting policies that keep the promises to our brothers- and sisters-in-arms.

Of course, our focus on supporting those who served reaches far beyond the city limits of Washington, D.C. Our commitment to employment, membership, volunteerism, and, of course, service, has only grown sharper as veterans' need for support has grown greater.

As you will see momentarily, this past year, under Commander Riley's guidance, we charted a great deal of growth and progress for our organization. And you should all be proud to have been a part of those 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 the men, women, families and survivors that we serve. We have had some major successes. And I believe, truly, as we approach 100 years of service, that the best is yet to come. We could simply not accomplish all we do without your hard work and your 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 positive and fair outcomes for them must continue to be our focus.

As we stand at the precipice of our next century of service and advocacy, I want to share my gratitude 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 help veterans and their families members obtain more than $4 billion in new and retroactive benefits. (Applause) It is why, as you just saw, we were able to provide our brothers and sisters in greatest need with nearly a half million dollars in support through our Disaster Relief Program.

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 we do and for the quality of service that we provide.

Another year of success is in the books. But I know you all well enough to know that that doesn't mean that we are going to rest on our laurels. It means that we look to tomorrow and we ask, "What can we do better? How can we continue to improve what we do?"

I encourage you to remain active and engaged. That 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. This network of community service and leadership is the framework that allows us to be the best in the business.

However, as men and women continue to raise their right hand and write a blank check to their country, up to and including their lives, we must continue to focus on outreach and bring these young veterans into our chapters.

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 yet another incredible year.

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

COMMANDER RILEY: 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: Danny Oliver, Delegate, Chapter 88, from Oklahoma, moves to adopt the National Adjutant's report.

COMMANDER RILEY: May I have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of Arlington-Fairfax Chapter 10, the Department of Virginia seconds that unanimously (undistinguishable).

COMMANDER RILEY: Very good. We have a first, second. All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. (Applause)

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

His introduction to DAV came before he was even eligible to join our ranks. Before 9/11, as a VA physician, our top honoree became involved in the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, which is facilitated in a partnership between the VA and DAV. He remains on the clinic medical team and is a friend and mentor to his fellow veterans there.

The physical and emotional scars of war created some barriers for this individual but, thanks to his conviction and resolve and the support of his family, he persevered. His first-hand knowledge of the power of adaptive sports from the clinic only grew when he found himself recovering from the wounds of war.

Not only did his family support him, they have supported the entire veterans' community. His son Jonathan, who was just honored this morning, and his daughter Leah, are both DAV Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship recipients.

Ladies and gentlemen, for his clinical work in helping his fellow veterans overcome their physical, mental and emotional hardships, as well as his leadership in the therapeutic world of adaptive sports, we are proud to introduce our 2017 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, Dr. Kenneth Lee. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, a video outlining Dr. Kenneth Lee's service was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

DAV ANNOUNCER: Dr. Lee's citation reads:

"DAV is proud to recognize your renowned commitment to veterans, your family, your local community and the nation. Your resilience and determination to succeed while regaining your life

following the injuries you sustained in Iraq speak to your strength of character and have undoubtedly provided inspiration to your fellow injured veterans and their families.

"Because of your dedication to meeting goals in your personal and professional life, you set an extraordinary example for others to follow. You have shown true dedication to fellow veterans in your local community and across the country, placing special focus on overcoming post-traumatic stress disorder through the therapeutic value of adaptive sports.

"Although you face daily challenges as a result of your injuries and experiences, you continue to put the needs of your patients and other veterans first and have devoted your life to their well-being. Your humble spirit and positive attitude are living testaments 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." (Applause)

ODVY DR. KENNETH LEE, M.D.: Thank you, everyone, for this great honor. And I'm accepting this honor on behalf of all the veterans that, and the colleagues that I work with.

I'm probably one of the only VA docs who can probably hang with his patients every day, on the weekends, holidays, and get to yell at them, get to swear at them because, (Laughter) you know, they forget their uniform or they forget their sports chair, of all things, at a competition. You know? Then I'm driving around, running red lights, getting tickets to get their chairs on time. (Laughter)

And you can see, I mean, probably hear, some explicit languages going at them as I meet them. You know I'm the only VA doc who can probably get away with it. (Laughter)

There are four groups of individuals I really would like to thank for this. First, obviously, my family. Holy cow, what they've gone through. For sure, I thought I would lose them.

You know Commander Riley's push to have that unsung heroes, I've got my own—my kids, my wife—that you know instead of them pushing the veterans away, they decided to embrace it.

And as young as they were, suffering through what I had gone through, what they have gone through because of me, they embraced it more, and their future goals to serve the veterans is something that I've never expected, but I'm glad that they are. (Applause) Thank you.

The second group is the VSOs—veterans service organization like you guys. You know, I thought I would be alone trying to do what I wanted to accomplish with the vets, but as soon as I say something or I want to present what my program is like, the groups like you, DAV, just steps up and just starts giving. You go out in your ways to, in your lives, to make that happen, knowing that our colleagues are at stake. So hats off to you all for coming to the rescue on that.

And the third group is the individual veterans. I'm so amazed at what the power, an individual veteran could do. Someone like John Polk, our Wisconsin Department Commander, who tirelessly came up to me and said, "You're the new norm. You're the new norm."

You know, initially, I'm "What is a new norm?" You know? (Laughter) You know, isn't that social media stuff? You know? I don't do that. I've only got five friends on Facebook, so. (Laughter) You know? And that's just my kids and wife so I can keep a tab on them. That's it. (Laughter)

But you know, he believed in what I do. And as an individual, he pushed for me to continue on. He supported what I do through the Department. And it's amazing what the Wisconsin Department has come through to help me. So those individuals.

And, believe it or not, my vets, the athletes that I work with and the disabled vets that I work with, they're actually treating me at the same time. So that's a powerful message to everyone that, you know, you don't have to do this alone.

Secretary Shulkin mentioned about the suicide. When they're alone that's a high possibility but if they're not alone, it's not. And so, the individual, believe it or not each one of you that go out and do something individually, it makes a huge difference.

And, lastly, the last group that I really want to thank you is the Vietnam vets. The first face that I saw when I came to Walter Reed after multiple surgeries is a bunch of Vietnam vets. I don't know who, their names any more. But they're the one that was hovering with me.

For four months of rehab they never stopped coming in daily and working with me. You know despite the turmoil that they went through during their era when they returned home, you Vietnam vets have never forgotten about your own colleagues and the future ones. (Applause)

So I want to end this by saying Vietnam vets, welcome home. Thank you very much. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Dr. Lee. And congratulations, again, on a well-deserved honor.

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: Thank you, Commander.

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

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

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

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

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

"5. Adequate compensation to the surviving spouses and dependents of veterans whose deaths are held to be service-connected under 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 that these veterans encounter as a result of their disabilities.

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

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

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

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

I would now like to read into the record National Commander Riley's appointed Convention Committee Advisors: Credentials, Mike Dobmeier, Doug Wells; General Resolutions and Membership, Shurhonda Love and Scott Hope; Legislation and Veterans Rights, Joy Ilem and Shane Liermann; Constitution and Bylaws, Rob Reynolds, Ed Hartman; Employment, LeRoy Acosta and Jeff Hall; Hospital and Voluntary Services, Adrian Atizado and John Kleindienst; Nomination of National Officers, Joe Johnston and Al Church.

The Committee Advisors can pick up their Committee folders from the Resolutions Coordinating Office in the Canal Room located on the Third Floor.

And I do have a few other announcements. Seminars start this afternoon here in the ballroom with VA Health Care Update at 1:15 p.m. featuring Dr. Poonam Alaigh, Department of Veterans Affairs Acting Under Secretary for Health.

At 2:00, the Service and Legislative Seminar in which we'll welcome Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Dr. Shulkin and House Veterans' Affairs Committee leadership. You won't want to miss this very important discussion.

The National Commander's reception will be here in the Grand Ballroom at 7:30 p.m.

Beginning this afternoon at 4:15, 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 we ask that the Committees complete their work as soon as possible.

Also, thanks to our great partners at A&W, immediately following our opening session free root beer floats will be made available to everybody. Save one for me, please. (Laughter)

COMMANDER RILEY: Two.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: The Commander said to save two. (Laughter)

Please be mindful of the foot traffic while you make your way across the hall and into one of the two grand salon ballrooms where the floats will be served. You should see arrows along the deck to show you the way.

For Fun Night tomorrow evening at 8:00, we will again be treated to The Lieutenant Dan Band (Applause) which is being presented by our friends at TriWest who have also generously sponsored the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic over the years. If you would like to learn more about

how you can access their health care services through the Veterans Health Administration, visit TriWest in the exhibit 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 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. And 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 the different exhibit areas to stop by the large photo collage and learn more about the DAV Transportation program. This exhibit is sponsored by Quick Lane.

Also, if you intend to donate to the National Service Foundation, in the interest of time please fill out the form that was in your convention bag prior to lining up to make your generous donations.

We are also giving away three $50 gift cards for the DAV store to lucky convention attendees. You have to be present to win. And if I call your name and you are in the hall, please see Membership Director Doug Wells right up here on stage right after we adjourn here in just a second.

And the lucky winners are Rita Alberegg, Ronald Garcia, Lashonda Weston. Come on up and get your free gift card.

Thank you, Commander. That's all the announcements I have. (Applause)

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

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Thank you, Commander. 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 RILEY: The Convention stands in recess until 9:00 tomorrow morning.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:37 o'clock, a.m. on Saturday, July 29, 2017.)

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## FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

### July 30, 2017

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The First Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 96th National Convention convened in the Grand Ballroom on the Lower Level, of the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, on Sunday morning, July 30, 2017, and was called to order at 8:58 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander David W. Riley.

COMMANDER DAVID W. RILEY: The Convention will please come to order. The Convention will please come to order. As a reminder, I would like everyone to please turn off your cell phones or other portable devices. Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER RILEY: Two. I will ask our National Chaplain to lead us in prayer as we prepare to undertake this morning's business.

CHAPLAIN MICHAEL DOVER: Commander, ladies and gentlemen, 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 the spirit of joy and enthusiasm.

Give us the desire to find ways to excel in our work. Help us to work together and encourage each other to excellence. We ask that we would challenge each other to reach higher and further to be the best we can be. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you.

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Thank you.

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

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 amendment as provided in the Bylaws and do not require re-adoption.

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

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARREN TOBIN: Thank you, Commander. Comrade Commander and delegates, I would like to make an announcement on behalf of the Registrations' Office. This applies to Department delegates.

We have noted that there are fewer Department delegates than are expected. If you would like to update your registration to Department delegate, please contact the Registration Office and they will gladly update your registration.

The National Convention Committee on Credentials was called to order for its first business session on July 29th, 2017, by the Committee advisors Michael E. Dobmeier and Doug Wells. And we also met on July 30th for our second meeting.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Warren Tobin was elected chairman and Brigitte Marker was elected as secretary.

Roll call showed 1,260 delegates and 69 alternates have registered, which includes: 14 Departments and 452 Chapters registered. There are 8 National Officers, 20 National Executive Committeemen and 9 Past National Commanders currently registered for a total of 8,829 votes. This is a partial report, for informational purposes only.

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

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Warren. At this time, I would like to also introduce and recognize my National Chief-of-Staff Bill Baker; Officer-of-the-Day Deb Walker; and Sergeant-at-Arms Chad Richmond. Thank you for your support. It has made my life a lot easier this year. (Applause)

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

A Cleveland native, he enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduating from high school in August of 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 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 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 principal 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 the Executive Director of DAV's National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C., Garry Augustine. (Applause)

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

(Response of "Good morning.")

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AUGUSTINE: National Commander Riley, National Adjutant Burgess, distinguished guests and delegates to DAV's 96th National Convention, I am truly honored to present my annual report to the membership as Executive Director of the National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington.

Let me begin by thanking both National Commander Dave Riley and National Adjutant Marc Burgess for their personal support and commitment to helping us achieve so much over the past year. Commander Riley has been exceptionally committed to his role and has truly been at the forefront for DAV over the past year.

I also want to thank Auxiliary National Commander Fran Costa and National Adjutant Pat Kemper for the invaluable support you provide the men and women who served.

Let me also acknowledge the amazing staff we have in Washington, D.C., and in Cold Spring, Kentucky for what they do every day to improve the lives of veterans, their families, and survivors.

But the biggest thanks must go to DAV members, all of you here today and all of those who couldn't join us here in New Orleans. We can't thank you enough for the countless hours you contribute to improving the lives of America's veterans, so please give yourselves and all those watching back home a well-deserved round of applause. (Applause)

So as you know, things have been pretty quiet in Washington over the past year. (Laughter) Yes, that's right. I'm kidding.

With a new President, new VA Secretary and new leadership at both the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees, we entered 2017 facing both new challenges and opportunities.

What would happen with those issues that most affect veterans and their families—VA health care reform, appeals modernization, caregivers, disability compensation, and so many more?

Would the progress we had achieved in recent years continue, or would we have to start all over again from square one?

Well, as a Cleveland native, I firmly agree with the legendary Brown's football coach, Paul Brown, who said, "Leave as little to chance as possible. Preparation is the key to success." And that's exactly what we have been doing.

For the past several years, DAV has been ramping up our outreach and advocacy activities and developing new relationships with leaders inside VA and throughout Congress on both sides of the aisle.

Whether testifying on legislation at hearings in the House and Senate, meeting with congressional leaders on Capitol Hill to discuss programs and policies, or working directly with VA and the White House on new rules and regulations, DAV has been at the forefront of advocating for our nation's ill and injured veterans.

I'm pleased to report that despite difficult political gridlock we were able to achieve some important victories last year. Just prior to adjournment, Congress passed legislation that will strengthen VA programs for homelessness, suicide prevention, vocational rehabilitation and employment, transition assistance, disabled veteran-owned businesses, and women veterans.

And already this year, DAV provided our expertise for a comprehensive bill—the Deborah Sampson Act—new legislation designed to eliminate barriers to care and improve services for women veterans. This legislation includes a number of recommendations from DAV's special report Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home, released in 2014.

Rest assured that we will continue fighting until every woman who serves has the same access to VA services and benefits as their male counterparts. (Applause) Thank you.

We are also continuing work begun last year to reform the appeals process for benefit claims. In recent years, VA has made significant progress reducing the backlog of pending claims by more than 80 percent, from over 600,000 in 2011 to under 100,000 today. Unfortunately, as the claims backlog went down, the appeal backlog went up. Today, there are more than 450,000 pending appeals.

To break this logjam, over the past year DAV worked with other veterans' service organizations, the Veterans Benefits Administration, and the Board of Veterans Appeals, to develop new appeals reform legislation that would help veterans get quicker decisions while fully protecting their due process rights.

Thanks to the advocacy of DAV members and our partners, appeals reform legislation was approved by the House in May, passed the Senate—the VA Committee—in July; and I am pleased to report that a final bill is finally expected to be signed into law this fall. (Applause)

While our focus on legislation makes a difference in the future, our National Service program is helping veterans, family members and survivors every day. In 100 offices throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico we employ a corps of 300 National and Transition Service Officers who provide free claims assistance.

We also train and certify another 2,400 Department and Chapter Service Officers, and accredit more than 1,000 County Service Officers, who extend our reach and assistance even further.

Our Mobile Service Office program takes DAV to hundreds more cities and towns across the country, as well as colleges, universities, and even job fairs.

For veterans whose claims are denied, we also provide free representation before the Board of Veterans Appeals and operate a program to connect veterans with pro bono attorneys who provide personal representation at the Court.

In total, VA holds power-of-attorney for more than one million veterans—DAV holds power-of-attorney for more than one million veterans—(Applause) and have filed more than 200,000 new claims last year, making us by far the largest VSO in terms of service.

But the real value of our service program is not found in the numbers but in the real-life impact on those in need. Let's take a look at one now.

(Whereupon, a video was viewed.)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AUGUSTINE: That's just one of thousands of stories each year illustrating how the service work we do is changing lives.

But we're not resting on our laurels. We know that the reason DAV has the best service program is because we find the best people, provide them with the best training and supply them with the tools they need to do their job.

Our new online training program, called iTRAK, went fully operational a couple of months ago and is now training the next generation of DAV Service Officers.

We recently rolled out a new Case Management System that provides greater access to all of our accredited service officers across the country.

And thanks to a grant from the National Service Foundation, we will be providing our NSOs with the equipment to serve veterans using video and web technology as more and more of our claims work move online in a virtual environment.

I can unequivocally report that when it comes to service, no one does—and no one will—do it better than the DAV. (Applause) Thank you.

As we look ahead, one of the biggest challenges facing veterans, VA and DAV is the future of the veterans' health care system.

As users of the VA system, we know firsthand the good, the bad, and the ugly. But we also understand that VA and the veteran-focused care it provides is indispensable.

When Congress created the Choice program a few years ago, DAV supported it as a temporary response to an urgent access crisis, but Choice was never designed or intended to be a permanent solution.

Unfortunately, some political groups and politicians have been pushing Choice as the "be all—end all" solution to every problem facing VA. It's simply not true. In January, we launched a new campaign to put Choice back into context by educating veterans, lawmakers and the new Administration. Please take a look.

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

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AUGUSTINE: Thanks to our Communications Department we have about six more of those, also.

Working with our VSO partners, we put forward a plan that calls for building integrated networks of VA and community providers to increase access and expertise whenever and wherever needed. But to best meet veterans' unique needs, VA must remain the coordinator and primary provider of care.

Despite growing support for our approach, there are still some pushing unrealistic promises concerning Choice. This would not only be financially unsustainable and clinically unsound, it would also threaten the viability of the entire VA health care system.

In fact, just this past week we have been fighting to ensure that as the Choice program is funded for another six months that Congress also continues to invest in the VA health care system.

Thanks to all of our hard work—including over 6,000 emails you all sent last week—the House, on Friday, passed legislation that will not only ensure veterans receiving care through the Choice program will not be interrupted in the short-term, but also make investments in VA clinics and employees for the long-term. (Applause) By the way, that passed unanimously.

Rest assured that, as the debate over VA health care and Choice moves forward this year, we will fight to ensure that veterans who choose and rely on VA never lose that choice.

We have also begun to see and hear a number of disturbing and dangerous proposals that would cut veterans' benefits and services. You may have heard about the proposed change to Individual Unemployability or the COLA Round Down in VA's budget proposal.

There are also some on Capitol Hill talking about making major changes to VA's disability compensation program—changes that could result in fewer disabled veterans getting the support they need.

Rest assured that we will continue to push back on these and any proposals that would take away any existing benefit that veterans—particularly disabled veterans—have earned. (Applause) But we can't do it alone.

Hubert Humphrey once remarked that, "What we need are critical lovers of America—patriots who express their faith in their country by working to improve it." That's why we're all here this week. That's why we have been working for the past year to strengthen DAV's grassroots advocacy by revitalizing our Benefit Protection Teams.

We currently have one Benefit Protection Team leader for every Department, and each of them is working to develop networks of members in their states so that we can establish strong relationships with every member of the House and Senate

The dedication of those involved in our Benefits Protection Teams could not have come at a more crucial time as we seek to push back these dangerous proposals and advance DAV's legislative priorities.

We're grateful for every Benefit Protection Team leader and member and look forward to another year of strengthening DAV's grassroots advocacy work with your collaboration.

Finally, I want to touch on an issue that's important to all of us here today, and that's honoring and supporting caregivers, America's truly unsung heroes. This year, led by Commander Riley, we are taking this fight to the next level in a new campaign called "The Unsung Heroes Initiative." Let's take a look.

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

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AUGUSTINE: In the coming weeks and months, and for as long as necessary, we will continue this fight until we truly achieve justice for all caregivers of all generations. (Applause)

As I stand here before you, I realize as a Vietnam veteran that I am now part of the older generation of veterans. I won't say how old, but as Bob Hope used to say, "You know you're getting old when the birthday candles cost more than the cake." (Laughter)

As the next generation of veterans steps up, it's gratifying to realize that, working together, we've achieved some important victories over the last year and laid the foundation for more to come. We have set the stage for future generations to continue this important work and build on our legacy.

The ancient Greek General Pericles said, "What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments but what is woven into the lives of others." That's what DAV aspires to do. That's what all of us can do.

We can help to find the tattered threads of the lives of those who have served and sacrificed and suffered for our nation. And then, together, we can help to weave them back into lives filled with dignity and respect.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement, and God bless the DAV. Commander, (Applause) thank you. That concludes my report, Commander.

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Garry. May I have a motion to accept Mr. Augustine's report?

MR. AL LABELLE: Commander.

COMMANDER RILEY: Mic 1.

MR. LABELLE: Al Labelle, Wisconsin Chapter 57, makes the motion to accept Executive Director Augustine's report as presented.

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you. I have a motion, do I hear a second?

MR. AL LINDEN: Mic 1.

COMMANDER RILEY: Mic 1.

MR. LINDEN: Al Linden, Delegate, Gator 90, Florida, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you. I have a motion and a second. All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion is carried.

DAV has been on an unprecedented—has had an unprecedented period of growth and diversification in terms 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) who was medically discharged in 1993.

A Minnesota native, he was appointed to his current position in August of 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.

A gifted and selfless leader, Barry has earned the respect of key leaders, associates and members throughout the organization whose decisions impact veterans.

As DAV makes an historic evolution to enhance the breadth and scope of the services we offer our nation's 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, Communications, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Direct Mail Services.

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

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARRY JESINOSKI: Thank you, Commander. It's great to be here today and report on the progress that we've enjoyed over the last year.

So much of what we do every day is intended to support and to empower DAV Departments and Chapters in our shared mission. The work that you do daily is our greatest source of inspiration. We are humbled to share this sacred cause and, by what you are able to accomplish, to fulfill our mission.

As many of you have seen on television, radio, billboards, and in magazines through our public service campaign, empowering Victories for Veterans is the driving force behind everything that we do. We want your feedback. We want to understand the challenges you face and to provide solutions to help you with your goals.

We also know what you mean to the veterans in your own communities. That's never lost on us. And we understand the power of hope and how it can inspire and improve people's lives. We think of veterans like Adam Greathouse, this year's DAV Freedom Award recipient from the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

(Whereupon, a video for the "DAV Freedom Award" was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: We're inspired by that, also, and greatly so. And it's worth noting that more than two dozen DAV Chapters and Departments sponsored our Winter Sports Clinic this last year—including a host-level sponsor in the Department of Missouri that kicked in over $40,000.

Auxiliary Juniors from the Department of Oklahoma came in as bronze-level sponsors. And we already have a commitment from the Juniors with the Department of Texas to join them next year.

What that video can't capture is the impact DAV and the clinic has had on the lives of others through Adam's transformation. Adam left his first clinic experience to return to West Virginia and become a DAV volunteer.

He has dedicated more than 2,100 hours in a variety of capacities at the Huntington VA Medical Center. A DAV Life Member, part of his volunteer time is dedicated to mentorship.

He will drive hours to VA facilities to meet veterans suffering from PTSD. He'll meet with them and walk them to their appointments to make sure that they stay and get the help that they need. He's determined to make sure his fellow veterans don't become a statistic like he nearly did.

But the statistics associated with suicide among our brothers and sisters, and the knowledge that we can always improve, drives us to do more. And while in many ways we have enjoyed a banner year, we have many challenges we must continue to face together.

We hear you, and we understand. Recruiting can be extremely difficult. And even then, getting active members who are willing to facilitate our mission on the local level can be very hard.

Volunteerism is trending downward—not just for DAV but as part of a nationwide trend. Baby Boomers are working longer into their retirement years, and our "Greatest Generation" has largely faded from the volunteer ranks. And that's without even taking into consideration the difficulties we face onboarding volunteers.

The way people support charities is changing, as well. And we must continually evolve to provide prospective donors and companies with a diverse range of opportunities and experiences to give back.

Also, while our public outreach had never been so prolific, there is more clutter than ever as we dive headlong into the information age.

The way people look at charities and how they interact is increasingly digital. We also understand that if we're not vying for our due share of the public's mind and of the public's heart we risk the legacy of our organization.

For us to ensure the DAV we have inherited will be up to the challenge of serving future generations of veterans, we need to focus on opportunities that expand and enhance our relevance.

Steve Jobs once said, "When you first start off trying to solve a problem the first solutions you come up with are very complex, and most people stop there. But if you keep going and live with the problem and peel more layers of the onion off, you can oftentimes arrive at some very elegant and simple solutions."

We work very hard and push ourselves daily to honor your work by providing solutions to the challenges you face. We look to innovate and advance our cause. We are willing to push through the complexities and find those elegant solutions.

With every challenge we face, we see tremendous opportunities. And we're looking to you, all of our members, to tell us what you need to get the job done.

From recruit training on I was always in awe of Marine sergeants. They seemed to have every answer and know exactly how everything should be done. I was fortunate that, though my enlistment was cut short, I had good NCOs who mentored me and looked after me.

One of them once told me that "sergeant" was a French word. Translated, it roughly means "to serve." And though it felt like I was doing a lot of the serving in the field on working parties, all these years later, I can truly appreciate the many valuable lessons he taught me about leadership.

You who lead—and all of you in this room are leaders—have a greater commitment to service than the rank and file members we represent. It's our job to empower them with the resources they need to make a difference for the better.

We are tasked to live with the problems people face in the field, and we try to peel the layers back and to make it as easy as possible to make that difference. We look for low-hanging fruit.

You tell us that digital newsletters are changing the way you do business. You say you want to leverage that technology. Now it's working in Virginia. It's working in Oklahoma. And it's working in Minnesota.

In return, we get together with member leaders, learn their best practices, and push guidance to help other Chapters and Departments.

You say that public service announcements are getting noticed in your community. And you want to leverage placements with local media to increase local awareness and membership. So we provide you with the tools to pitch PSAs on your own.

We see you reaching out to the media successfully to promote volunteerism. You need drivers; you tell your local television, radio and newspapers. And when we see the value of the work that you're doing, we provide every Chapter with template releases that you can use to promote your program and announce when new vehicles enter the network in your community.

Sometimes the solutions are simple. And many of us know veterans who have had to pack hiking shoes to get from a VA parking lot to their medical appointments. So we've tested DAV golf carts at the VA medical center in Cincinnati. So far, the reaction has been overwhelmingly positive.

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

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: Although it's not a new concept, based on need and availability, we may expand this program further to other places where it would be, hopefully, equally beneficial.

Finding elegant solutions requires creativity and understanding. And it requires a commitment not to accept the status quo. I am very blessed to have a team who looks at the issues we face, the tools that are changing the world, and the resources we can employ or create.

Our most precious resource, and yours, is time. As DAV looks to mark a century of service, we are already looking further out and trying to forecast our needs as an organization for our second century of service.

In addition to our traditional volunteer opportunities in VA hospitals and through the Transportation Network, we've seen incredible progress with Local Veterans Assistance Program hours, LVAP hours.

Last year, DAV surpassed 1.2 million hours through LVAP. However, a lot of that, we believe, doesn't necessarily reflect an increase in volunteer effort. Much of it reflects an overall increase in reporting that effort, with Departments recognizing members and crediting them for the amazing work they are doing through DAV.

Meanwhile, beyond the reach of our traditional volunteer opportunities and among citizens, community groups and companies, we are frequently approached to identify volunteer opportunities.

We have more than a million veterans nationwide whose lives we change every year through our core services. We have 20 million veterans who are certainly predisposed to honor their brothers and sisters. And, all together, we have some 320 million Americans who directly benefit because of the security and the prosperity that veterans' sacrifices have made possible.

This winter, we launched the Forward March campaign as a pilot program. As Marc mentioned, the effort netted more than 100 brand-new volunteers who were able to provide a special thanks and "pay it forward" for veterans. Here is one veteran who benefited from that initiative.

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

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: While we are certainly grateful for the seeds that we planted through this unique campaign, it did make us look closer at how many opportunities we've had to turn away on other occasions. We found we had tremendous limitations in terms of our potential reach.

While we're far and away the most prolific volunteer entity for veterans in the country, we don't have a centralized database that identifies the individual needs of veterans, their survivors, or even our own Chapters and Departments.

We run important programs that rely on a core of especially dedicated volunteers. And we recognize that our traditional volunteer programs require a special commitment that is out of reach to many prospective volunteers who are juggling families and careers.

Beyond those formal, albeit critically important, programs, to date we have no process for connecting volunteers with veterans. That needs to change. And that will change.

By year's end, DAV will launch a new and exciting project we've named simply "VolunteerForVeterans.org." It is a digital platform that will allow veterans, their caregivers, and even DAV chapters to identify volunteer opportunities.

So when a veteran needs help cleaning some gutters, he or she can go to VolunteerForVeterans.org, log in, and find other veterans or community members who can help.

Likewise, a DAV chapter who identifies a large-scale volunteer need can create an opportunity on the platform, then share that opportunity through their social networks and email newsletters.

This could completely revolutionize volunteer engagement. It can be a game-changer for DAV. But for it to live up to its potential, we're going to need you, our DAV leaders, on board. We're going to need you to spread the news in your community.

And for us to crowd-source problems that will impact the lives of veterans, we're going to need your help populating the platform with veterans in need and encouraging participation from community members and volunteers alike.

This effort shouldn't be looked upon as competition to our traditional volunteer programs, but as a creative introduction to volunteer service that benefits veterans and DAV. It does not compete; it contributes.

Not only can chapters and units use it to recruit and engage new volunteers, it may be able to help organize volunteer staffing. With volunteers identifying themselves and their locations, DAV will be crediting DAV Departments with Local Veterans Assistance Program hours and recognizing the contributing participants. It can be a big win on multiple levels.

But, like I said, we're an organization of members. And for these initiatives to reach their potential, we need more than your buy-in—we need you to make it happen.

This is just one of the initiatives that we are working on to apply technology in ways that serve the best interests of veterans, their families and their survivors.

More is on the horizon. VolunteerForVeterans.org is potentially going to help us in another area, as well. Corporations frequently come to DAV and want to support our cause.

In many instances, they want a hands-on experience as much or more than they want to write a check. By creating opportunities for them to volunteer, we have the chance to enjoy the full potential of their generosity and, most importantly, help more veterans in need.

Just before Memorial Day weekend, the New York Stock Exchange invited DAV and our National Commander to ring the opening bell. It was truly an honor to take part in such an historic tradition in a way that it also brought the spotlight on our organization and what we do.

As anyone in this room who likes a good root beer float can attest, DAV is seeing more and more benefit from corporate relationships. Not only do corporations have funds to support charities, they have employees to volunteer, as I mentioned; and services and products to donate; consumers to inform; and large internal audiences who embrace special causes, like ours.

We've seen tremendous growth in these areas. In large part, we see this because we have a large internal audience and an emotionally-compelling mission that the public understands.

As you learned yesterday, this year we entered into a new partnership with A&W which includes that exciting activation next Sunday, August 6th, that will increase awareness of our free services while generating funds to support our mission.

We will continue to be blessed by our partnership with Ford, who is by far our longest lasting and most prolific partner. And that's a relationship that began with the generosity of Henry Ford and has resulted in hundreds of vehicles donated to support the Transportation Network.

Golden Corral has a unique and special commitment to our organization that adds extensive value to our grassroots efforts with every contributed penny going to Departments and to Chapters.

It's grown with our partnership to support Camp Corral through Just B Kids. It's also grown in that you will see DAV more prominently displayed at Golden Corral restaurants year-round. That's an extra value that they bring to promote our cause among their many, many patriotic customers.

USAA, in a short period of time, has donated nearly $2 million to DAV in different ways and has been a strong proponent of our free service programs. They are far and away the most recognizable brand in financial services for the military and veterans' community. And we are looking at more ways that we can engage with them through new and exciting opportunities.

Hankook donated funds to support the Mobile Service Office program and sponsored DAV's involvement in military appreciation days with the Cincinnati Reds. As you know, that even resulted in Commander Riley throwing out the first pitch.

We also added Price Chopper/Market 32, Tervis, and A&W Restaurants, who added in-store consumer activation fundraising campaigns.

BlueLine Rental and QuickLane are also supporting DAV. And we've activated with Polaris and country music star Brantley Gilbert to provide funds to support DAV's mission and RAZR all-terrain vehicles to deserving veterans.

It's worth noting that any cause-marketing related corporate partnership supports local service initiatives as well as our national programs—with 25 percent allocated to Departments.

Currently, DAV 5K events are a way that we can provide businesses and the public a unique way to experience our charity and to become ambassadors to further support our cause. We're up to six 5Ks this year and we will continue to look for communities where we can sustainably expand that program.

The companies who are supporting us through that initiative become even more supportive of what we do, because they see the energy and impact of our brand in action.

Not only can for-profits contribute through their philanthropy, we're connecting them with—we're connecting with them increasingly to hire disabled veterans and their families. In three short years, DAV has become a leading voice in the field of veteran employment.

We are the most productive charity in the country when it comes to connecting veterans with employers.

This effort will be augmented in the near future with an employment resource for human resources professionals and continued growth in career fairs with our partners at Recruit Military and Veteran Recruiting.

In partnership with Visit Myrtle Beach, DAV was recently able to recognize a handful of veterans at the Carolina Country Music Festival. Along with headliners such as Darius Rucker, Montgomery Gentry, Kenny Chesney, and Jason Aldean, DAV veterans were welcomed to the stage and honored.

In partnership with the Gary Sinise Foundation, we are formally executing something that happens daily between DAV members. At Boulder Crest Retreat in rural Virginia, which receives significant support from the DAV Charitable Service Trust, some of our most experienced members are part of a program that now pairs new home recipients and others with DAV mentors.

When people like Commander and Yvonne Riley, Dennis and Donna Joyner, and Jim Sursely meet with these veterans, they are able to quickly impart lessons and knowledge that took decades to acquire.

We have a couple events scheduled there in the coming months, including the first all-woman veteran retreat. This engagement reminds us of the mentorship, formal and informal, that needs to take place in our Departments, Chapters and employee ranks.

That same sergeant who said the definition of his job meant "to serve" once told me that he wouldn't be doing his job if he wasn't preparing me to take over for him. Everyone here who wore the uniform certainly knows that lesson. None of us will be around forever.

And while we may be doing a great job and keeping a tight ship, what will become of the legacy we inherited and hope to pass on if we're not prepared, if we've not prepared our corporals to become sergeants, and our lieutenants to become captains?

We've not solved all the challenges we face, but we're making great strides. And every day, in every aspect of our responsibilities, we're challenging ourselves to find the ideas that promote the outcomes we want for our organization and the veterans we serve.

I thank you for your patience as we bring VolunteerForVeterans.org online this winter and promote many other initiatives. And I thank you for your open minds and willingness to embrace innovation.

In closing, I must also talk about the bedrock value that will determine the outcome of any path that we choose for DAV.

Our integrity is the reason we enjoy wide public support. And though we are transparent about how we operate our charity, no balance sheet can reflect our most important asset—our reputation. Integrity is everything.

My sergeant would tell me it means to do the right thing even when no one is looking. And today, it means we are doing the very best we can for DAV and those we serve in every action we take and every choice we make. If we continue to let this be the value driving—be the driving force behind what we do, the future of our organization is absolutely assured.

Thank you all for your integrity and for your service.

Commander Riley, fellow members, this concludes my report. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Barry.

COMMANDER RILEY: May I have a motion to accept Mr. Jesinoski's report?

MR. ARMANDO ALBARRAN: Mic 1.

MR. GUY ANASTASIA: Mic 2.

COMMANDER RILEY: Mic 1.

MR. ALBARRAN: Commander, Armando Albarra, Texas Chapter 5, makes a motion to accept Barry Jesinoski's report.

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you. I have a motion. Do I hear a second?

MR. ANASTASIA: Mic 2.

COMMANDER RILEY: Mic 2.

MR. ANASTASIA: Guy Anastasia, Commander of the State of California and Barry's home state, makes the second.

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

It is now my pleasure to recognize the Outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist recipients of 2017.

These awards recognize the commitment and compassion of two individuals who are dedicated to serving our nation's ill and injured veterans. The recipients, here today, are shining examples of veterans helping veterans, and we're proud to honor them for their selfless service.

I'll ask Employment Director Jeff Hall to the stage.

(Whereupon, Employment Director Jeff Hall advanced to the stage with Commander Riley.)

COMMANDER RILEY: The award for Outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative is presented to Reginald Parker of Houston. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Reginald Parker advanced to the stage to receive his award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

DAV ANNOUNCER: Reginald Parker of the Texas Veterans Commission built a network in his region where he stays in regular contact with more than 200 employers and over 200 partner organizations.

This enables him to pass on information about candidates and job openings not listed through normal postings channels.

In 2016, he participated in 11 career transition workshops, where he brought employers seeking veteran talent directly to transitioning veterans.

He also held eight workshops with partner organizations to train them to better serve the needs of veterans.

These efforts led to 72 veterans being placed in meaningful careers last year, with the highest average starting salary among all employment representatives in the Gulf Coast region.

Reginald is seen as an absolute leader within the Gulf Coast Region Four team. Colleagues seek him out for advice. He mentors newly-hired staff and regularly provides training and mentorship to his co-workers. (Applause)

MR. REGINALD PARKER: So many people to thank. I guess I'll start with my wife, who is here with me today with my two kids. I want to say thank you, baby. Because you take care of home, I am able to go out and serve in the capacity that, you know, honors God and honors our veterans.

I want to say thank you to my team, which includes veterans' service organizations, veterans, themselves, as well as employers. I also want to say thank you to my employer, Texas Veterans Commission, for allowing me the opportunity, since 2008, to serve veterans.

The most important thanks I want to give is to God, for without him I would not be here today.

I leave you with a message from Ephesians 3:20: "Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above all you can ask or think, according to the power that works within you." If you tap into the power and there is the Holy Spirit within you, you, too, can do exceedingly, abundantly, above all any man could ask or think. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: This year's Outstanding Disabled Veteran's Outreach Program Specialist is a deeply compassionate advocate for his fellow Razorback veterans. The recipient is Steven Ezelle. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Steven Ezelle advanced to the stage to accept his award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

DAV ANNOUNCER: This year's Outstanding Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist award recipient is Steven Ezelle, with the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services. In this capacity, Steven ensures that every veteran who seeks his support receives the answers and assistance they are looking for.

Steven, a veteran of the U.S. Navy and a DAV Life Member, is responsible for serving five counties in Arkansas, which are home to nearly 17,000 veterans.

He developed several unique programs designed to assist veterans in finding fulfilling employment and to combat veterans' homelessness. He also works to eradicate veteran recidivism in the local court system as a veteran advisor in the Garland County Arkansas Veterans Treatment Court.

Arkansas State Senator Alan Clark said, "His tireless efforts provide community outreach and education as well as connect veterans with much-needed services and employment opportunities."

He is also an active member of the Citizens Advisory Board of the VA Clergy, which assists in creating transitional housing for homeless veterans.

Steven has recently partnered with the Hot Springs, Arkansas, Police Department, who actively contact him as a resource when they encounter homeless veterans or veterans in need of outreach or employment services. (Applause)

MR. STEVEN EZELLE: Thank you. Wow, what a journey. This has been awesome. Good morning, Commander Riley, senior officers of the DAV, fellow soldiers and sailors, retired and active, women's Auxiliary, guests, and distinguished guests.

I am a former Navy sailor, who served as an Admiral's Aide at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and who is from Hot Springs, Arkansas. I serve as a DVOP in this particular location, covering over 3,500 square miles.

I come into this job with lots of initiatives and to better serve our veterans, so first let me say to all who have served, in whatever capacity, thank you for your service. Without you, we would not have this great organization called Disabled American Veterans.

Some brief comments that I'd like to say. I was first told by my DAV State Adjutant John Donovan that I'd been selected to receive the state award Veterans' Representative of the Year of 2017 in Arkansas. And soon afterwards, I just received a letter from Commander Riley that I'd been selected to receive this national award and would be the first for an Arkansan.

I want to thank the DAV community. I also want to thank my wonderful wife for her support while I traveled this journey.

A great big shout-out goes to my Chapter, Chapter 5, James Woodby out of Hot Springs, Arkansas, with Commander Smith. You guys are awesome.

A very big thank you to the District Court Judge, Meredith Rebsamen, and State Senator Alan Clark, who both made a recommendation. Through Judge Rebsamen, I serve on two courts: the veterans' treatment courts, what better place to be to help our veterans.

Let me acknowledge if it were not for my manager Janet Edgar and my area operations chief Skeet Morris and my deputy director Colonel Ron Sneed for their unwavering support to allow me to step out of the box when I needed to.

Thank you for your tremendous support to allow me to create initiatives and to stand behind me and these programs that mean the most to me. My success comes from your support and belief in me.

And, finally, thank you, Mr. Donovan, for selecting me as the nominee on the national level. You saw something in me that embodied in me what a DVOP is. And my greatest thanks and support to my mom. I love you. Dr. Wayne Uzelle, my mentor, and my pride and joy, my daughter Brianna. Dream big, sweetheart.

Again, thank you, National Commander Riley, senior officers and this body of the DAV for this award. May God bless this United States of America. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you. Each year, DAV recognizes companies that 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 that 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.

The 2017 DAV Small Employer of the Year Award goes to an incredible company that honors veterans and benefits from their contributions. Please welcome to the stage Marine Corps veteran, founder, president and CEO Kenneth Stroud of Professional Solutions Delivered, LLC.

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

DAV ANNOUNCER: Professional Solutions Delivered, LLC, is a Fredericksburg, Virginia-based company with a business strategy to recruit, hire, train and develop veteran employees in addition to its support of veterans in their community.

Its CEO and two vice-presidents are fellow veterans, so they are very aware that when you hire veterans, it's not philanthropy; it's just smart business.

Professional Solutions Delivered is a VA-certified Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business with military veterans making up 47 percent of their workforce. The bulk of the remaining employees have a connection to the veteran community through a spouse or other relative.

The company was named one of the 2016 Best Places to Work in Virginia. They actively recruit transitioning military personnel at recruiting fairs and trade shows.

Professional Solutions Delivered hosts an annual dove hunt where disabled veterans are invited to participate at no cost. Annually, they support the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program and have served as a drop-off point in their community for this program for five consecutive years. (Applause)

MR. KENNETH STROUD: Thank you very much. Ooorah to you, too. So this is incredibly humbling. I'm very thankful to be here. First, I'd like to thank the Lord God, my Savior. Without Him I wouldn't be here.

I'm very blessed. We're very blessed to be in a country where I was born, live and able to serve a nation where we can still worship our Lord, where we can still achieve things when given the opportunity. (Applause) All it takes is initiative, drive and heart to be able to accomplish a lot of things.

I also thank my beautiful wife, Andrea, and my two daughters, Natasha and Cassandra. They're very smart—way smarter than I am. And they drive me. They support me. They're incredible, and I thank them very much.

I also thank my employees. I'm very uncomfortable calling them "employees," because they're more like my family. We're a team. They support me in everything I do.

Now, a short time ago I turned 17 years old on a Saturday and that Monday, I joined the Marine Corps. After a brief 22 years and 10 months, I retired. I stepped into the civilian sector, and I really didn't know what I was getting into.

I learned a few things in the Marine Corps. One of those things that I learned was that if I could convince enough people to go along with whatever I was doing, I could accomplish anything. And some of you may have known someone that had the tendency to get into things. That was me. Fortunately, I could convince people, also, to go along with me.

With that, on, 7 October 2009, I was able to convince my wife to go along with me at the time and start Professional Solutions Delivered. Since then, we've been providing IT services, logistics and program management support to DoD customers, agencies and commercial entities.

We make it a point to hire veterans. We have, currently, 49 percent of the company is veterans. We've had more. We try very hard to hire their spouses, their siblings.

Veterans do add a lot of value to a company—a lot of value that some people may not recognize, but values—such as, veterans' understand "commander's intent." They understand being mission-focused, mission accomplishment.

Veterans, sometimes we say, are a "fire-forget" weapon and that's not fire as in employment, but it means that you can give them a task, and you can walk away and you know that it's going to be accomplished.

In some places today, whenever veterans are deploying out of the military there is a—they are told to remove some of the military verbiage out of their resume and make it more civilianized so that civilian employers understand and can translate their abilities.

I encourage veterans to put at the top of their resume "I'm a veteran" because it makes it a lot easier for us to recognize them and hire them and bring them to work and bring them in as a part of our team.

Again, thank you very much. Thank you for everything you do. I'm incredibly humbled. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: One of the most difficult but important missions in service to veterans is the final salute we render to them. DAV's midsized employer of the year for 2017 focuses on hiring veterans who share its commitment to honor our fellow veterans through their final moments with comfort and dignity.

Please welcome to the stage Jan Jones, CEO of the Elizabeth Hospice.

(Whereupon, Ms. Jones advanced to the stage to accept the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

DAV ANNOUNCER: The Elizabeth Hospice, based in Escondido, California, is an organization that empowers its staff to meet the unique needs of dying veterans.

They strive to bring comfort to patients with a history of military service by matching hospice patients with staff or volunteers, who are fellow veterans.

The organization currently has 15 veterans on staff and is actively recruiting more through DAV Veterans Career Fairs. Eight percent of the company's more than 300 volunteers are also veterans.

In 2011, the organization earned the "We Honor Veterans Partnership" accreditation from the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. And in 2014, it achieved Level 4 accreditation—the highest distinction possible in their field.

Staff members and volunteers in the organization, who are fellow veterans, have thanked more than 1,100 aging or terminally-ill veteran patients in Veteran Pinning Ceremonies hosted by The Elizabeth Hospice. (Applause)

MS. JAN JONES: Thank you. Thank you so much. This is a wonderful, wonderful honor, and I'm very humbled to be representing all of our employees and volunteers who do this sacred work.

And I want to thank Guy Anastasia for his nominating us for this award. And it is just really—we cannot thank you enough for all that you have done to serve us and to make our country a place where we can live with freedom, we can express ourselves in the way we choose.

We are so blessed here. And for us to be able to honor veterans in their final days and to thank them—sometimes we are the very last thank you that they receive. And sometimes, we are the only thank you that they have received—is, it's a privilege beyond belief.

So thank you all very, very much. This is a very special honor. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: The 2017 Large Employer of the Year is Bell Helicopter from Fort Worth, Texas. (Applause) Bell Helicopter is a recognized industry-leader in vertical lift aviation. Bell Helicopter employs 1,595 veterans, 406 who are disabled. Veterans comprise 24 percent of the organization's total workforce.

Although Mitch Snyder, CEO of Bell Helicopter, was unable to attend today's event, let's give them a big hand for taking home the DAV Outstanding Large Employer of the Year Award. (Applause)

When it comes to volunteering for veterans, DAV understands location is key. Not everyone lives around the corner from a Veterans Affairs medical center or has the same interests or talents to contribute. So creating other options for individuals wanting to honor the service and sacrifices of those sacrificed is key.

In 2007, DAV created the Local Veterans Assistance Program, or LVAP, giving volunteers nearly unlimited opportunities to serve and still receive the same recognition and incentives as those available to traditional VA and Transportation Network drivers.

LVAP was highlighted this past year during the month of March through our Forward March campaign.

The initiative asked everyone who benefited from DAV services, or who recognizes the contribution of veterans, to volunteer just one hour of their time to "pay it forward" by performing a service that benefits a veteran. The response was extremely positive, proving something we suspected to be true—people want to give back, they just need to be shown how.

For many of us, donating an hour of time for DAV is something we do 40 times a week or more. But many of us who started out saying you'd just "go to one Chapter meeting" know, the key to infuse someone with the "bug" is to give back.

While just a pilot program in its first year, the initiative resulted in a net gain of more than 100 brand-new volunteers joining our ranks. That's pretty significant if you consider the potential they have to contribute over time. Also, it's just a fraction of the potential participation if our members embrace and share the information through their social networks moving forward.

Under LVAP, opportunities abound for individuals to empower veterans and their families to live high-quality lives with respect and dignity. Volunteers might perform yard work, help run errands, set up a computer system, clean out gutters, shovel snow, assist with cooking or cleaning, paint or perform home repairs, or any task that might improve a veteran's life.

Since inception of the program, more than 10,380 volunteers have donated over 4.1 million hours of service through LVAP. We want to see that number continue to grow, and we also want to recognize those who have helped make this incredible impact possible.

I'll ask John Kleindienst and National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski to the stage for their assistance, please.

(Whereupon, Commander Riley was joined on the stage by Mr. Kleindienst and Mr. Jesinoski.)

COMMANDER RILEY: Ladies and gentlemen, it is my extreme pleasure to recognize our top DAV state-level Departments in the area of LVAP service.

DAV ANNOUNCER: The 2016 Division One Local Veterans Assistance Program recipient is the Department of Virginia, Past Department Commander James M. Walton, with 205,598 hours.

(Whereupon, Past Commander Walton advanced to the stage to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

PAST COMMANDER JAMES M. WALTON: That's right, this is Number five. (Laughter) It's not possible without the hard efforts of the Virginia DAV, DAV members, chapters, units, and our DSC Secretary Denise Hollenback working together. And we're on the road to be back up here next year. And I'll end by saying, "Once again, Hollywood, thank you." (Applause)

DAV ANNOUNCER: The 2016 Division Two Local Veterans Assistance Program Winner is the Department of Oklahoma, Past Department Commander Linda Miller, with 182,875 hours.

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

DAV ANNOUNCER: The 2016 Division Three Local Veterans Assistance Program winner is the Department of Arkansas, Past Department Commander Richard T. Egan, with 26,663 hours. (Applause)

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

DAV ANNOUNCER: The 2016 Division Four Local Veterans Assistance Program winner is the Department of Idaho, Past Department Commander Wilson Miller Junior, with 28,157 hours. (Applause)

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

PAST COMMANDER WILSON MILLER JUNIOR: Thank you. This was totally unexpected. I don't have anything to say except thanks to the whole world and DAV. With my Department commanders and DAVA's help, maybe I can get through this year. Thank you. (Applause)

DAV ANNOUNCER: The 2016 Division Five Local Veterans Assistance Program winner is the Department of South Dakota, Past Department Commander Joseph Rice with 20,724 hours. (Applause)

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

PAST COMMANDER JOSEPH RICE: I would like to thank the DAV. And this is truly a state award, and I appreciate all the chapters that we have in South Dakota that allowed us to win this award. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: We thank all our volunteers in VA hospitals, our Transportation Network drivers, and participants of the Local Veterans Assistance Program for their compassionate service to the disabled veterans. Thank you for your helping hands and kind hearts. Please join me again in giving them all a big hand for their service. (Applause)

Every day, DAV partners with thousands of passionate VA employees throughout the country to ensure veterans are getting the resources and the assistance they have earned. We strive to work together as one in order to keep the promises to those who served.

It is my pleasure to present three remarkable VA staff members the National Commander's Outstanding VA Employee of the Year. These award recognize their leadership, success and compassion in support of our nation's ill and injured veterans.

I'd like to invite National Legislative Director Joy Ilem to the stage for this presentation.

(Whereupon, Ms. Ilem joined Commander Riley on the stage.)

COMMANDER RILEY: Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming the Outstanding Veterans Health Administration Employee of the Year, Mr. Paul Roberts.

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

DAV ANNOUNCER: The Outstanding Veterans Health Administration Employee this year is Mr. Paul Roberts, director of the Cheyenne VA Medical Center in Wyoming.

Paul is a disabled veteran who served more than 20 years in the U.S. Army. Since he joined the VA in 2013, he has quickly climbed the ranks to his director position, demonstrating a true desire to do what is right for the men and women who served.

Since taking leadership of the facility in June of 2016, Paul has facilitated communication between the local VA Compensation and Pension clinic and the DAV service office, which has led to a more efficient, fully-developed claims process by DAV service officers and veterans.

He has also connected outside organizations with the VA in order to assist veterans with multiple options to assist them with their health care and benefits needs. As a veteran himself who uses DAV for his own assistance, Paul has implemented a new transportation office to support the DAV Transportation Network in Cheyenne.

His actions have expanded our Transportation Network's coverage area into further rural areas to provide rides to veterans to and from their medical appointments.

In addition to providing quality service and putting veterans' well-being at the forefront, Paul has reduced appointment wait times by 53 percent, reduced high-risk consults by 94 percent, and taken the Medical Support Specialist compliance rating from 51 percent to 85 percent in just one year as the director.

MR. PAUL ROBERTS: Good morning. On behalf of the VA at large, but in particularly the Cheyenne VA, Cheyenne, Wyoming, I'm humbled to accept this award.

I'll be brief and bright and gone, just like I was in the Army (Laughter) when I got a chance to talk to a great crowd like this. But I just want to thank the DAV and everything you all do to help us meet mission every day.

And I've got to tell you there are some folks in the audience—Floyd, you're out there; LeRoy, Nancy, Jack—we couldn't do what we do—boots on the ground—without the support of the DAV. And that's just the bottom line.

And together, you know, there is force in numbers. And that's why we're successful in Cheyenne, Wyoming, because the DAV with us, with our benefits partners, with other community support, Laramie County Community College, hospitals in the area, we all pull together to support veterans and their families—one team, one fight. And that's how it works in Cheyenne.

Thank you very much for this privilege and honor. And we will keep fighting the good fight. And I will see you on the high ground. Thanks. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: I'll ask the DAV National Service Director Jim Marszalek to the stage for our next important presentation.

(Whereupon, Mr. Marszalek joined Commander Riley on the stage.)

COMMANDER RILEY: Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming the Outstanding Veterans Benefit Administration Employee of the Year, Mr.—Mrs., sorry—Jamie Shuemaker. (Applause)

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

DAV ANNOUNCER: The 2017 DAV National Commander's Award for Outstanding Department of Veterans Affairs Employee within the Veterans Benefits Administration is Ms. Jamie Shuemaker of the VA Regional Office in Togus, Maine.

Jamie is a U.S. Navy veteran who joined the Veterans Benefits Administration as a file clerk in 2009. Since then, she has held multiple positions where she has demonstrated her dedication to ensuring veterans get the benefits they earned.

In 2011, Jamie moved to her current position as an intake analyst and has been instrumental in transforming the office to the VA paperless claims process.

She assists VA and DAV employees with the electronic claims process and troubleshooting problems with the Stakeholders Enterprise Portal. She ensures service officers throughout the DAV Department of Maine are able to submit as many electronic claims as possible by reviewing all data.

She has led the way to simplify electronic powers-of-attorney for veterans and safeguarding electronic data and claims submissions through multiple offices.

Her patience and willingness to go above and beyond has allowed the DAV Department of Maine to help make DAV the national leader in electronic claims submissions. A life member of DAV, she shows her dedication to this nation's veterans each and every day. (Applause)

MS. JAMIE SHUEMAKER: I just wanted to say thank you for this award. It's a great honor. And I enjoy every day working with DAV. And it's been a pleasure. And I look forward to many more times that I can help assist DAV in any way possible. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: I'll ask our Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine to return to the stage for our next recipient.

(Whereupon, Executive Director Augustine joined Commander Riley on the stage.)

COMMANDER RILEY: Honoring our fallen and supporting their survivors in their time of grief is a sacred and patriotic duty. Please welcome to the stage the 2017 VA National Cemetery Administration Employee of the Year, Deborah Kamisato. (Applause)

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

DAV ANNOUNCER: Based out of the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Texas, Ms. Deborah Kamisato is this year's VA National Cemetery Administration Employee of the Year.

Deborah has been with the VA National Cemetery Administration since 2012 and truly understands the level of commitment required for veterans and their families. In addition to her daily responsibilities, Deborah was an instrumental part of the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery being selected as a "National Shrine"—a designation reserved for only the top 5 percent of all VA National Cemeteries.

She has shown true dedication to our nations' veterans, particularly following an attack on Dallas-Fort Worth area law enforcement after a protest in July 2016 resulted in the deaths of five local police officers, three of whom were military veterans.

Going against policy, Deborah authorized weekend burials for the heroes—a time typically only allotted for military members killed in action. Deborah says she considered these veterans' acts of heroism to be awarded with the same honors and defends her decision.

It is because of Deborah and employees like her that veterans and their families are reliant on VA National Cemeteries to honor their service and sacrifice. Her willingness to go outside of her scope to ensure all veterans are treated with respect and dignity is commendable. (Applause)

MS. DEBORAH KAMISATO: I'd like to take this opportunity to thank DAV and the Department of Veterans Affairs. This has been the best job that I could ever ask for. It's our only opportunity to make sure that we can do what is right for the veteran. It's the last opportunity to do that. And we need all of you to continue to support them in this effort.

When we receive the veteran or their family member, they don't have a voice at that point; you are their voice. And I just thank you for this opportunity to work with you and to work with them. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: 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 wars. This all-volunteer military force represents a small fraction of the population. And though 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.

For our first award I'll invite National Membership Director Doug Wells to the stage as we recognize our top division winners in recruiting for 2017.

(Whereupon, National Membership Director Doug Wells joined Commander Riley on the stage.)

DAV ANNOUNCER: Division 1 is comprised of Departments with more than 35,000 members. Our top recruiting Department happens to be the largest Department in our organization. Please give a round of applause for Past Department Commander Tony Lee from DAV Department of New York. (Applause)

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

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER TONY LEE: Thank you, Department of New York for getting this award, especially our prime recruiter, Prosper Sodano, and our adjutant, Donald Sios. Thank you. (Applause)

DAV ANNOUNCER: Division 2 is comprised of Departments with 18,000 to 34,000 members. Please give a warm welcome to Past Department Commander Michael Aguirre, Jr., from DAV Department of Minnesota.

(Whereupon, Past Department Commander Aguirre, Jr., advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER MICHAEL AGUIRRE, JR.: Greetings from the Great State of Minnesota, especially Commander Robert Saddoris, my adjutant, Stephen Whitehead, Second Junior Vice and his department and the over 19,000 members from the State of Minnesota, men and women who contributed to enable us to get this award, thank you. (Applause)

DAV ANNOUNCER: Division 3 is comprised of Departments with 10,000 to 17,000 members. Please give a warm welcome for Past Department Commander John Polk from DAV Department of Wisconsin. (Applause)

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

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN POLK: I'd like to thank Lenny Shire and the Department of Wisconsin for achieving this award. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: Division 4 is comprised of Departments with 5,000 to 9,999 members. Please give a warm welcome to Orlando Perez, Chapter 1, Department of Hawaii. (Applause)

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

MR. ORLANDO PEREZ: I'd like to say, "Mahalo nui lona" from the, to the DAV and thank you very much (indistinguishable) 808 Hawaii. (Applause)

DAV ANNOUNCER: Division 5 is comprised of Departments with 5,000 members or less. Please give a warm welcome for Past Department Commander Joseph Rice from DAV Department of South Dakota. (Applause)

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

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOSEPH RICE: Once again, I want to thank all the Chapters in South Dakota for allowing us to win this award. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: The next award is the General Jonathan M. Wainwright Award. It is presented to the Department that closes the year with the largest increase in new members.

The winner is the DAV Department of Texas. (Applause) I'll ask Department Commander Robert Delgado to the stage.

(Whereupon, Past Department Commander Delgado advanced to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

DAV ANNOUNCER: The General Jonathan M. Wainwright Award is named after a past national commander and Medal of Honor recipient who served with distinction as the Commander of Allied Forces in the Philippines at the time of their surrender to Japan in World War II.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROBERT DELGADO: How is everybody doing this morning? (Applause) I'd like to say thank you for this award for our Department. I'd like to thank our Department for all the hard work that they've done throughout the year. It's well-deserved. And I'd like to challenge everybody so we can help the DAV grow. This is one of the finest organizations here in America, and I'm proud to be a member.

God bless you. God bless the DAV. (Applause)

DAV ANNOUNCER: The Judge Robert S. Marx Award is named after DAV's founder. Marx served in the United States Army in World War I. Later a superior court judge and law professor, he earned the Distinguished Service Cross and was injured in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in 1918.

COMMANDER RILEY: 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, represented by Past Department Commander Michael Aguirre, Jr. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Department Commander Aguirre, Jr., advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AGUIRRE JR.: Thank you. I am truly honored and blessed to be here to accept this award on behalf of the Department of Minnesota. I'd like to give a shout-out to our District 14 and Dave Valtinson, our DEC. And God bless America and God bless the DAV. And God bless the Marine Corps. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: Our top recruiter from our membership ranks is a current Chapter Service Officer and Past Department Commander in Texas. 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 110 members to join the DAV. Please give a warm reception for this proud member from Chapter 42 in Grand Prairie, Texas, Roland Paquette. (Applause)

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

MR. ROLAND PAQUETTE: It's an honor and a privilege to be recognized as Recruiter of the Year. And I have found that if you're just honest and truthful and compassionate about your job and about this organization, recruiting comes easy.

I'd like to thank our Good Lord for giving me the will to be able to do the job. I would also like to thank the Department of Texas for allowing me to have that avenue as a Service Officer. And, last but not least, I'd like to thank my fiancée, Debbie, for being my rock and keeping me grounded. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: One of the primary reasons why DAV has largely maintained its membership ranks 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 National Service Officers has been critical to the health of our membership for many years and is greatly appreciated. Therefore, it is with great pride that I present the Top Recruiter from our NSO corps who, remarkably, recruited 310 veterans to join our ranks.

Ladies and gentlemen, please put your hands together for Thomas Herrington of the DAV National Service Office in Saint Louis, Missouri. (Applause)

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

MR. THOMAS HERRINGTON: I'd like to thank the Great State of Missouri, and our Department, for supporting our office there in Saint Louis and all my family there. And I'd like to thank the Marine Corps because without it, I wouldn't be here. Semper Fi. (Applause)

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

This year's inductees are Thomas Herrington of Saint Louis, Missouri; Daniel Knabe, Saint Louis, Missouri; Albert Hughes, Detroit, Michigan; Andrew Edwards, Saint Louis, Missouri; Joseph Braun, Saint Louis, Missouri; George Rosco—Roso, sorry—Muskogee, Oklahoma; Derek Norman of Seattle, Washington. (Applause)

Friends, please remember, when you introduce a veteran to DAV, you are providing a great service to them and our organization. You never know who will join until you ask. Please keep up the great work in this area. It's critical to our success.

I'd like to call on Board of Directors' Treasurer Richard Tolfa for his report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TREASURER RICHARD TOLFA: National Commander Riley, DAV members and guests, the members of the Board of Directors join me in this report and they are Chairman Moses A. McIntosh Junior of Georgia; Vice-Chairman Delphine Metcalf-Foster of California; Secretary Marc Burgess; Directors Frank Maughan from Utah; Alfred Reynolds of Illinois; and Idalis Marquez of Puerto Rico; along with National Commander Riley 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 30, 2017. DAV's total solicited support through that date was $46.5 million.

Direct mail contributions were $37.9 million, primarily from mailing 40.1 million solicitation pieces. Bequests were $5.6 million.

Under the Department Fundraising Program payouts to Departments in December 2016 and June 2017 totaled $2.8 million. Since the program began in 1994, $97.1 million have been distributed to Departments for their service programs. Additionally, the Departments received a total 2016 Cause Marketing Revenue Sharing Payout of $217,000 in June of 2017.

The Board would like to thank all of our Departments for their continued participation in these programs, and especially our members for your generosity.

As of June 2017, DAV received total support and revenue from all sources of $153.7 million. Through June 2017, DAV had a total expenditure of $160.2 million, of which $136.4 million were for service programs. That's 85.1 percent of the total expenses. It is important to remember that these expenses are for the federally-chartered purposes of our organization.

And, Commander, if you would excuse me, I'd like to go off script for just a minute. I just read a milestone, and I don't know if you all were listening when I said it. But we just reached a milestone of 85.1 percent of total revenue for direct service to veterans. (Applause)

That's unheard of in a national organization the size we are. I took the time after Barry gave me this report and I went online and looked. Saint Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, as you all know, is probably the largest charity that gets the money from the people every year—over $1 billion.

Let me just show you just a quick example of what they do. Seventy-two percent of their money goes to direct service; 17 percent, to fundraising; and 11 percent, to administration.

I thank God for the DAV and thank God for these people up here who are managing our money and doing the support for the DAV. (Applause) Thank you so much. You're doing a great job, and we need to think about that. I'll continue with my report now, Commander. Thank you.

Over the same period, expenditures for fundraising of $19.6 million decreased by 5.5 percent from those incurred for 2016. Administrative outlays were $4.2 million, $900,000 less than they were last year.

As of June 30, 2017, the market value of our general fund long-term investment portfolio is $375.7 million, a 3.6 percent increase from June of 2016.

DAV's unrestricted net assets, or its net worth, have increased from $269.2 million at this time last year to $325.3 million. However, since our year-end low of $194.9 million during the 2008 recession, the value of our net assets has grown by $130.3 million, or 67 percent.

DAV's hardworking staff nationwide and at both headquarters have been investing in new areas of assistance, public outreach and IT systems to provide more services 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 June 30, 2017, the Life Membership Fund Reserve was $58.8 million.

Commander, it is my also privilege to present DAV's proposed 2018 Annual Budget for ratification by the Convention. At the May 17, 2017, meeting the Board of Directors held at National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Arkansas (sic), the Board was presented the 2018 proposed budget.

The budget was assembled by the DAV Accounting and Finance Department with the assistance of Department Directors and was reviewed by National Adjutant Burgess, and Executive Directors Jesinoski and Augustine. The Board unanimously approved the proposed budget at that time, a copy of which was provided to all Convention attendees at registration.

I would like to thank National Adjutant Marc Burgess and his staff for all the hard work they do which makes this report possible. Let me thank you, Commander Riley, for the support I received in my role as the Board of Directors' Treasurer. It has been a privilege to serve in this position.

Commander, this concludes my report to the National Convention, a report I feel honored to offer to our delegates. I thank you and move for the adoption of our report and the approval of the proposed 2018 annual budget.

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Richard, for your service and that very informative report. You have heard the motion. May I have a second to that motion?

MR. JACK JOHNSON: Mic 1.

COMMANDER RILEY: Mic 1.

MR. JOHNSON: Jack Johnson, Chapter 150, Florida, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER RILEY: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

I would like to call on Convention Chairman Rob Reynolds for the report of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. (Applause)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERT REYNOLDS: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER REYNOLDS: Comrade Commander and delegates. The National Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws was called to order on July 29th, 2017, 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 chairman, and Richard Valdez 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 purpose of saving time, I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolution.

Resolution Number 210, it is proposed that Article 3, Section 3.10, Rule 21(e) be deleted in its entirety and the remaining sections be renumbered accordingly.

Resolution Number 211, it is proposed that Article 15, Section 15.3, Paragraph 8, be amended as follows and incorporated as Article 11, Section 11.7, Paragraph 2 and the remaining paragraphs in Article 15, Section 15.3, be renumbered as necessary:

"No person may hold or perform the duties of the position of Department or Chapter Service Officer, also known as DSO/CSO, unless that person has been properly hired, elected or appointed to such position.

"No one may hold the position of or serve as a DSO/CSO if that person is currently or has in the last twelve months engaged in the representation of veterans or their dependents in applying for benefits to which they are entitled under the law with an arrangement wherein the veteran or their dependent themselves pay or may in some way be liable for the costs of such representation.

"Absent special circumstances approved in writing by the National Adjutant, no person not a member of the DAV may serve as a DSO/CSO."

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. Thank you.

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Rob. We will hear the final report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee at Tuesday's business session.

National Adjutant Burgess, do you have any announcements?

ADJUTANT J. MARC BURGESS: Thank you, Commander. I have a few. Join us for Fun Night this evening at 8:00 o'clock. We will be treated to the Lieutenant Dan Band, something I know you are all looking forward to. (Applause) This year's concert is sponsored by our good friends at TriWest, who have generously donated to bring Gary and the team back here to the Big Easy to perform for us.

Our regular business session will begin Tuesday morning at 8:30. We will start off with the 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.

Tomorrow night's screening of The Weight of Honor documentary has been pushed back to 8:30 in the Grand Ballroom to allow all of you enough time to visit at the candidate receptions.

On Tuesday afternoon, we will hold our final business session and conclude with nominations and election of officers.

And, again, we are giving away three $50 gift cards to attending delegates. You have to be in the room, present to win. So if I call your name, come up to the front and see Membership Director Doug Wells. He will be on stage after we adjourn.

And the lucky winners are: Jo Linda Cutler of Michigan, Lenawee Chapter 20; Robert Saddoris of Minnesota, North Central Chapter 7; and Kenyon Parlor, Florida, C.W. Byers Sr., Chapter 83. So if you won, come on up at the end.

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Marc. Ladies and gentlemen, please rise and I will ask Chaplain Dover to lead us in a closing prayer.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Excuse me, Chaplain Dover.

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Sure. (Laughter)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I have one more announcement, a very important announcement. Anyone on the Nominating Committee needs to meet at 1:00 p.m. in the Churchill Room today. So the Nominating Committee, all the delegates elected to the Nominating Committee please meet at 1:00 p.m. in the Churchill Room. Thank you. Sorry.

CHAPLAIN DOVER: All right. Ladies, gentlemen, let's pray. Heavenly Creator, we rejoice in your greatness and power, and we ask You to continue to honor those awardees today who have received great recognition from our organization.

We ask that You continue in words and thoughts that they are empowered with Your wisdom and strength to continue to do great and wonderful things for this organization and until we meet again. Amen.

(Response of “Amen.”)

COMMANDER RILEY: The Convention stands in recess until 8:30 Tuesday morning.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 10:59 o’clock, a.m., on Sunday, July 30, 2017.)

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# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for National Totals

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 6070 | $4,165,286.00 | $85,102,676.00 | 35167 | $22,307,330.00 | $466,355,021.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 4073 | $2,805,351.00 | $60,515,756.00 | 25179 | $16,855,286.00 | $370,790,228.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 6722 | $11,059,132.00 | $132,709,584.00 | 41243 | $68,616,953.00 | $823,403,436.00 |
| Pension | 127 | $116,189.00 | $1,837,441.00 | 837 | $800,636.00 | $12,580,443.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 120 | $118,101.00 | $1,417,212.00 | 664 | $678,463.00 | $8,141,556.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 3783 | $4,367,815.00 | $23,408,658.00 | 32924 | $36,746,331.00 | $208,424,648.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 820 | $0.00 | $1,710,292.00 | 1999 | $0.00 | $9,461,773.00 |
| Death Compensation | 124 | $171,751.00 | $2,556,339.00 | 896 | $1,236,048.00 | $19,757,038.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 13 | $17,977.00 | $222,576.00 | 44 | $53,335.00 | $440,708.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 1 | $122.00 | $1,464.00 | 8 | $11,766.00 | $141,192.00 |
| Death Pension | 48 | $31,692.00 | $503,974.00 | 271 | $188,467.00 | $2,934,055.00 |
| Insurance | 99 | $0.00 | $1,258,704.00 | 506 | $0.00 | $6,827,444.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 117 | $0.00 | $195,097.00 | 615 | $0.00 | $962,969.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **22117** | **$22,853,416.00** | **$311,439,773.00** | **140353** | **$147,494,615.00** | **1,930,220,511.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 26653 | 158573 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 7446 | 52461 |
| *Electronic* | 932 | 7357 |
| Interviews | 9855 | 72246 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 20787 | 123162 |
| *Formal* | 289 | 2353 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 898 | 4.958 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 7 | 24 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 997 | 5,643 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 11 | 43 |
| BVA Motions | 33 | 227 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 10614 | 75680 |
| *Electronic* | 3230 | 19109 |
| Open Meetings | 13 | 152 |
| Department Meetings | 56 | 528 |
| Chapter Meetings | 96 | 661 |
| DOD Meetings | 4 | 36 |
| Other Meetings | 238 | 2052 |
| Notice of Death | 52 | 765 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **82211** | **526030** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 66 | 502 |
| Participants | 1786 | 15740 |
| Files Reviewed | 1203 | 8109 |
| Interviews | 1317 | 6000 |
| Power of Attorney | 51 | 149 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 1 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 4 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 2 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **4423** | **30507** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 134 | 787 |
| Life Installments | 57 | 367 |
| **Membership Totals** | **191** | **1154** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 1 | 10 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 6 |
| New Annual | 0 | 5 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **1** | **21** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 2 | 8 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **2** | **8** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Buffalo, New York (N6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 44 | $12,691.00 | $248,241.00 | 222 | $86,207.00 | $1,943,929.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 24 | $29,100.00 | $576,262.00 | 126 | $120,079.00 | $2,485,239.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 47 | $68,544.00 | $822,528.00 | 235 | $384,626.00 | $4,615,512.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 1 | $121.00 | $1,452.00 | 5 | $2,840.00 | $34,080.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 481 | $706,046.00 | $5,842,380.00 | 2617 | $3,408,780.00 | $28,224,294.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **597** | **$816,502.00** | **$7,490,863.00** | **3205** | **$4,002,532.00** | **37,303,054.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 733 | 3732 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 137 | 772 |
| *Electronic* | 16 | 81 |
| Interviews | 53 | 524 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 688 | 3518 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 6 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 3 | 8 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 66 | 538 |
| *Electronic* | 56 | 311 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 4 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 5 |
| Chapter Meetings | 1 | 3 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 6 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 4 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1754** | **9512** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 1 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **1** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Albany, New York (N3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 2 | $1,705.00 | $28,985.00 | 14 | $11,334.00 | $321,535.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 2 | $1,518.00 | $28,129.00 | 10 | $6,536.00 | $124,338.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $5,293.00 | $63,516.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **4** | **$3,223.00** | **$57,114.00** | **26** | **$23,163.00** | **509,389.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 43 | 218 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 32 | 149 |
| *Electronic* | 26 | 177 |
| Interviews | 51 | 250 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 2 | 12 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 0 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 28 | 152 |
| *Electronic* | 25 | 175 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Chapter Meetings | 1 | 1 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 1 | 1 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 0 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **209** | **1136** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 2 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **2** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Board of Veterans Appeals (D1)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 46 | $24,074.00 | $2,167,819.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 22 | $20,464.00 | $1,203,918.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 31 | $64,840.00 | $778,080.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **0** | **$0.00** | **$0.00** | **99** | **$109,378.00** | **4,149,817.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 746 | 4969 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 1 | 6 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 1 |
| Interviews | 8 | 153 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 1 | 5 |
| *Formal* | 12 | 175 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 0 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 1 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 591 | 3,487 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 30 | 203 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 0 | 7 |
| *Electronic* | 4 | 22 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 4 |
| Chapter Meetings | 3 | 9 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 9 | 40 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 1 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1405** | **9083** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 1 |
| Interviews | 0 | 1 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **2** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Albuquerque, New Mexico (M3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 33 | $17,549.00 | $407,535.00 | 422 | $227,729.00 | $5,120,819.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 17 | $13,531.00 | $295,708.00 | 464 | $361,645.00 | $7,057,079.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 97 | $163,278.00 | $1,959,336.00 | 690 | $1,147,814.00 | $13,773,768.00 |
| Pension | 1 | $719.00 | $8,628.00 | 12 | $8,610.00 | $141,086.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 1 | $342.00 | $4,104.00 | 4 | $2,711.00 | $32,532.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 34 | $28,661.00 | $64,510.00 | 311 | $287,369.00 | $712,899.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $0.00 | $101,891.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 5 | $7,162.00 | $111,192.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $3,564.00 | $49,896.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 5 | $7,025.00 | $57,848.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 4 | $0.00 | $4,291.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **183** | **$224,080.00** | **$2,739,821.00** | **1920** | **$2,053,629.00** | **27,163,301.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 278 | 1763 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 98 | 665 |
| *Electronic* | 1 | 39 |
| Interviews | 206 | 1327 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 229 | 1501 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 29 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 7 | 47 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 10 | 48 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 117 | 673 |
| *Electronic* | 13 | 67 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 2 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **959** | **6161** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 5 | 31 |
| Interviews | 0 | 2 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **5** | **33** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Boston, Massachusetts (J0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 113 | $62,853.00 | $1,512,427.00 | 709 | $399,479.00 | $8,707,664.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 80 | $80,629.00 | $1,992,957.00 | 527 | $395,993.00 | $8,911,085.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 108 | $205,911.00 | $2,470,932.00 | 826 | $1,451,230.00 | $17,414,760.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $2,120.00 | $46,640.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 1 | $1,075.00 | $12,900.00 | 10 | $10,417.00 | $125,004.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 14 | $19,974.00 | $41,502.00 | 356 | $630,517.00 | $1,999,497.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $0.00 | $40,348.00 |
| Death Compensation | 1 | $1,525.00 | $25,905.00 | 2 | $2,779.00 | $48,130.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $3,932.00 | $4,819.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **317** | **$371,967.00** | **$6,056,623.00** | **2436** | **$2,896,467.00** | **37,297,947.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 275 | 1979 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 118 | 553 |
| *Electronic* | 2 | 69 |
| Interviews | 125 | 1134 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 255 | 1815 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 30 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 11 | 46 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 8 | 47 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 1 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 1 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 137 | 952 |
| *Electronic* | 58 | 427 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 1 | 5 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 6 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 32 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 2 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **990** | **7099** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 1 |
| Participants | 0 | 54 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 1 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 1 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **57** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Anchorage, Alaska (A2)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $784.00 | $9,408.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 42 | $21,692.00 | $419,172.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **0** | **$0.00** | **$0.00** | **43** | **$22,476.00** | **428,580.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 95 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 18 | 234 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 58 | 586 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 1 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 0 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 34 | 341 |
| *Electronic* | 4 | 8 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 4 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 1 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **114** | **1270** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 1 |
| Participants | 0 | 32 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **33** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Baltimore, Maryland (I3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 6 | $3,165.00 | $76,546.00 | 98 | $79,810.00 | $1,951,848.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 42 | $22,343.00 | $440,119.00 | 349 | $194,300.00 | $4,405,665.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 26 | $44,144.00 | $529,728.00 | 234 | $372,778.00 | $4,473,336.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $1,035.00 | $14,808.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $2,358.00 | $28,296.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 14 | $13,836.00 | $31,409.00 | 247 | $252,561.00 | $584,265.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 1 | $0.00 | $1,254.00 | 4 | $2,774.00 | $21,124.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,149.00 | $13,788.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **89** | **$83,488.00** | **$1,079,056.00** | **938** | **$906,765.00** | **11,493,130.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 193 | 1077 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 48 | 647 |
| *Electronic* | 25 | 231 |
| Interviews | 177 | 1302 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 143 | 809 |
| *Formal* | 1 | 5 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 4 | 48 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 9 | 38 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 109 | 966 |
| *Electronic* | 44 | 403 |
| Open Meetings | 1 | 5 |
| Department Meetings | 2 | 7 |
| Chapter Meetings | 2 | 12 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 25 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 5 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **758** | **5580** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 1 |
| Interviews | 0 | 1 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **2** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 8 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 15 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **23** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 1 | 1 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **1** | **1** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Muskogee, Oklahoma (P0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 230 | $216,112.00 | $3,547,179.00 | 1288 | $809,718.00 | $15,545,864.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 227 | $149,172.00 | $2,676,042.00 | 1157 | $741,361.00 | $12,878,756.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 282 | $428,057.00 | $5,136,684.00 | 1943 | $2,842,572.00 | $34,110,864.00 |
| Pension | 3 | $1,791.00 | $16,707.00 | 18 | $11,690.00 | $168,345.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 2 | $1,220.00 | $14,640.00 | 4 | $2,669.00 | $32,028.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 76 | $82,001.00 | $276,402.00 | 413 | $417,733.00 | $1,954,141.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 2 | $0.00 | $39,960.00 | 9 | $0.00 | $147,018.00 |
| Death Compensation | 6 | $8,341.00 | $121,897.00 | 32 | $41,741.00 | $1,039,429.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 1 | $311.00 | $4,665.00 | 2 | $3,483.00 | $7,837.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 1 | $721.00 | $17,037.00 | 13 | $3,328.00 | $68,936.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 3 | $0.00 | $5,492.00 | 8 | $0.00 | $15,092.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **833** | **$887,726.00** | **$11,856,705.00** | **4887** | **$4,874,295.00** | **65,968,310.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 794 | 4917 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 236 | 1937 |
| *Electronic* | 27 | 126 |
| Interviews | 224 | 1528 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 770 | 4710 |
| *Formal* | 14 | 84 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 1 | 7 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 404 | 3122 |
| *Electronic* | 27 | 104 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 1 | 23 |
| Chapter Meetings | 4 | 19 |
| DOD Meetings | 1 | 9 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 21 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 6 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **2504** | **16613** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 1 | 7 |
| Participants | 19 | 104 |
| Files Reviewed | 1 | 66 |
| Interviews | 4 | 16 |
| Power of Attorney | 1 | 1 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **26** | **194** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Atlanta, Georgia (F0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 203 | $111,127.00 | $2,244,531.00 | 1366 | $691,485.00 | $14,953,522.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 141 | $104,144.00 | $2,431,422.00 | 965 | $620,629.00 | $13,437,146.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 260 | $446,086.00 | $5,353,032.00 | 1946 | $3,362,999.00 | $40,355,988.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 4 | $6,150.00 | $73,800.00 | 22 | $22,874.00 | $274,488.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 189 | $216,328.00 | $1,064,649.00 | 1568 | $1,749,781.00 | $10,611,031.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 3 | $0.00 | $91,477.00 | 11 | $0.00 | $303,680.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $3,847.00 | $56,301.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,064.00 | $21,028.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **800** | **$883,835.00** | **$11,258,911.00** | **5882** | **$6,452,679.00** | **80,013,184.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 948 | 4765 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 234 | 1571 |
| *Electronic* | 5 | 65 |
| Interviews | 303 | 2397 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 797 | 3874 |
| *Formal* | 8 | 28 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 35 | 168 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 419 | 2706 |
| *Electronic* | 53 | 343 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 6 |
| Chapter Meetings | 1 | 6 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 1 | 46 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 7 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **2804** | **15982** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 3 | 44 |
| Participants | 66 | 887 |
| Files Reviewed | 104 | 476 |
| Interviews | 107 | 346 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **280** | **1753** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 6 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 2 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **8** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Boise, Idaho (F3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 81 | $45,657.00 | $1,037,069.00 | 335 | $169,438.00 | $3,648,973.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 39 | $26,380.00 | $625,805.00 | 205 | $133,260.00 | $2,804,813.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 53 | $78,618.00 | $943,416.00 | 323 | $550,777.00 | $6,609,324.00 |
| Pension | 1 | $253.00 | $4,702.00 | 4 | $647.00 | $11,052.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 2 | $2,014.00 | $24,168.00 | 8 | $8,121.00 | $97,452.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 21 | $16,963.00 | $80,624.00 | 271 | $228,119.00 | $1,646,035.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 3 | $0.00 | $37,554.00 | 9 | $0.00 | $68,202.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 5 | $6,124.00 | $86,302.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 2 | $134.00 | $6,192.00 | 8 | $134.00 | $18,187.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $832.00 | $16,650.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 1 | $0.00 | $2,000.00 | 7 | $0.00 | $10,600.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **203** | **$170,019.00** | **$2,761,530.00** | **1177** | **$1,097,452.00** | **15,017,590.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 156 | 839 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 29 | 281 |
| *Electronic* | 7 | 18 |
| Interviews | 161 | 1276 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 140 | 721 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 34 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 13 | 61 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 50 | 440 |
| *Electronic* | 32 | 169 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 3 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 7 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 10 |
| Notice of Death | 6 | 18 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **594** | **3877** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 1 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **1** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 3 | 4 |
| Life Installments | 1 | 1 |
| **Membership Totals** | **4** | **5** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Manchester, New Hampshire (L6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 8 | $7,879.00 | $224,212.00 | 170 | $85,094.00 | $2,032,441.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 5 | $1,154.00 | $31,076.00 | 88 | $78,920.00 | $2,021,955.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 11 | $24,548.00 | $294,576.00 | 137 | $225,493.00 | $2,705,916.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $2,144.00 | $25,728.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 82 | $101,832.00 | $290,645.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 23 | $0.00 | $24,864.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,521.00 | $22,815.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **24** | **$33,581.00** | **$549,864.00** | **503** | **$495,004.00** | **7,124,364.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 70 | 575 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 13 | 165 |
| *Electronic* | 9 | 35 |
| Interviews | 114 | 457 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 64 | 434 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 13 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 3 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 27 | 233 |
| *Electronic* | 26 | 177 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 1 | 2 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 6 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 1 | 5 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 9 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **326** | **2114** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 1 | 1 |
| Participants | 16 | 16 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **17** | **17** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Chicago, Illinois (F6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 84 | $50,997.00 | $1,631,059.00 | 471 | $323,851.00 | $7,992,535.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 70 | $43,123.00 | $1,170,380.00 | 404 | $227,183.00 | $6,135,180.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 165 | $261,992.00 | $3,143,904.00 | 823 | $1,277,142.00 | $15,325,704.00 |
| Pension | 1 | $0.00 | $456.00 | 6 | $1,326.00 | $21,787.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 2 | $2,196.00 | $26,352.00 | 6 | $6,395.00 | $76,740.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 110 | $118,590.00 | $391,570.00 | 308 | $320,725.00 | $1,391,219.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 10 | $0.00 | $69,204.00 | 21 | $0.00 | $177,014.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $2,487.00 | $59,436.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 6 | $13,931.00 | $80,719.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $7,078.00 | $84,936.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 5 | $2,850.00 | $38,228.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $0.00 | $3,045.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **442** | **$476,898.00** | **$6,432,925.00** | **2057** | **$2,182,968.00** | **31,386,543.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 687 | 3134 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 93 | 1183 |
| *Electronic* | 43 | 219 |
| Interviews | 234 | 1926 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 262 | 1660 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 22 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 16 | 129 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 82 | 1075 |
| *Electronic* | 142 | 330 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 9 |
| Chapter Meetings | 3 | 22 |
| DOD Meetings | 1 | 1 |
| Other Meetings | 3 | 20 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 3 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1567** | **9733** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 2 | 30 |
| Participants | 83 | 833 |
| Files Reviewed | 39 | 240 |
| Interviews | 58 | 155 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **182** | **1258** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 4 | 41 |
| Life Installments | 7 | 27 |
| **Membership Totals** | **11** | **68** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Cincinnati, Ohio (O7)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **0** | **$0.00** | **$0.00** | **0** | **$0.00** | **0.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 215 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 0 | 121 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 35 |
| Interviews | 0 | 270 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 16 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 25 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 0 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 21 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 0 | 173 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 90 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 6 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 12 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 16 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 3 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **0** | **1003** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 1 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **1** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Cleveland, Ohio (O6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 220 | $121,560.00 | $2,627,104.00 | 1461 | $776,121.00 | $18,150,263.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 128 | $81,296.00 | $2,257,792.00 | 812 | $598,023.00 | $16,386,103.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 314 | $500,381.00 | $6,004,572.00 | 1801 | $2,847,006.00 | $34,164,072.00 |
| Pension | 8 | $7,461.00 | $114,936.00 | 15 | $18,952.00 | $263,178.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 3 | $1,904.00 | $22,848.00 | 27 | $28,418.00 | $341,016.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 8 | $9,906.00 | $33,931.00 | 18 | $21,561.00 | $98,480.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 186 | $0.00 | $219,108.00 |
| Death Compensation | 4 | $5,332.00 | $70,567.00 | 8 | $9,671.00 | $130,264.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,484.00 | $19,292.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $0.00 | $5,047.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **685** | **$727,840.00** | **$11,131,750.00** | **4332** | **$4,301,236.00** | **69,776,823.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 1116 | 6203 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 340 | 2291 |
| *Electronic* | 14 | 126 |
| Interviews | 109 | 1328 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 897 | 4874 |
| *Formal* | 17 | 82 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 71 | 423 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 2 | 2 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 44 | 119 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 732 | 4617 |
| *Electronic* | 88 | 680 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Department Meetings | 2 | 19 |
| Chapter Meetings | 12 | 90 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Other Meetings | 15 | 78 |
| Notice of Death | 3 | 76 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **3462** | **21010** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 4 | 13 |
| Participants | 171 | 570 |
| Files Reviewed | 29 | 221 |
| Interviews | 25 | 90 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **229** | **894** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 2 | 20 |
| Life Installments | 1 | 22 |
| **Membership Totals** | **3** | **42** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 1 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **1** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 1 | 1 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **1** | **1** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Cold Spring, Kentucky (IT)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **0** | **$0.00** | **$0.00** | **0** | **$0.00** | **0.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 45 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 0 | 0 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 3 |
| Interviews | 2 | 24 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 29 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 3 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 2 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 2 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 2 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 2 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 0 | 0 |
| *Electronic* | 3 | 10 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 0 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **5** | **122** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 3 |
| Interviews | 0 | 10 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **13** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 3 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 3 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **6** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 3 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 3 |
| New Annual | 0 | 3 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **9** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 5 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **5** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Columbia, South Carolina (R3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 174 | $77,506.00 | $1,581,486.00 | 970 | $350,611.00 | $7,687,663.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 121 | $86,949.00 | $1,735,659.00 | 826 | $600,454.00 | $13,523,481.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 200 | $390,242.00 | $4,682,904.00 | 1099 | $2,143,599.00 | $25,723,188.00 |
| Pension | 1 | $666.00 | $666.00 | 5 | $5,100.00 | $88,203.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 2 | $1,198.00 | $14,376.00 | 13 | $16,791.00 | $201,492.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 180 | $187,667.00 | $489,424.00 | 848 | $927,605.00 | $3,201,267.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $0.00 | $34,868.00 |
| Death Compensation | 1 | $1,520.00 | $28,880.00 | 4 | $5,282.00 | $84,818.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **679** | **$745,748.00** | **$8,533,395.00** | **3767** | **$4,049,442.00** | **50,544,980.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 570 | 3435 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 117 | 552 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 53 |
| Interviews | 431 | 3089 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 456 | 2843 |
| *Formal* | 18 | 151 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 52 | 229 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 38 | 175 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 1 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 184 | 1347 |
| *Electronic* | 37 | 202 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 16 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 6 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 54 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 3 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1903** | **12156** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 4 |
| Interviews | 2 | 15 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 5 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **2** | **24** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 9 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 11 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **20** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for DC Nat'l Svc & Legis Hqtrs. (D2)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **0** | **$0.00** | **$0.00** | **0** | **$0.00** | **0.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 3 | 4 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 0 | 0 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 5 |
| Interviews | 1 | 7 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 2 | 3 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 0 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 0 | 0 |
| *Electronic* | 1 | 11 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 0 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **7** | **30** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Denver, Colorado (C0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 123 | $84,142.00 | $1,695,866.00 | 686 | $348,103.00 | $6,899,336.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 100 | $62,876.00 | $1,348,245.00 | 483 | $327,655.00 | $7,039,224.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 95 | $139,468.00 | $1,673,616.00 | 836 | $1,296,446.00 | $15,557,352.00 |
| Pension | 4 | $1,927.00 | $28,983.00 | 6 | $4,057.00 | $86,789.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 1 | $1,072.00 | $12,864.00 | 7 | $5,744.00 | $68,928.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 470 | $563,110.00 | $3,671,275.00 | 569 | $640,860.00 | $4,351,423.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 3 | $0.00 | $19,121.00 | 7 | $0.00 | $89,413.00 |
| Death Compensation | 10 | $13,889.00 | $214,558.00 | 12 | $15,143.00 | $242,146.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 2 | $284.00 | $3,408.00 | 4 | $384.00 | $6,520.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 5 | $0.00 | $11,329.00 | 8 | $0.00 | $18,004.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **813** | **$866,768.00** | **$8,679,265.00** | **2618** | **$2,638,392.00** | **34,359,135.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 557 | 3536 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 321 | 1736 |
| *Electronic* | 20 | 165 |
| Interviews | 302 | 1857 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 295 | 2664 |
| *Formal* | 6 | 77 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 24 | 67 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 11 | 47 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 397 | 2300 |
| *Electronic* | 109 | 614 |
| Open Meetings | 3 | 3 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 8 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 3 | 38 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 15 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **2049** | **13128** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 2 | 15 |
| Participants | 42 | 406 |
| Files Reviewed | 47 | 497 |
| Interviews | 193 | 597 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **284** | **1515** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 4 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **4** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Des Moines, Iowa (G3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 89 | $58,528.00 | $1,337,954.00 | 351 | $217,279.00 | $4,509,156.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 43 | $36,363.00 | $663,933.00 | 174 | $146,398.00 | $2,996,803.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 61 | $84,468.00 | $1,013,616.00 | 360 | $528,606.00 | $6,343,272.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 5 | $5,270.00 | $79,125.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 5 | $6,576.00 | $78,912.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 22 | $22,179.00 | $66,832.00 | 149 | $143,550.00 | $431,573.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 17 | $0.00 | $20,983.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $3,657.00 | $286,874.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 3 | $3,451.00 | $55,200.00 | 6 | $6,468.00 | $97,149.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 2 | $0.00 | $1,300.00 | 8 | $0.00 | $9,594.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **220** | **$204,989.00** | **$3,138,835.00** | **1078** | **$1,057,804.00** | **14,853,441.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 320 | 1499 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 48 | 449 |
| *Electronic* | 2 | 22 |
| Interviews | 23 | 207 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 272 | 1248 |
| *Formal* | 1 | 13 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 16 | 49 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 10 | 50 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 39 | 453 |
| *Electronic* | 31 | 225 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 2 |
| Chapter Meetings | 1 | 11 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 2 | 45 |
| Notice of Death | 2 | 31 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **767** | **4304** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 1 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 1 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **2** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 3 | 19 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **3** | **19** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 1 | 1 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **1** | **1** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Detroit, Michigan (J3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 149 | $90,255.00 | $2,333,653.00 | 873 | $456,845.00 | $10,314,151.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 136 | $78,644.00 | $1,834,772.00 | 607 | $470,407.00 | $10,295,224.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 160 | $277,575.00 | $3,330,900.00 | 852 | $1,419,324.00 | $17,031,888.00 |
| Pension | 2 | $1,788.00 | $33,972.00 | 11 | $13,094.00 | $232,003.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 19 | $20,130.00 | $241,560.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 99 | $93,450.00 | $294,280.00 | 421 | $375,623.00 | $1,258,360.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 4 | $0.00 | $117,493.00 | 37 | $0.00 | $1,022,825.00 |
| Death Compensation | 6 | $9,604.00 | $136,004.00 | 16 | $20,881.00 | $309,949.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 4 | $13,755.00 | $165,060.00 | 4 | $13,755.00 | $165,060.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 1 | $550.00 | $17,600.00 | 4 | $2,370.00 | $56,384.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 1 | $0.00 | $1,322.00 | 5 | $0.00 | $4,956.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **562** | **$565,621.00** | **$8,265,056.00** | **2849** | **$2,792,429.00** | **40,932,360.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 490 | 3389 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 214 | 1945 |
| *Electronic* | 5 | 73 |
| Interviews | 149 | 1197 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 389 | 2701 |
| *Formal* | 10 | 78 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 37 | 298 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 11 | 50 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 424 | 3320 |
| *Electronic* | 13 | 31 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 10 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 6 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 14 |
| Notice of Death | 8 | 81 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1750** | **13193** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 2 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 1 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **3** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 31 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **31** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Fargo, North Dakota (O3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 53 | $34,975.00 | $733,978.00 | 305 | $184,788.00 | $3,773,457.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 34 | $27,206.00 | $568,033.00 | 228 | $164,596.00 | $2,779,086.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 54 | $87,743.00 | $1,052,916.00 | 283 | $422,157.00 | $5,065,884.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 9 | $9,101.00 | $161,198.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 1 | $935.00 | $11,220.00 | 1 | $935.00 | $11,220.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 4 | $3,560.00 | $8,747.00 | 113 | $105,318.00 | $311,238.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 7 | $0.00 | $35,571.00 |
| Death Compensation | 1 | $959.00 | $12,467.00 | 10 | $14,318.00 | $218,101.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,254.00 | $15,048.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $3,027.00 | $39,261.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 7 | $0.00 | $9,190.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **147** | **$155,378.00** | **$2,387,361.00** | **967** | **$905,494.00** | **12,419,254.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 199 | 1303 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 41 | 307 |
| *Electronic* | 1 | 5 |
| Interviews | 54 | 386 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 134 | 882 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 9 | 23 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 10 | 52 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 61 | 417 |
| *Electronic* | 34 | 181 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 6 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 37 |
| Notice of Death | 2 | 26 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **545** | **3626** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Fort Harrison, Montana (K6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 27 | $18,945.00 | $348,650.00 | 228 | $105,102.00 | $2,146,009.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 12 | $3,006.00 | $101,728.00 | 129 | $94,298.00 | $1,910,499.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 22 | $37,624.00 | $451,488.00 | 260 | $431,294.00 | $5,175,528.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,072.00 | $12,864.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 10 | $7,449.00 | $79,703.00 | 108 | $101,062.00 | $503,073.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,520.00 | $31,948.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $0.00 | $2,000.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **71** | **$67,024.00** | **$981,569.00** | **728** | **$734,348.00** | **9,781,921.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 60 | 652 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 18 | 163 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 14 | 285 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 53 | 611 |
| *Formal* | 1 | 12 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 2 | 10 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 21 | 172 |
| *Electronic* | 1 | 1 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Department Meetings | 1 | 4 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 2 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 1 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **171** | **1914** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Honolulu, Hawaii (W6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 16 | $15,235.00 | $313,540.00 | 129 | $88,886.00 | $1,859,376.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 2 | $1,557.00 | $34,218.00 | 43 | $25,039.00 | $473,119.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 4 | $8,839.00 | $106,068.00 | 28 | $50,484.00 | $605,808.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 67 | $176,489.00 | $371,303.00 | 595 | $1,587,486.00 | $3,181,528.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **89** | **$202,120.00** | **$825,129.00** | **795** | **$1,751,895.00** | **6,119,831.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 267 | 942 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 56 | 424 |
| *Electronic* | 4 | 59 |
| Interviews | 174 | 1475 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 102 | 172 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 17 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 3 | 14 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 206 | 1056 |
| *Electronic* | 51 | 317 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 1 | 2 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 7 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 0 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **864** | **4485** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 6 | 31 |
| Participants | 187 | 971 |
| Files Reviewed | 115 | 660 |
| Interviews | 122 | 517 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **430** | **2179** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 25 | 59 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 2 |
| **Membership Totals** | **25** | **61** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Las Vegas, Nevada (L4)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 21 | $23,053.00 | $664,272.00 | 217 | $146,663.00 | $3,453,112.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 14 | $8,132.00 | $278,197.00 | 144 | $125,190.00 | $3,472,134.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 15 | $23,916.00 | $286,992.00 | 94 | $171,787.00 | $2,061,444.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **50** | **$55,101.00** | **$1,229,461.00** | **455** | **$443,640.00** | **8,986,690.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 175 | 795 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 131 | 605 |
| *Electronic* | 6 | 82 |
| Interviews | 260 | 1149 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 68 | 423 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 6 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 2 | 23 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 105 | 510 |
| *Electronic* | 23 | 203 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 3 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 6 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 5 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **771** | **3811** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 1 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **1** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 2 |
| Life Installments | 1 | 1 |
| **Membership Totals** | **1** | **3** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Houston, Texas (T3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 87 | $56,401.00 | $1,337,224.00 | 500 | $257,228.00 | $6,469,435.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 95 | $45,237.00 | $933,013.00 | 588 | $279,215.00 | $6,093,730.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 136 | $200,414.00 | $2,404,968.00 | 739 | $1,210,367.00 | $14,524,404.00 |
| Pension | 3 | $3,390.00 | $46,525.00 | 15 | $11,218.00 | $188,748.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 2 | $2,781.00 | $33,372.00 | 10 | $12,144.00 | $145,728.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 69 | $82,520.00 | $339,670.00 | 1013 | $1,222,836.00 | $6,637,047.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 1 | $0.00 | $1,176.00 | 26 | $0.00 | $253,794.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 11 | $14,593.00 | $387,925.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $1,235.00 | $31,070.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $0.00 | $7,690.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **393** | **$390,743.00** | **$5,095,948.00** | **2908** | **$3,008,836.00** | **34,739,571.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 314 | 1707 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 70 | 444 |
| *Electronic* | 25 | 228 |
| Interviews | 231 | 1614 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 265 | 1344 |
| *Formal* | 2 | 27 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 19 | 155 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 10 | 49 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 104 | 1105 |
| *Electronic* | 54 | 328 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 2 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 16 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 8 | 105 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 5 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1103** | **7129** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 1 | 12 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 1 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **1** | **13** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 2 | 8 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 2 |
| **Membership Totals** | **2** | **10** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 1 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **1** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Huntington, West Virginia (V3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 2 | $1,471.00 | $19,921.00 | 9 | $6,086.00 | $103,253.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 10 | $5,005.00 | $78,414.00 | 44 | $39,795.00 | $812,887.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 8 | $17,253.00 | $207,036.00 | 133 | $209,323.00 | $2,511,876.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 1 | $492.00 | $5,904.00 | 8 | $9,958.00 | $119,496.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 7 | $6,217.00 | $20,361.00 | 52 | $43,862.00 | $173,997.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 54 | $0.00 | $58,175.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **28** | **$30,438.00** | **$331,636.00** | **300** | **$309,024.00** | **3,779,684.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 323 | 1612 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 22 | 122 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 11 |
| Interviews | 148 | 927 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 315 | 1594 |
| *Formal* | 5 | 11 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 0 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 35 | 338 |
| *Electronic* | 5 | 22 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 7 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 15 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 0 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **853** | **4660** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Indianapolis, Indiana (G0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 26 | $15,573.00 | $305,791.00 | 282 | $115,501.00 | $2,804,030.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 26 | $22,068.00 | $599,028.00 | 177 | $168,132.00 | $3,510,607.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 32 | $51,048.00 | $612,576.00 | 326 | $519,307.00 | $6,231,684.00 |
| Pension | 1 | $1,788.00 | $25,032.00 | 6 | $10,129.00 | $144,538.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 36 | $31,133.00 | $75,252.00 | 390 | $302,036.00 | $943,078.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 2 | $4,294.00 | $58,552.00 | 2 | $4,294.00 | $58,552.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 1 | $534.00 | $6,942.00 | 1 | $534.00 | $6,942.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **124** | **$126,438.00** | **$1,683,173.00** | **1184** | **$1,119,933.00** | **13,699,431.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 374 | 2527 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 59 | 418 |
| *Electronic* | 14 | 48 |
| Interviews | 193 | 1562 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 322 | 2141 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 38 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 1 | 2 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 18 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 231 | 1384 |
| *Electronic* | 64 | 413 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 2 | 6 |
| Chapter Meetings | 2 | 3 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 58 |
| Notice of Death | 4 | 41 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1266** | **8660** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 1 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **1** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 1 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **1** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Jackson, Mississippi (K0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 7 | $666.00 | $19,230.00 | 83 | $31,921.00 | $688,060.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 4 | $2,107.00 | $102,906.00 | 95 | $46,519.00 | $899,196.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 8 | $15,977.00 | $191,724.00 | 141 | $222,419.00 | $2,669,028.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $662.00 | $7,944.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,196.00 | $14,352.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 7 | $9,772.00 | $40,858.00 | 83 | $50,786.00 | $443,870.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $3,084.00 | $37,008.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **26** | **$28,522.00** | **$354,718.00** | **407** | **$356,587.00** | **4,759,458.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 74 | 993 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 28 | 332 |
| *Electronic* | 6 | 85 |
| Interviews | 34 | 522 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 61 | 731 |
| *Formal* | 5 | 74 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 28 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 65 | 454 |
| *Electronic* | 17 | 191 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 2 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 6 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 2 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **290** | **3420** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 2 | 6 |
| Participants | 40 | 135 |
| Files Reviewed | 4 | 75 |
| Interviews | 8 | 76 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **54** | **292** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Los Angeles, California (B0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 28 | $20,763.00 | $406,168.00 | 270 | $147,164.00 | $3,867,494.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 53 | $33,853.00 | $750,961.00 | 411 | $250,446.00 | $6,182,893.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 136 | $235,880.00 | $2,830,560.00 | 552 | $990,203.00 | $11,882,436.00 |
| Pension | 11 | $6,257.00 | $137,374.00 | 26 | $21,638.00 | $394,564.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 6 | $5,298.00 | $63,576.00 | 20 | $20,526.00 | $246,312.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 297 | $441,128.00 | $2,070,411.00 | 2741 | $4,341,997.00 | $22,357,978.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 8 | $0.00 | $24,178.00 | 25 | $0.00 | $132,902.00 |
| Death Compensation | 5 | $5,858.00 | $102,213.00 | 26 | $33,397.00 | $378,416.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 2 | $1,624.00 | $21,112.00 | 9 | $6,760.00 | $92,477.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 14 | $0.00 | $25,102.00 | 32 | $0.00 | $49,245.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **560** | **$750,661.00** | **$6,431,655.00** | **4112** | **$5,812,131.00** | **45,584,717.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 405 | 2178 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 108 | 774 |
| *Electronic* | 1 | 74 |
| Interviews | 251 | 1727 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 310 | 1635 |
| *Formal* | 9 | 58 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 18 | 118 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 197 | 1330 |
| *Electronic* | 41 | 248 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 4 | 10 |
| Chapter Meetings | 1 | 5 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 6 | 44 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 16 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1351** | **8217** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 1 | 1 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **1** | **1** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 6 | 6 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **6** | **6** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Lincoln, Nebraska (L0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 181 | $106,689.00 | $2,198,794.00 | 1036 | $496,894.00 | $9,904,917.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 67 | $54,342.00 | $946,283.00 | 395 | $302,896.00 | $4,665,412.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 148 | $245,682.00 | $2,948,184.00 | 993 | $1,554,297.00 | $18,651,564.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 3 | $2,729.00 | $32,748.00 | 11 | $12,621.00 | $151,452.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 4 | $4,769.00 | $12,274.00 | 36 | $43,139.00 | $128,973.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 1 | $0.00 | $777.00 | 25 | $0.00 | $19,425.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **404** | **$414,211.00** | **$6,139,060.00** | **2496** | **$2,409,847.00** | **33,521,743.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 465 | 2948 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 19 | 163 |
| *Electronic* | 2 | 37 |
| Interviews | 16 | 176 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 434 | 2712 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 2 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 5 | 22 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 8 | 45 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 18 | 165 |
| *Electronic* | 14 | 121 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 5 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 5 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 6 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **981** | **6407** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Nashville, Tennessee (S0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 109 | $66,899.00 | $1,300,340.00 | 504 | $304,895.00 | $6,094,630.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 90 | $54,603.00 | $1,229,682.00 | 552 | $305,809.00 | $5,765,780.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 163 | $242,605.00 | $2,911,260.00 | 701 | $1,121,073.00 | $13,452,876.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 5 | $3,733.00 | $54,504.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 5 | $4,660.00 | $55,920.00 | 8 | $6,363.00 | $76,356.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 23 | $20,759.00 | $50,137.00 | 279 | $248,929.00 | $669,779.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 52 | $0.00 | $173,079.00 |
| Death Compensation | 1 | $1,257.00 | $16,341.00 | 2 | $2,762.00 | $17,846.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **391** | **$390,783.00** | **$5,563,680.00** | **2103** | **$1,993,564.00** | **26,304,850.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 756 | 4109 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 323 | 1874 |
| *Electronic* | 24 | 230 |
| Interviews | 169 | 1121 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 522 | 2790 |
| *Formal* | 6 | 57 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 51 | 200 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 10 | 47 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 404 | 2529 |
| *Electronic* | 117 | 764 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 8 |
| Chapter Meetings | 1 | 19 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 3 | 21 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 8 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **2386** | **13777** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 1 |
| Participants | 0 | 500 |
| Files Reviewed | 56 | 324 |
| Interviews | 57 | 336 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **113** | **1161** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 38 |
| Life Installments | 5 | 9 |
| **Membership Totals** | **5** | **47** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 2 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **2** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Little Rock, Arkansas (A6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 148 | $66,126.00 | $1,356,822.00 | 767 | $397,632.00 | $8,838,252.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 78 | $59,126.00 | $1,086,085.00 | 484 | $342,982.00 | $6,689,815.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 181 | $330,085.00 | $3,961,020.00 | 1052 | $1,829,000.00 | $21,948,000.00 |
| Pension | 2 | $1,505.00 | $14,434.00 | 14 | $13,357.00 | $205,330.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 8 | $9,582.00 | $114,984.00 | 21 | $21,987.00 | $263,844.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 37 | $36,118.00 | $144,980.00 | 445 | $432,781.00 | $2,111,273.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 25 | $0.00 | $29,532.00 | 58 | $0.00 | $728,288.00 |
| Death Compensation | 2 | $3,676.00 | $55,118.00 | 14 | $16,851.00 | $314,385.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $543.00 | $6,844.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 1 | $0.00 | $1,015.00 | 2 | $0.00 | $1,315.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **482** | **$506,218.00** | **$6,763,990.00** | **2860** | **$3,055,133.00** | **41,107,346.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 539 | 3803 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 40 | 329 |
| *Electronic* | 15 | 45 |
| Interviews | 270 | 2023 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 297 | 2131 |
| *Formal* | 1 | 64 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 21 | 92 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 9 | 37 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 54 | 673 |
| *Electronic* | 61 | 230 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 2 | 13 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 12 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 6 | 66 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 3 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1316** | **9521** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 3 | 16 |
| Life Installments | 1 | 6 |
| **Membership Totals** | **4** | **22** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Louisville, Kentucky (H0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 113 | $51,950.00 | $1,171,492.00 | 614 | $317,342.00 | $6,820,495.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 83 | $64,487.00 | $1,560,866.00 | 506 | $364,068.00 | $8,214,272.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 170 | $269,078.00 | $3,228,936.00 | 1061 | $1,696,535.00 | $20,358,420.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $717.00 | $46,763.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 2 | $2,473.00 | $29,676.00 | 22 | $25,398.00 | $304,776.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 36 | $25,051.00 | $158,201.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 8 | $0.00 | $169,587.00 | 25 | $0.00 | $227,759.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,520.00 | $25,840.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 1 | $148.00 | $888.00 | 7 | $605.00 | $7,422.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,149.00 | $13,788.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $0.00 | $2,000.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **377** | **$388,136.00** | **$6,161,445.00** | **2275** | **$2,432,385.00** | **36,179,736.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 511 | 3249 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 73 | 617 |
| *Electronic* | 27 | 173 |
| Interviews | 111 | 723 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 463 | 2801 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 22 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 24 | 183 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 5 | 118 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 96 | 1376 |
| *Electronic* | 139 | 592 |
| Open Meetings | 2 | 20 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 22 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 9 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 1 | 33 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 27 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1452** | **9965** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 39 | 225 |
| Interviews | 81 | 551 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **120** | **776** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 1 | 7 |
| Life Installments | 3 | 8 |
| **Membership Totals** | **4** | **15** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Milwaukee, Wisconsin (V6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 27 | $16,962.00 | $348,322.00 | 350 | $164,587.00 | $3,346,177.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 26 | $14,152.00 | $333,159.00 | 466 | $197,942.00 | $4,276,699.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 66 | $108,004.00 | $1,296,048.00 | 692 | $1,194,284.00 | $14,331,408.00 |
| Pension | 42 | $43,003.00 | $635,276.00 | 351 | $326,571.00 | $5,233,701.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 22 | $23,531.00 | $282,372.00 | 84 | $93,377.00 | $1,120,524.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 12 | $12,342.00 | $42,880.00 | 168 | $148,403.00 | $529,213.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 1 | $0.00 | $300.00 | 24 | $0.00 | $256,566.00 |
| Death Compensation | 27 | $36,294.00 | $490,016.00 | 281 | $390,568.00 | $6,104,633.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $347.00 | $347.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 23 | $15,303.00 | $235,324.00 | 123 | $82,129.00 | $1,345,733.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 19 | $0.00 | $29,754.00 | 128 | $0.00 | $200,942.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **265** | **$269,591.00** | **$3,693,451.00** | **2668** | **$2,598,208.00** | **36,745,943.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 322 | 2156 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 69 | 552 |
| *Electronic* | 19 | 92 |
| Interviews | 120 | 976 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 279 | 1945 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 18 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 16 | 70 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 2 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 101 | 811 |
| *Electronic* | 57 | 363 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 4 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 2 |
| DOD Meetings | 1 | 2 |
| Other Meetings | 2 | 49 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 53 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **987** | **7096** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 3 | 12 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **3** | **12** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Montgomery, Alabama (A0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 97 | $49,385.00 | $1,447,182.00 | 847 | $469,665.00 | $10,852,992.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 79 | $47,693.00 | $932,940.00 | 841 | $476,577.00 | $11,647,183.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 113 | $179,853.00 | $2,158,236.00 | 1091 | $1,865,644.00 | $22,387,728.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 12 | $10,835.00 | $153,197.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 4 | $2,019.00 | $24,228.00 | 23 | $21,501.00 | $258,012.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 146 | $137,265.00 | $334,126.00 | 1151 | $1,106,280.00 | $2,957,647.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 2 | $0.00 | $10,917.00 | 203 | $0.00 | $496,878.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 4 | $5,548.00 | $83,618.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $1,868.00 | $35,237.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 1 | $0.00 | $300.00 | 2 | $0.00 | $2,300.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **442** | **$416,215.00** | **$4,907,929.00** | **4177** | **$3,957,918.00** | **48,874,792.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 372 | 2623 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 163 | 1179 |
| *Electronic* | 20 | 220 |
| Interviews | 304 | 2051 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 217 | 1749 |
| *Formal* | 21 | 104 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 3 | 27 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 17 | 78 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 1 | 2 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 276 | 1672 |
| *Electronic* | 74 | 611 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 2 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 5 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 1 | 16 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 7 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1469** | **10346** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 1 |
| Interviews | 0 | 2 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 1 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **4** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 3 | 19 |
| Life Installments | 3 | 16 |
| **Membership Totals** | **6** | **35** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 1 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **1** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Phoenix, Arizona (A3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 225 | $113,313.00 | $2,409,422.00 | 1074 | $527,213.00 | $11,546,866.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 157 | $91,921.00 | $1,685,548.00 | 837 | $530,949.00 | $11,137,956.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 306 | $507,824.00 | $6,093,888.00 | 1566 | $2,517,089.00 | $30,205,068.00 |
| Pension | 1 | $862.00 | $8,620.00 | 7 | $4,413.00 | $44,159.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 4 | $2,984.00 | $35,808.00 | 12 | $12,118.00 | $145,416.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 165 | $182,882.00 | $993,713.00 | 1313 | $1,518,499.00 | $9,561,814.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 3 | $0.00 | $93,108.00 | 5 | $0.00 | $142,673.00 |
| Death Compensation | 4 | $4,296.00 | $65,022.00 | 14 | $17,103.00 | $276,918.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 1 | $149.00 | $447.00 | 3 | $312.00 | $1,976.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $392.00 | $629.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 1 | $0.00 | $2,000.00 | 2 | $0.00 | $4,000.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **867** | **$904,231.00** | **$11,387,576.00** | **4836** | **$5,128,088.00** | **63,067,475.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 702 | 4214 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 189 | 1024 |
| *Electronic* | 19 | 105 |
| Interviews | 364 | 2051 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 660 | 3858 |
| *Formal* | 13 | 76 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 4 | 65 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 8 | 46 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 205 | 1335 |
| *Electronic* | 89 | 402 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 19 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 9 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 5 |
| DOD Meetings | 1 | 1 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 63 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 1 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **2254** | **13274** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 4 | 15 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **4** | **15** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 11 | 19 |
| Life Installments | 1 | 6 |
| **Membership Totals** | **12** | **25** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Orlando, Florida (E5)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 6 | $3,218.00 | $40,252.00 | 188 | $86,584.00 | $1,657,764.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 4 | $3,059.00 | $26,763.00 | 127 | $111,179.00 | $1,661,898.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 22 | $43,145.00 | $517,740.00 | 285 | $492,967.00 | $5,915,604.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 2 | $1,485.00 | $17,820.00 | 8 | $7,271.00 | $87,252.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 5 | $0.00 | $76,878.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **34** | **$50,907.00** | **$602,575.00** | **613** | **$698,001.00** | **9,399,396.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 72 | 894 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 34 | 325 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 29 |
| Interviews | 48 | 443 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 49 | 689 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 3 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 15 | 27 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 21 | 269 |
| *Electronic* | 34 | 180 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 3 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 7 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 4 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **274** | **2873** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Oakland, California (B3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 21 | $15,450.00 | $326,235.00 | 205 | $144,138.00 | $3,656,060.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 113 | $59,427.00 | $693,680.00 | 627 | $356,636.00 | $6,732,210.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 38 | $56,356.00 | $676,272.00 | 561 | $979,831.00 | $11,757,972.00 |
| Pension | 3 | $3,103.00 | $108,385.00 | 8 | $6,726.00 | $180,014.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 5 | $6,076.00 | $72,912.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 65 | $52,022.00 | $412,774.00 | 698 | $545,799.00 | $4,446,110.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 1 | $0.00 | $10,911.00 | 50 | $0.00 | $205,109.00 |
| Death Compensation | 2 | $3,084.00 | $30,576.00 | 11 | $15,823.00 | $192,916.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $0.00 | $6,295.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **243** | **$189,442.00** | **$2,258,833.00** | **2168** | **$2,055,029.00** | **27,249,598.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 291 | 1837 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 134 | 979 |
| *Electronic* | 6 | 28 |
| Interviews | 92 | 879 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 257 | 1666 |
| *Formal* | 4 | 29 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 28 | 128 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 161 | 1232 |
| *Electronic* | 13 | 160 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 25 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 12 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 16 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 38 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 15 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **986** | **7044** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 1 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 3 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **4** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 11 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **11** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for San Diego, California (B6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 130 | $145,888.00 | $2,395,103.00 | 1566 | $1,728,486.00 | $28,291,682.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 49 | $36,833.00 | $697,085.00 | 699 | $549,390.00 | $10,552,197.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 63 | $98,656.00 | $1,183,872.00 | 928 | $1,493,606.00 | $17,923,272.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,760.00 | $22,880.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $2,248.00 | $26,976.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 21 | $23,192.00 | $65,784.00 | 1577 | $1,182,448.00 | $11,436,538.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 44 | $0.00 | $308,568.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $3,085.00 | $37,020.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $0.00 | $4,000.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **263** | **$304,569.00** | **$4,341,844.00** | **4821** | **$4,961,023.00** | **68,603,133.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 446 | 4352 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 162 | 1583 |
| *Electronic* | 6 | 105 |
| Interviews | 372 | 3584 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 375 | 3848 |
| *Formal* | 3 | 29 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 1 | 26 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 10 | 51 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 252 | 2383 |
| *Electronic* | 118 | 496 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 2 | 80 |
| Chapter Meetings | 10 | 72 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 7 |
| Other Meetings | 8 | 80 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 18 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1765** | **16714** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 11 | 73 |
| Participants | 275 | 2049 |
| Files Reviewed | 342 | 2347 |
| Interviews | 257 | 1294 |
| Power of Attorney | 1 | 1 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **886** | **5764** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for New Orleans, Louisiana (H6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 47 | $30,455.00 | $709,935.00 | 287 | $206,394.00 | $4,386,315.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 44 | $26,155.00 | $594,827.00 | 338 | $272,969.00 | $5,632,559.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 109 | $175,851.00 | $2,110,212.00 | 621 | $1,303,123.00 | $15,637,476.00 |
| Pension | 1 | $395.00 | $4,740.00 | 2 | $2,183.00 | $27,984.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 2 | $403.00 | $4,836.00 | 14 | $9,883.00 | $118,596.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 13 | $13,603.00 | $43,767.00 | 162 | $170,287.00 | $530,855.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 43 | $0.00 | $67,894.00 | 113 | $0.00 | $676,257.00 |
| Death Compensation | 1 | $1,254.00 | $15,048.00 | 3 | $3,806.00 | $55,792.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $2,806.00 | $5,612.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $0.00 | $2,000.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **260** | **$248,116.00** | **$3,551,259.00** | **1542** | **$1,971,451.00** | **27,073,446.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 342 | 2391 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 133 | 1128 |
| *Electronic* | 15 | 117 |
| Interviews | 96 | 646 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 267 | 2060 |
| *Formal* | 2 | 15 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 3 | 28 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 1 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 10 | 38 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 172 | 1101 |
| *Electronic* | 22 | 133 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 4 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 7 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 22 | 61 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 1 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1084** | **7731** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 8 | 43 |
| Participants | 54 | 285 |
| Files Reviewed | 16 | 99 |
| Interviews | 16 | 138 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **94** | **565** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 1 | 35 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 10 |
| **Membership Totals** | **1** | **45** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for San Juan, Puerto Rico (W3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 22 | $12,652.00 | $348,854.00 | 110 | $34,388.00 | $1,265,167.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 10 | $18,653.00 | $322,961.00 | 28 | $29,598.00 | $727,643.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 34 | $57,102.00 | $685,224.00 | 410 | $660,623.00 | $7,927,476.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $713.00 | $12,121.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 1 | $653.00 | $7,836.00 | 13 | $11,024.00 | $132,288.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 5 | $0.00 | $48,414.00 | 53 | $443.00 | $532,786.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 6 | $0.00 | $4,662.00 | 23 | $0.00 | $329,121.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,149.00 | $22,980.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **78** | **$89,060.00** | **$1,417,951.00** | **639** | **$737,938.00** | **10,949,582.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 120 | 846 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 37 | 341 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 9 |
| Interviews | 201 | 1174 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 93 | 653 |
| *Formal* | 1 | 21 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 5 | 74 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 1 | 1 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 8 | 44 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 73 | 525 |
| *Electronic* | 17 | 132 |
| Open Meetings | 3 | 22 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 2 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 5 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 2 |
| Other Meetings | 6 | 20 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 1 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **566** | **3872** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 3 |
| Participants | 0 | 37 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 3 |
| Interviews | 0 | 4 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 1 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **48** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for White River Junction, Vermont (U3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 1 | $1,026.00 | $16,407.00 | 8 | $4,785.00 | $95,047.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 1 | $276.00 | $2,750.00 | 4 | $2,684.00 | $60,231.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 1 | $1,789.00 | $21,468.00 | 4 | $5,767.00 | $69,204.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $662.00 | $1,324.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **3** | **$3,091.00** | **$40,625.00** | **17** | **$13,898.00** | **225,806.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 25 | 55 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 31 | 169 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 27 | 157 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 24 | 36 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 2 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 0 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 31 | 196 |
| *Electronic* | 5 | 15 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 4 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **143** | **634** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 1 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **1** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Newington, Connecticut (C3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 91 | $72,216.00 | $1,441,371.00 | 539 | $292,820.00 | $6,053,418.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 32 | $26,470.00 | $669,603.00 | 380 | $265,068.00 | $5,779,139.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 66 | $115,164.00 | $1,381,968.00 | 468 | $781,985.00 | $9,383,820.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,072.00 | $12,864.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 36 | $53,660.00 | $160,497.00 | 189 | $280,254.00 | $875,057.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 2 | $0.00 | $26,656.00 | 11 | $0.00 | $183,741.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $2,508.00 | $31,350.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **227** | **$267,510.00** | **$3,680,095.00** | **1590** | **$1,623,707.00** | **22,319,389.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 275 | 1883 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 31 | 305 |
| *Electronic* | 7 | 30 |
| Interviews | 158 | 1150 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 257 | 1740 |
| *Formal* | 2 | 14 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 11 | 105 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 2 | 15 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 69 | 422 |
| *Electronic* | 51 | 443 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 9 | 17 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 5 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 20 | 72 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 12 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **893** | **6213** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 1 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 3 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **4** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for New York, New York (N0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 20 | $7,109.00 | $134,668.00 | 211 | $144,624.00 | $3,233,328.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 11 | $5,792.00 | $115,504.00 | 222 | $164,849.00 | $3,762,646.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 31 | $52,814.00 | $633,768.00 | 446 | $744,975.00 | $8,939,700.00 |
| Pension | 2 | $0.00 | $1,400.00 | 2 | $0.00 | $1,400.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 7 | $6,030.00 | $72,360.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 1 | $641.00 | $3,205.00 | 1 | $641.00 | $3,205.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 663 | $0.00 | $623,304.00 | 676 | $0.00 | $635,736.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $449.00 | $9,429.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **728** | **$66,356.00** | **$1,511,849.00** | **1566** | **$1,061,568.00** | **16,657,804.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 109 | 1337 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 154 | 936 |
| *Electronic* | 4 | 40 |
| Interviews | 85 | 579 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 79 | 1100 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 9 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 1 | 15 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 10 | 48 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 1 | 1 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 169 | 1105 |
| *Electronic* | 10 | 96 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 9 | 21 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 2 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 1 | 18 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 3 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **632** | **5310** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 3 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **3** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Newark, New Jersey (M0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 99 | $35,350.00 | $915,933.00 | 392 | $138,867.00 | $2,938,623.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 62 | $55,253.00 | $1,149,783.00 | 310 | $197,910.00 | $4,255,166.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 72 | $102,647.00 | $1,231,764.00 | 395 | $612,390.00 | $7,348,680.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $493.00 | $5,916.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 1 | $1,075.00 | $12,900.00 | 6 | $6,565.00 | $78,780.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 1 | $1,282.00 | $15,384.00 | 38 | $44,009.00 | $207,833.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $0.00 | $777.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 1 | $0.00 | $2,000.00 | 1 | $0.00 | $2,000.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **236** | **$195,607.00** | **$3,327,764.00** | **1144** | **$1,000,234.00** | **14,837,775.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 273 | 1807 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 17 | 58 |
| *Electronic* | 11 | 120 |
| Interviews | 99 | 728 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 228 | 1548 |
| *Formal* | 7 | 11 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 4 | 45 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 10 | 22 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 30 | 115 |
| *Electronic* | 60 | 301 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 1 | 9 |
| Chapter Meetings | 2 | 5 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 2 |
| Other Meetings | 3 | 29 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 7 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **746** | **4807** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 3 | 32 |
| Life Installments | 3 | 10 |
| **Membership Totals** | **6** | **42** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 1 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **1** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Q0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 24 | $6,465.00 | $209,008.00 | 530 | $287,773.00 | $6,639,224.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 10 | $4,311.00 | $193,590.00 | 340 | $277,191.00 | $6,223,730.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 72 | $124,191.00 | $1,490,292.00 | 761 | $1,341,378.00 | $16,096,536.00 |
| Pension | 2 | $2,812.00 | $39,948.00 | 30 | $29,298.00 | $474,261.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 18 | $16,309.00 | $195,708.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $1,698.00 | $3,890.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 5 | $0.00 | $18,286.00 | 49 | $0.00 | $600,693.00 |
| Death Compensation | 2 | $2,774.00 | $41,610.00 | 41 | $51,120.00 | $999,043.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 6 | $5,492.00 | $94,655.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 29 | $0.00 | $51,344.00 | 142 | $0.00 | $228,443.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **144** | **$140,553.00** | **$2,044,078.00** | **1920** | **$2,010,259.00** | **31,556,183.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 1173 | 5170 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 334 | 2091 |
| *Electronic* | 19 | 70 |
| Interviews | 232 | 1353 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 1163 | 5068 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 29 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 9 | 56 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 1 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 147 | 1186 |
| *Electronic* | 30 | 182 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 16 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 10 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 1 | 16 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 2 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **3108** | **15250** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 6 | 50 |
| Life Installments | 17 | 132 |
| **Membership Totals** | **23** | **182** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Q6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 157 | $106,692.00 | $2,466,822.00 | 691 | $365,868.00 | $8,948,600.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 94 | $77,855.00 | $1,609,756.00 | 470 | $363,059.00 | $8,763,620.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 225 | $409,665.00 | $4,915,980.00 | 877 | $1,582,777.00 | $18,993,324.00 |
| Pension | 1 | $1,788.00 | $30,555.00 | 7 | $6,069.00 | $111,719.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 4 | $4,313.00 | $51,756.00 | 16 | $16,979.00 | $203,748.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 34 | $33,475.00 | $106,240.00 | 95 | $95,533.00 | $257,895.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 4 | $0.00 | $10,819.00 | 20 | $0.00 | $147,574.00 |
| Death Compensation | 3 | $3,136.00 | $55,843.00 | 4 | $4,390.00 | $73,399.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 1 | $0.00 | $2,000.00 | 2 | $0.00 | $4,495.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **523** | **$636,924.00** | **$9,249,771.00** | **2182** | **$2,434,675.00** | **37,504,374.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 511 | 2454 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 72 | 676 |
| *Electronic* | 9 | 126 |
| Interviews | 75 | 702 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 394 | 1769 |
| *Formal* | 1 | 21 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 19 | 92 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 33 | 172 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 1 | 2 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 78 | 758 |
| *Electronic* | 23 | 72 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 7 | 14 |
| Chapter Meetings | 3 | 6 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 38 | 45 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 6 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1264** | **6915** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Providence, Rhode Island (R0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 87 | $66,035.00 | $1,273,642.00 | 533 | $338,461.00 | $6,155,098.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 20 | $16,753.00 | $295,518.00 | 197 | $158,553.00 | $3,079,770.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 80 | $121,702.00 | $1,460,424.00 | 533 | $807,253.00 | $9,687,036.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,056.00 | $12,672.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $3,548.00 | $42,576.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 191 | $247,472.00 | $687,992.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 2 | $0.00 | $34,928.00 | 2 | $0.00 | $34,928.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **189** | **$204,490.00** | **$3,064,512.00** | **1460** | **$1,556,343.00** | **19,700,072.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 267 | 1529 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 38 | 339 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 2 |
| Interviews | 55 | 536 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 232 | 1402 |
| *Formal* | 4 | 12 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 20 | 66 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 11 | 48 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 1 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 64 | 567 |
| *Electronic* | 57 | 122 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 2 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 3 |
| Chapter Meetings | 2 | 6 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 1 | 8 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 2 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **751** | **4645** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 1 | 1 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **1** | **1** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Wichita, Kansas (G6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 66 | $30,614.00 | $728,525.00 | 346 | $164,803.00 | $3,579,974.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 41 | $21,630.00 | $295,519.00 | 249 | $147,356.00 | $2,171,314.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 80 | $119,163.00 | $1,429,956.00 | 432 | $698,319.00 | $8,379,828.00 |
| Pension | 1 | $499.00 | $15,908.00 | 4 | $5,341.00 | $90,161.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 1 | $319.00 | $3,828.00 | 6 | $4,681.00 | $56,172.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 30 | $25,210.00 | $136,400.00 | 208 | $177,119.00 | $835,762.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 8 | $0.00 | $11,661.00 |
| Death Compensation | 1 | $1,525.00 | $22,890.00 | 8 | $10,732.00 | $218,165.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $89.00 | $1,335.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 1 | $285.00 | $3,420.00 | 1 | $285.00 | $3,420.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 2 | $0.00 | $3,615.00 | 7 | $0.00 | $12,662.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **223** | **$199,245.00** | **$2,640,061.00** | **1270** | **$1,208,725.00** | **15,360,454.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 157 | 830 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 62 | 391 |
| *Electronic* | 5 | 40 |
| Interviews | 104 | 616 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 148 | 807 |
| *Formal* | 1 | 2 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 8 | 21 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 86 | 593 |
| *Electronic* | 2 | 12 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 2 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 5 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 12 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **574** | **3332** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 4 | 9 |
| Life Installments | 2 | 4 |
| **Membership Totals** | **6** | **13** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Reno, Nevada (L3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 14 | $10,733.00 | $216,050.00 | 239 | $178,624.00 | $3,956,935.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 6 | $3,464.00 | $82,800.00 | 203 | $92,440.00 | $1,952,849.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 12 | $15,028.00 | $180,336.00 | 209 | $350,963.00 | $4,211,556.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 15 | $10,573.00 | $163,264.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $2,144.00 | $25,728.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 65 | $48,303.00 | $135,924.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $3,227.00 | $76,030.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $0.00 | $1,521.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $0.00 | $4,260.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **32** | **$29,225.00** | **$479,186.00** | **739** | **$686,274.00** | **10,528,067.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 100 | 712 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 15 | 84 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 7 |
| Interviews | 130 | 837 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 28 | 305 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 5 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 3 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 64 | 423 |
| *Electronic* | 2 | 27 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 3 | 9 |
| Chapter Meetings | 6 | 9 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 20 | 42 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 1 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **368** | **2464** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 5 | 12 |
| Life Installments | 2 | 5 |
| **Membership Totals** | **7** | **17** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Roanoke, Virginia (U6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 337 | $182,203.00 | $4,876,967.00 | 1157 | $709,147.00 | $16,669,416.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 428 | $232,185.00 | $5,957,154.00 | 1145 | $669,749.00 | $14,947,586.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 305 | $487,703.00 | $5,852,436.00 | 1368 | $2,184,679.00 | $26,216,148.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 8 | $3,999.00 | $58,929.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 3 | $3,559.00 | $42,708.00 | 5 | $4,446.00 | $53,352.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 111 | $105,023.00 | $212,151.00 | 414 | $383,219.00 | $861,785.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 2 | $0.00 | $94,003.00 | 11 | $0.00 | $254,202.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 18 | $23,591.00 | $412,571.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,831.00 | $31,127.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **1186** | **$1,010,673.00** | **$17,035,419.00** | **4127** | **$3,980,661.00** | **59,505,116.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 613 | 3314 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 348 | 2079 |
| *Electronic* | 44 | 250 |
| Interviews | 101 | 1051 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 560 | 3029 |
| *Formal* | 1 | 20 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 38 | 147 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 9 | 47 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 480 | 3016 |
| *Electronic* | 11 | 68 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 4 |
| Department Meetings | 2 | 31 |
| Chapter Meetings | 6 | 21 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 2 | 45 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 2 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **2215** | **13124** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 15 | 117 |
| Participants | 592 | 4955 |
| Files Reviewed | 113 | 629 |
| Interviews | 122 | 293 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **842** | **5994** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Sacramento, California (B2)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 5 | $3,617.00 | $101,487.00 | 70 | $45,753.00 | $1,544,116.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 12 | $11,053.00 | $339,702.00 | 84 | $74,641.00 | $1,777,550.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 8 | $12,598.00 | $151,176.00 | 139 | $270,257.00 | $3,243,084.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $0.00 | $836.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $5,974.00 | $71,688.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 25 | $18,567.00 | $163,242.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 4 | $0.00 | $80,577.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,680.00 | $28,560.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $0.00 | $1,700.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **25** | **$27,268.00** | **$592,365.00** | **328** | **$416,872.00** | **6,911,353.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 29 | 112 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 50 | 470 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 6 |
| Interviews | 120 | 625 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 11 | 36 |
| *Formal* | 9 | 30 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 0 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 45 | 370 |
| *Electronic* | 9 | 42 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 12 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 3 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **273** | **1708** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 1 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **1** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Salt Lake City, Utah (U0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 411 | $424,149.00 | $6,839,106.00 | 2680 | $3,080,390.00 | $47,332,232.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 68 | $52,132.00 | $956,839.00 | 403 | $322,032.00 | $6,288,484.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 201 | $351,147.00 | $4,213,764.00 | 1335 | $2,423,041.00 | $29,076,492.00 |
| Pension | 1 | $810.00 | $33,243.00 | 3 | $3,754.00 | $74,727.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 3 | $3,906.00 | $46,872.00 | 23 | $25,738.00 | $308,856.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 26 | $28,886.00 | $87,534.00 | 252 | $251,574.00 | $520,412.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 7 | $8,387.00 | $102,432.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 1 | $122.00 | $1,464.00 | 1 | $122.00 | $1,464.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $2,120.00 | $25,440.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **711** | **$861,152.00** | **$12,178,822.00** | **4705** | **$6,117,158.00** | **83,730,539.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 675 | 5359 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 41 | 241 |
| *Electronic* | 8 | 58 |
| Interviews | 165 | 1190 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 624 | 5017 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 8 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 9 | 75 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 8 | 44 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 65 | 419 |
| *Electronic* | 49 | 320 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 1 | 14 |
| Chapter Meetings | 1 | 21 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 25 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 5 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1646** | **12796** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 1 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **1** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 7 | 40 |
| Life Installments | 1 | 4 |
| **Membership Totals** | **8** | **44** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for San Antonio, Texas (T6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 145 | $94,313.00 | $1,828,461.00 | 291 | $160,948.00 | $3,128,482.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 88 | $53,967.00 | $1,109,121.00 | 352 | $181,993.00 | $3,689,039.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 220 | $337,539.00 | $4,050,468.00 | 632 | $1,054,342.00 | $12,652,104.00 |
| Pension | 1 | $1,949.00 | $29,235.00 | 6 | $6,237.00 | $83,578.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $3,334.00 | $40,008.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 166 | $160,615.00 | $1,002,684.00 | 1293 | $1,391,097.00 | $9,002,219.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $0.00 | $15,046.00 |
| Death Compensation | 1 | $1,254.00 | $15,048.00 | 6 | $5,016.00 | $89,699.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 2 | $298.00 | $3,576.00 | 3 | $402.00 | $4,824.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $521.00 | $10,562.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 1 | $0.00 | $300.00 | 9 | $0.00 | $8,405.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **624** | **$649,935.00** | **$8,038,893.00** | **2600** | **$2,803,890.00** | **28,723,966.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 520 | 1955 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 200 | 1729 |
| *Electronic* | 18 | 60 |
| Interviews | 395 | 2357 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 409 | 1578 |
| *Formal* | 9 | 43 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 67 | 196 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 389 | 2906 |
| *Electronic* | 90 | 302 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 9 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 1 | 20 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 1 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **2098** | **11157** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 6 | 37 |
| Participants | 40 | 281 |
| Files Reviewed | 29 | 162 |
| Interviews | 29 | 167 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **104** | **647** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 1 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **1** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Seattle, Washington (V0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 206 | $245,916.00 | $4,054,563.00 | 812 | $730,251.00 | $14,711,609.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 229 | $65,585.00 | $1,785,520.00 | 772 | $279,879.00 | $7,137,428.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 101 | $164,872.00 | $1,978,464.00 | 645 | $1,089,103.00 | $13,069,236.00 |
| Pension | 7 | $5,520.00 | $82,002.00 | 14 | $11,563.00 | $202,760.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 2 | $1,033.00 | $12,396.00 | 9 | $7,592.00 | $91,104.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 2 | $1,021.00 | $3,574.00 | 78 | $85,015.00 | $194,827.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 11 | $0.00 | $75,012.00 |
| Death Compensation | 10 | $14,884.00 | $232,334.00 | 37 | $59,252.00 | $857,315.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $847.00 | $847.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 1 | $690.00 | $13,110.00 | 3 | $2,702.00 | $38,819.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 2 | $0.00 | $2,745.00 | 20 | $0.00 | $32,480.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **560** | **$499,521.00** | **$8,164,708.00** | **2402** | **$2,266,204.00** | **36,411,437.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 243 | 1399 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 420 | 2779 |
| *Electronic* | 8 | 60 |
| Interviews | 176 | 1221 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 151 | 822 |
| *Formal* | 3 | 53 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 13 | 144 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 57 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 3 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 391 | 2885 |
| *Electronic* | 17 | 87 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 3 |
| Chapter Meetings | 2 | 7 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 6 |
| Other Meetings | 2 | 19 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 28 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1426** | **9573** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 2 | 34 |
| Participants | 25 | 837 |
| Files Reviewed | 101 | 908 |
| Interviews | 72 | 675 |
| Power of Attorney | 48 | 113 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 1 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 1 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **248** | **2569** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 1 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **1** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Sioux Falls, South Dakota (R6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 159 | $56,442.00 | $1,201,011.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 121 | $214,543.00 | $3,115,616.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 48 | $74,497.00 | $893,964.00 | 279 | $458,201.00 | $5,498,412.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $1,993.00 | $26,352.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 2 | $1,588.00 | $19,056.00 | 10 | $9,324.00 | $111,888.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 24 | $20,308.00 | $76,383.00 | 92 | $78,769.00 | $248,816.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $0.00 | $950.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,521.00 | $24,336.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $0.00 | $5,698.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **74** | **$96,393.00** | **$989,403.00** | **668** | **$820,793.00** | **10,233,079.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 139 | 922 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 20 | 162 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 6 |
| Interviews | 0 | 468 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 139 | 792 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 2 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 28 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 40 | 337 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 53 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 2 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 12 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 2 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 17 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **339** | **2803** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 4 | 31 |
| Life Installments | 2 | 7 |
| **Membership Totals** | **6** | **38** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for St. Louis, Missouri (K3)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 155 | $110,412.00 | $2,299,480.00 | 1033 | $554,329.00 | $11,987,470.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 87 | $61,192.00 | $1,082,998.00 | 809 | $547,070.00 | $10,451,103.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 206 | $318,100.00 | $3,817,200.00 | 1435 | $2,430,494.00 | $29,165,928.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 12 | $12,233.00 | $172,575.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 2 | $2,057.00 | $24,684.00 | 21 | $21,106.00 | $253,272.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 456 | $425,917.00 | $3,270,366.00 | 6994 | $7,010,433.00 | $51,985,174.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 2 | $0.00 | $29,739.00 | 40 | $0.00 | $182,797.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 4 | $4,265.00 | $72,579.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $5,946.00 | $50,079.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,755.00 | $21,060.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $275.00 | $3,300.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $0.00 | $4,000.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **908** | **$917,678.00** | **$10,524,467.00** | **10354** | **$10,587,906.00** | **104,349,337.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 729 | 5476 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 259 | 1972 |
| *Electronic* | 4 | 96 |
| Interviews | 171 | 1360 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 491 | 3443 |
| *Formal* | 4 | 75 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 33 | 175 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 20 | 80 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 359 | 2629 |
| *Electronic* | 70 | 357 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 9 |
| Chapter Meetings | 3 | 14 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 3 | 79 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 11 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **2147** | **15776** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 12 |
| Participants | 0 | 302 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **314** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 31 | 164 |
| Life Installments | 2 | 20 |
| **Membership Totals** | **33** | **184** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 2 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **2** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for St. Paul, Minnesota (J6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 272 | $100,430.00 | $2,144,243.00 | 1083 | $452,147.00 | $9,918,132.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 153 | $136,214.00 | $1,925,064.00 | 652 | $511,386.00 | $8,324,376.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 367 | $627,858.00 | $7,534,296.00 | 1500 | $2,362,343.00 | $28,348,116.00 |
| Pension | 25 | $25,690.00 | $383,729.00 | 170 | $196,147.00 | $2,896,599.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 6 | $7,462.00 | $89,544.00 | 42 | $40,298.00 | $483,576.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 23 | $22,546.00 | $76,093.00 | 218 | $216,859.00 | $638,810.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 10 | $0.00 | $8,565.00 | 50 | $0.00 | $127,501.00 |
| Death Compensation | 32 | $45,741.00 | $729,148.00 | 264 | $388,617.00 | $5,743,181.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 12 | $8,117.00 | $130,688.00 | 55 | $44,385.00 | $666,936.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 32 | $0.00 | $51,479.00 | 189 | $0.00 | $283,142.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **932** | **$974,058.00** | **$13,072,849.00** | **4223** | **$4,212,182.00** | **57,430,369.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 1077 | 5685 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 124 | 785 |
| *Electronic* | 11 | 67 |
| Interviews | 137 | 897 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 788 | 4139 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 6 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 50 | 177 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 10 | 44 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 124 | 900 |
| *Electronic* | 224 | 1201 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 18 |
| Department Meetings | 1 | 10 |
| Chapter Meetings | 7 | 28 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Other Meetings | 25 | 95 |
| Notice of Death | 7 | 80 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **2585** | **14133** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 2 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 2 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **4** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for St. Petersburg, Florida (E0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 26 | $13,252.00 | $242,756.00 | 221 | $97,625.00 | $2,629,189.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 14 | $13,225.00 | $261,900.00 | 764 | $212,107.00 | $5,552,827.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 35 | $57,472.00 | $689,664.00 | 365 | $576,268.00 | $6,915,216.00 |
| Pension | 1 | $1,072.00 | $17,152.00 | 1 | $1,072.00 | $17,152.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 12 | $9,389.00 | $112,668.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 757 | $789,376.00 | $2,173,177.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 6 | $0.00 | $209,503.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $2,980.00 | $64,855.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $1,149.00 | $14,937.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **76** | **$85,021.00** | **$1,211,472.00** | **2129** | **$1,689,966.00** | **17,689,524.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 818 | 4750 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 524 | 2998 |
| *Electronic* | 42 | 528 |
| Interviews | 443 | 3208 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 608 | 2514 |
| *Formal* | 33 | 215 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 11 | 115 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 8 | 70 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 925 | 5120 |
| *Electronic* | 271 | 1865 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 15 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 36 |
| Chapter Meetings | 4 | 35 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Other Meetings | 4 | 259 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 14 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **3692** | **21743** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 2 | 12 |
| Participants | 77 | 391 |
| Files Reviewed | 35 | 136 |
| Interviews | 35 | 114 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 1 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **149** | **654** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 2 | 21 |
| Life Installments | 1 | 12 |
| **Membership Totals** | **3** | **33** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 1 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **1** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Syracuse, New York (N7)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **0** | **$0.00** | **$0.00** | **0** | **$0.00** | **0.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 0 | 0 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 0 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 0 | 0 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 0 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 0 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Togus, Maine (I0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 159 | $118,985.00 | $2,482,079.00 | 1044 | $674,919.00 | $13,729,789.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 76 | $66,570.00 | $1,306,253.00 | 494 | $431,426.00 | $7,224,187.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 170 | $261,067.00 | $3,132,804.00 | 1270 | $2,114,643.00 | $25,375,716.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $703.00 | $10,507.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 6 | $5,979.00 | $71,748.00 | 23 | $21,103.00 | $253,236.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 26 | $25,452.00 | $76,616.00 | 107 | $111,583.00 | $356,701.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 3 | $0.00 | $34,969.00 | 8 | $0.00 | $120,598.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **440** | **$478,053.00** | **$7,104,469.00** | **2948** | **$3,354,377.00** | **47,070,734.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 371 | 3173 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 13 | 40 |
| *Electronic* | 28 | 144 |
| Interviews | 64 | 541 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 368 | 3153 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 1 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 5 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 6 | 36 |
| *Electronic* | 31 | 269 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Department Meetings | 2 | 5 |
| Chapter Meetings | 1 | 6 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Other Meetings | 1 | 11 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 16 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **886** | **7402** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 1 | 1 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **1** | **1** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

## National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Waco, Texas (T0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 183 | $75,477.00 | $1,866,898.00 | 999 | $475,066.00 | $10,458,374.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 175 | $129,231.00 | $3,108,604.00 | 873 | $576,228.00 | $12,658,885.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 398 | $669,729.00 | $8,036,748.00 | 1672 | $2,720,109.00 | $32,641,308.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 6 | $7,005.00 | $85,277.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 4 | $4,844.00 | $58,128.00 | 33 | $35,215.00 | $422,580.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 12 | $13,483.00 | $60,945.00 | 795 | $800,658.00 | $5,431,112.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 1 | $0.00 | $10,800.00 | 25 | $0.00 | $286,630.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 6 | $3,955.00 | $43,910.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $1,371.00 | $15,840.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 1 | $0.00 | $2,000.00 | 5 | $0.00 | $9,184.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **774** | **$892,764.00** | **$13,144,123.00** | **4416** | **$4,619,607.00** | **62,053,100.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 969 | 5745 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 375 | 3208 |
| *Electronic* | 11 | 255 |
| Interviews | 166 | 1422 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 768 | 4703 |
| *Formal* | 18 | 75 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 49 | 329 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 112 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 436 | 4017 |
| *Electronic* | 112 | 727 |
| Open Meetings | 4 | 4 |
| Department Meetings | 1 | 5 |
| Chapter Meetings | 7 | 13 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 11 | 17 |
| Notice of Death | 1 | 9 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **2928** | **20641** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 8 |
| Participants | 0 | 1489 |
| Files Reviewed | 57 | 639 |
| Interviews | 51 | 302 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **108** | **2438** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 8 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 2 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **10** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Washington, D.C. (D0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 116 | $48,779.00 | $2,652,417.00 | 1068 | $367,547.00 | $24,505,339.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 84 | $129,504.00 | $3,906,958.00 | 617 | $550,883.00 | $26,769,034.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 42 | $105,448.00 | $1,265,376.00 | 566 | $1,065,489.00 | $12,785,868.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $2,864.00 | $2,864.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 1 | $1,408.00 | $16,896.00 | 4 | $3,215.00 | $38,580.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 1 | $0.00 | $3,328.00 | 324 | $355,046.00 | $1,190,189.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $0.00 | $73,768.00 |
| Death Compensation | 1 | $1,254.00 | $15,048.00 | 1 | $1,254.00 | $15,048.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 2 | $3,182.00 | $41,748.00 | 2 | $3,182.00 | $41,748.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $408.00 | $4,896.00 |
| Death Pension | 1 | $133.00 | $133.00 | 1 | $133.00 | $133.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **248** | **$289,708.00** | **$7,901,904.00** | **2586** | **$2,350,021.00** | **65,427,467.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 256 | 1219 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 61 | 418 |
| *Electronic* | 2 | 18 |
| Interviews | 249 | 1840 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 161 | 639 |
| *Formal* | 1 | 4 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 13 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 2 | 16 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 1 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 101 | 898 |
| *Electronic* | 49 | 272 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 8 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 3 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 1 |
| Other Meetings | 2 | 19 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 0 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **884** | **5369** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 1 | 6 |
| Participants | 99 | 425 |
| Files Reviewed | 21 | 87 |
| Interviews | 43 | 167 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 2 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 1 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 1 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **164** | **689** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 1 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **1** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for West Palm Beach, Florida (E7)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 2 | $2,572.00 | $62,166.00 | 12 | $10,834.00 | $445,478.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 10 | $5,445.00 | $88,531.00 | 24 | $12,001.00 | $221,983.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 3 | $4,440.00 | $53,280.00 | 15 | $20,510.00 | $246,120.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 3 | $4,028.00 | $67,620.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 1 | $0.00 | $894.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **15** | **$12,457.00** | **$203,977.00** | **55** | **$47,373.00** | **982,095.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 64 | 309 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 33 | 231 |
| *Electronic* | 0 | 4 |
| Interviews | 124 | 869 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 14 | 73 |
| *Formal* | 4 | 22 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 1 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 10 | 34 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 1 | 1 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 1 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 149 | 606 |
| *Electronic* | 25 | 417 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Chapter Meetings | 1 | 4 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 5 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 0 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **425** | **2577** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 3 |
| Life Installments | 2 | 7 |
| **Membership Totals** | **2** | **10** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Wilmington, Delaware (C6)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 2 | $3,257.00 | $46,202.00 | 26 | $25,507.00 | $502,503.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 1 | $430.00 | $16,730.00 | 13 | $3,540.00 | $83,788.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 1 | $1,551.00 | $18,612.00 | 18 | $29,488.00 | $353,856.00 |
| Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 71 | $78,574.00 | $215,484.00 | 493 | $554,399.00 | $1,536,659.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 2 | $2,508.00 | $34,259.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 99 | $0.00 | $1,258,704.00 | 506 | $0.00 | $6,827,444.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **174** | **$83,812.00** | **$1,555,732.00** | **1058** | **$615,442.00** | **9,338,509.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 500 | 1201 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 54 | 213 |
| *Electronic* | 1 | 4 |
| Interviews | 28 | 214 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 500 | 1196 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 5 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 0 | 0 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 0 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 13 | 68 |
| *Electronic* | 6 | 17 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Chapter Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 3 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **1102** | **2921** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 0 |
| Participants | 0 | 0 |
| Files Reviewed | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 0 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **0** | **0** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| **Membership Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# National Service Office Consolidated Report - January to December 2016 for Winston-Salem, North Carolina (O0)

| OFFICE AWARDS | MONTHLY | | | YEAR-TO-DATE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual | Number | Monthly | Retro & Annual |
| New Service Connections | 443 | $505,165.00 | $8,091,760.00 | 1638 | $1,751,957.00 | $28,372,114.00 |
| Compensation Increases | 96 | $96,225.00 | $1,607,178.00 | 337 | $321,436.00 | $6,361,526.00 |
| Compensation Maintained | 201 | $324,951.00 | $3,899,412.00 | 865 | $1,476,709.00 | $17,720,508.00 |
| Pension | 1 | $1,141.00 | $14,833.00 | 1 | $1,141.00 | $14,833.00 |
| Pension Maintained | 3 | $3,241.00 | $38,892.00 | 11 | $16,071.00 | $192,852.00 |
| Social Security | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Educational Benefits | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 39 | $44,888.00 | $144,706.00 |
| Miscellaneous - VA | 2 | $0.00 | $30,372.00 | 7 | $0.00 | $45,905.00 |
| Death Compensation | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Special Entitlements Maintained | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Death Pension | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Insurance | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Burial Benefit | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Physical Evaluation Boards | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **Award Totals** | **746** | **$930,723.00** | **$13,682,447.00** | **2898** | **$3,612,202.00** | **52,852,444.00** |

| OFFICE ACTIVITIES | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Files Reviewed | 1237 | 7219 |
| Power of Attorney | | |
| *Paper* | 77 | 508 |
| *Electronic* | 282 | 1993 |
| Interviews | 131 | 1033 |
| Rating Board Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 1100 | 6337 |
| *Formal* | 20 | 97 |
| Appeals | | |
| 646/Brief | 40 | 199 |
| Pre-Certification Review | 1 | 1 |
| BVA Informal Hearing Presentation | 17 | 101 |
| BVA Administrative Review | 0 | 0 |
| BVA Motions | 0 | 1 |
| New Claims | | |
| *Paper* | 174 | 1286 |
| *Electronic* | 182 | 1174 |
| Open Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Department Meetings | 1 | 1 |
| Chapter Meetings | 4 | 8 |
| DOD Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Other Meetings | 2 | 8 |
| Notice of Death | 0 | 9 |
| **Office Activities Totals** | **3268** | **19975** |

| MILITARY AFFAIRS | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Briefings/Presentations | 0 | 7 |
| Participants | 0 | 181 |
| Files Reviewed | 43 | 237 |
| Interviews | 35 | 129 |
| Power of Attorney | 0 | 17 |
| 293 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| 149 Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Physical Evaluation Board | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| **Military Affairs Totals** | **78** | **571** |

| MEMBERSHIP | Monthly | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| New Life | 4 | 28 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 5 |
| **Membership Totals** | **4** | **33** |
| **AUXILIARY** | | |
| New Life | 0 | 0 |
| Life Installments | 0 | 0 |
| New Annual | 0 | 0 |
| **Auxiliary Totals** | **0** | **0** |
| **SOCIAL SECURITY** | | |
| SSA Appearances | | |
| *Informal* | 0 | 0 |
| *Formal* | 0 | 0 |
| Power of Attorney SSA-1696 | 0 | 0 |
| Interviews | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal Briefs Submitted | 0 | 0 |
| **Social Security Totals** | **0** | **0** |

# Disabled American Veterans

Financial Statements as of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2016, and Independent Auditors' Report

Deloitte.

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Disabled American Veterans:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans ("DAV"), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2016, 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 DAV'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 DAV'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, 2016, 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.

Deloitte + Touche LLP

April 7, 2017

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
### AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

| ASSETS | | LIABILITIES AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CASH | $ 10,139,236 | LIABILITIES: | |
| | | Accounts payable | $ 5,623,576 |
| ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE | 2,381,778 | Accrued expenses | 3,712,627 |
| | | Pension liability | 16,563,301 |
| INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE | 58,486 | Postretirement benefit obligation | 49,917,581 |
| | | Other liabilities | 1,167,427 |
| SOLICITATION MATERIALS | 1,196,586 | Deferred dues and service fees collected in advance | 3,378,458 |
| PREPAID EXPENSES | 4,215,856 | Deferred revenue | 1,927,025 |
| | | Life membership: | |
| INVESTMENTS | 371,421,724 | Accounts payable | 788,127 |
| | | Reserve for future distribution of life | |
| PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT — Net | 10,441,365 | membership dues | 52,088,768 |
| OTHER ASSETS | 249,000 | Total liabilities | 135,166,890 |
| LIFE MEMBERSHIP: | | UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS | 317,814,036 |
| Cash | 2,021,436 | | |
| Accounts Receivable | 56 | | |
| Investments | 50,855,403 | | |
| TOTAL | $ 452,980,926 | TOTAL | $ 452,980,926 |

See notes to financial statements.

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
### FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

| | |
|---|---|
| SUPPORT AND REVENUE: | |
| Support: | |
| Contributions | $ 115,556,772 |
| Contributed services and facilities — primarily services | 45,637,063 |
| Contributed media and materials — primarily media | 75,209,506 |
| Total support | 236,403,341 |
| Revenue: | |
| Membership dues and fees | 6,890,059 |
| Income from investments — net | 9,742,487 |
| List royalties | 670,349 |
| Miscellaneous revenue | 881,895 |
| Total revenue | 18,184,790 |
| Realized investment gains | 858,145 |
| Total support and revenue | 255,446,276 |
| EXPENSES: | |
| Program services: | |
| Service program | 46,882,116 |
| Employment program | 1,343,664 |
| Legislative program | 2,071,733 |
| Voluntary service program | 46,380,612 |
| State services and disaster relief | 5,245,535 |
| Communications program | 9,864,703 |
| Public Service Announcement program, primarily contributed media | 75,835,437 |
| Membership program | 6,421,428 |
| Public awareness outreach | 29,674,404 |
| Total program services | 223,719,632 |
| Supporting services: | |
| Fundraising costs | 34,301,646 |
| Administrative and general | 9,253,199 |
| Total supporting services | 43,554,845 |
| Total expenses | 267,274,477 |
| EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER SUPPORT AND REVENUE | (11,828,201) |
| CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS | 8,166,812 |
| EXCESS OF EXPENSES AND CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS OVER SUPPORT AND REVENUE | (3,661,389) |
| PENSION LIABILITY AND OTHER POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATION ADJUSTMENT | 45,818,612 |
| CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS | 42,157,223 |
| UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS — Beginning of year | 275,656,813 |
| UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS — End of year | $ 317,814,036 |

See notes to financial statements.

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

### STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
### FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

| | Service Program | Employment Program | Legislative Service Program | Voluntary Service Program | State Services and Disaster Relief | Communications Program | Public Service Announcement Program | Membership Program | Public Awareness Outreach | Total Program Services | Fundraising Costs | Administrative and General | Total Supporting Services | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Salaries | $ 23,049,445 | $ 351,945 | $ 855,403 | $ 361,239 | $ | $ 969,790 | $ | $ 1,272,791 | $ 181,783 | $ 27,042,396 | $ 3,584,203 | $ 5,054,016 | $ 8,638,219 | $ 35,680,615 |
| Employee benefits | 12,317,256 | 180,173 | 367,221 | 367,385 | | 399,944 | | 672,967 | 111,528 | 14,416,474 | 2,951,410 | 3,084,618 | 6,036,028 | 20,452,502 |
| Payroll taxes | 1,829,327 | 26,744 | 59,284 | 29,104 | | 76,293 | | 86,181 | 13,945 | 2,120,878 | 292,805 | 414,068 | 706,873 | 2,827,751 |
| DAV transportation network and LVAP volunteers | | | | 43,709,313 | | | | | | 43,709,313 | | | | 43,709,313 |
| HSC & Transport Network Grants | | | | 210,966 | | | | | | 210,966 | | | | 210,966 |
| Winter Sports Clinic | | | | 728,291 | | | | | | 728,291 | | | | 728,291 |
| Columbia Trust | | | | 72,866 | | | | | | 72,866 | | | | 72,866 |
| Other grants | 56,748 | | | 52,500 | 799,642 | 40,000 | | | | 948,890 | 600 | 50 | 650 | 949,540 |
| Disaster relief | | | | | 463,000 | | | | | 463,000 | | | | 463,000 |
| State service program | | | | | 3,981,492 | | | | | 3,981,492 | | | | 3,981,492 |
| Scholarships | | | | 55,000 | | | | | | 55,000 | | | | 55,000 |
| Expenses of national convention | | | | | | | | 611,485 | | 611,485 | | | | 611,485 |
| Expenses of national commander and committees | | | | | | | | 675,272 | | 675,272 | | | | 675,272 |
| Travel, training, and relocation | 2,335,020 | 92,627 | 26,831 | 82,766 | | 83,274 | | 103,419 | 28,840 | 2,752,777 | 151,899 | 120,241 | 272,140 | 3,024,917 |
| Facilities | 1,926,250 | | | | | | | | 1,500 | 1,927,750 | | | | 1,927,750 |
| Contributed media and materials | 11,484 | | | | | | 74,899,322 | | 222,910 | 75,133,716 | | | | 75,133,716 |
| Postage and shipping | 863,780 | 3,391 | 1,762 | 49,551 | 1,401 | 1,149,209 | 1,958 | 126,966 | 13,280 | 2,211,298 | 11,116,309 | 421,817 | 11,538,126 | 13,749,424 |
| Equipment rental and maintenance | 376,243 | 881 | 12,692 | 28,980 | | 48,476 | | 188,691 | 163,441 | 819,404 | 473,843 | 946,298 | 1,420,141 | 2,239,545 |
| Supplies | 672,334 | 40,859 | 37,541 | 27,793 | | 70,176 | 16,475 | 139,942 | 52,515 | 1,057,635 | 160,378 | 156,049 | 316,427 | 1,374,062 |
| Insurance | 93,955 | 940 | 1,612 | 388 | | 31,148 | | 1,193 | 5,953 | 135,189 | 2,868 | 233,743 | 236,611 | 371,800 |
| Telephone | 145,628 | 2,312 | 5,538 | 1,390 | | 9,966 | | 7,359 | 2,262 | 174,455 | 9,993 | 151,229 | 161,222 | 335,677 |
| Outside services | 758,138 | | 8,038 | | | | | 45,457 | 14 | 811,647 | 122,660 | 290,601 | 413,261 | 1,224,908 |
| Project costs | | 580,000 | | | | 3,294,904 | | 44,297 | 242,882 | 4,162,083 | 1,997,099 | 2,258 | 1,999,357 | 6,161,440 |
| Printing of magazine | | | | | | 852,675 | | | | 852,675 | | | | 852,675 |
| Cost of mailing materials | 45,996 | | 755 | 785 | | 95,237 | | 297,104 | 753 | 440,630 | 37,604,024 | 641,818 | 38,245,842 | 38,686,472 |
| Heat, light, water, and power | 152,651 | | | | | | | | | 152,651 | | 290,944 | 290,944 | 443,595 |
| Security service | 162,756 | | | | | | | | | 162,756 | | 145,991 | 145,991 | 308,747 |
| Depreciation of property and equipment | 451,482 | 2,090 | 2,062 | 58,443 | | 15,772 | | 2,752 | | 532,601 | 114,068 | 772,639 | 886,707 | 1,419,308 |
| Legal fees | 191,882 | | | | | | | 25,075 | | 216,957 | 10,175 | 124,004 | 134,179 | 351,136 |
| Professional fees | 47,612 | | 93,569 | 13 | | 1,946,831 | 917,682 | 142,074 | 373,723 | 3,521,504 | 794,115 | 1,355,586 | 2,149,701 | 5,671,205 |
| Professional fundraising services | | | | | | | | | 56,120 | 56,120 | 1,322,874 | | 1,322,874 | 1,378,994 |
| Technology services | 16,466 | | | 49,357 | | | | 192,136 | | 257,959 | 26,812 | 645,296 | 672,108 | 930,067 |
| Other expenses | 58,508 | 111 | 1,204 | 68,132 | | 20,561 | | 11,965 | | 160,481 | 8,359 | 1,102,106 | 1,110,465 | 1,270,946 |
| Allocations from (to) other departments | 1,319,155 | 61,591 | 598,221 | 426,350 | | 760,447 | | 1,774,302 | 28,202,955 | 33,143,021 | (26,442,848) | (6,700,173) | (33,143,021) | |
| Total | $ 46,882,116 | $ 1,343,664 | $ 2,071,733 | $ 46,380,612 | $ 5,245,535 | $ 9,864,703 | $ 75,835,437 | $ 6,421,428 | $ 29,674,404 | $ 223,719,632 | $ 34,301,646 | $ 9,253,199 | $ 43,554,845 | $ 267,274,477 |

See notes to financial statements.

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**

| | |
|---|---|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | |
| Change in unrestricted net assets | $ 42,157,223 |
| Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities: | |
| Noncash investment contributions | (1,040,991) |
| Change in unrealized appreciation of investments | (8,975,986) |
| Pension liability and other postretirement benefit obligation adjustment | (45,818,612) |
| Depreciation | 1,419,307 |
| Gain on disposal of property and equipment | (6,735) |
| Realized investment gains | (1,424,435) |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | |
| Accounts receivable | (808,076) |
| Interest and dividends receivable | (20,116) |
| Solicitation materials | 470,655 |
| Prepaid expenses | (1,072,887) |
| Other assets | (249,000) |
| Accounts payable | (2,387,694) |
| Accrued expenses and other | 1,832,525 |
| Other liabilities | 191,690 |
| Deferred dues and service fees collected in advance | 60,547 |
| Deferred revenue | 35,156 |
| Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues | (3,138,326) |
| Net cash used by operating activities | (18,775,755) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | |
| Payments for property and equipment | (2,381,252) |
| Proceeds from the sale of property and equipment | 83,598 |
| Purchases of investments | (119,162,560) |
| Proceeds from the sale of investments | 138,032,774 |
| Net cash provided by investing activities | 16,572,560 |
| NET DECREASE IN CASH | (2,203,195) |
| CASH — Beginning of year | 14,363,867 |
| CASH — End of year | $ 12,160,672 |

See notes to financial statements.

## 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 in the process of 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.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842). This standard amends the existing guidance and requires lessees to recognize on the balance sheet assets and liabilities for the rights and obligations created by those leases with lease terms longer than twelve months. This update is effective for annual financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019 and is to be applied using a modified retrospective approach; early adoption is permitted. Management is in the process of evaluating the impact on the financial statements.

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-13, Financial Instruments - Credit Losses, which is included in ASC Topic 326, Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments. The new standard revises the accounting requirements related to the measurement of credit losses and will require organizations to measure all expected credit losses for financial assets based on historical experience, current conditions and reasonable and supportable forecasts about collectability. Assets must be presented in the financial statements at the net amount expected to be collected. This standard will be effective for the annual financial statements beginning January 1, 2021. A modified retrospective approach is to be used for certain parts of this standard while other parts are to be applied using a prospective approach. Management has not yet evaluated the impact of ASU 2016-13 on the financial statements.

In August 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-14, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities. Adoption of FASB ASU 2016-14 will result in significant changes to financial reporting and disclosure for not-for-profit entities. FASB believes the update will improve not-for-profit entities' financial statements and provide more useful information to donors, grantors, creditors, and other financial statement users. The standard is effective for annual financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, with application applied retrospectively; early adoption is permitted. Management is in the process of evaluating the impact on the financial statements.

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

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

**Property and Equipment** — Property and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation, and at December 31, 2016, are composed of the following:

| | Cost | Accumulated Depreciation | Net Book Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Land and improvements | $ 1,015,314 | $ 496,894 | $ 518,420 |
| Buildings and improvements | 11,275,058 | 9,029,552 | 2,245,506 |
| Machinery and other equipment | 23,700,414 | 21,193,023 | 2,507,391 |
| Construction in process | 5,170,048 | | 5,170,048 |
| Total | $41,160,834 | $30,719,469 | $10,441,365 |

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

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

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

**Contributed Services and Facilities** — DAV operates extensive programs through which volunteers contribute many hours of service to veterans; 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 1,886,470 hours accounted for in 2016, 1,855,234 are hours for the DAV's Nationwide Transportation Network and LVAP Program. Using a value per hour of $23.56 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 $43,709,313. 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, print, out of home) of which approximately $75.1 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 most significant medium is television. Estimated market values for television announcements are determined using various inputs including length of spot, city, station, day part, and industry media cost data. 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 2016, DAV incurred joint costs of $56,441,392 for informational materials and activities that included fundraising appeals. Of those costs, $28,202,955 was allocated to public awareness outreach (program services) and $28,238,437 was allocated to fundraising costs.

## 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 2016 in the reserve for future distribution of life membership dues are summarized below:

| | |
|---|---|
| Balance — January 1, 2016 | $55,227,094 |
| Additions: | |
| Membership dues received | 5,506,438 |
| Earnings on invested assets — net | 1,448,915 |
| Gain on sale of investments | 566,290 |
| Total additions | 7,521,643 |
| Distribution of membership dues: | |
| National headquarters | 6,950,606 |
| Local chapters | 2,179,927 |
| State departments | 2,216,914 |
| Other expense | 121,696 |
| Total distribution of membership dues | 11,469,143 |
| Change in unrealized appreciation of investments | 809,174 |
| Balance — December 31, 2016 | $52,088,768 |

Life membership net earnings on invested assets of $1,448,915 are comprised of gross interest and dividends of $1,474,767— net of investment fees paid of $25,852.

## 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 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, 2016, are summarized below:

| | Cost | Fair Value | Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 4,403,891 | $ 4,403,891 | $ |
| Certificates of Deposit | 1,887,389 | 1,925,514 | 38,125 |
| Commercial paper | 690,594 | 692,188 | 1,594 |
| U.S. Government agency notes | 2,197,110 | 2,147,550 | (49,560) |
| Municipal bonds | 3,012,941 | 2,990,834 | (22,107) |
| Common stocks | 16,072,762 | 20,948,367 | 4,875,605 |
| Mutual bond funds | 134,245,888 | 133,469,930 | (775,958) |
| Mutual equity funds/ETF's | 165,260,133 | 204,843,450 | 39,583,317 |
| Total | $ 327,770,708 | $ 371,421,724 | $ 43,651,016 |

The General fund income from investments — net, $9,742,487, is composed of gross interest and dividend income of $9,956,807, reduced by investment management and custody fees of $214,320.

The cost and fair value of life membership fund investments in securities and the net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2016, are summarized below:

| | Cost | Fair Value | Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 79,963 | $ 79,963 | $ |
| Common stocks | 1,502,997 | 2,012,622 | 509,625 |
| Mutual bond funds | 17,201,983 | 17,109,085 | (92,898) |
| Mutual equity funds/ETF's | 25,775,440 | 31,653,733 | 5,878,293 |
| Total | $ 44,560,383 | $ 50,855,403 | $ 6,295,020 |

As of December 31, 2016, 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 2016.

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 2016.

**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 general fund, life fund and pension plan assets recorded at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2016.

Cash equivalents, composed of money market funds, are categorized as Level 1. Such investments are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The money market fund represents the DAV's shares in a registered investment company's fund.

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 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, 2016, are as follows:

| | Fair Value Measurement Using | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Asset Category** | **Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)** | **Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)** | **Total** |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 4,403,891 | $ | $ 4,403,891 |
| Certificate of Deposit | | 1,925,514 | 1,925,514 |
| Commercial Paper | | 692,188 | 692,188 |
| U.S. Government agency notes | | 2,147,550 | 2,147,550 |
| Municipal Bonds | | 2,990,834 | 2,990,834 |
| Common stocks | 20,948,367 | | 20,948,367 |
| Mutual funds/ETF's: | | | |
| Domestic fixed-income funds | 133,469,930 | | 133,469,930 |
| Domestic equity funds/ETF's | 132,850,792 | | 132,850,792 |
| International equity funds | 63,187,459 | | 63,187,459 |
| Real estate equity funds | 8,805,199 | | 8,805,199 |
| Total mutual funds/ETF's | 338,313,380 | | 338,313,380 |
| Total general fund assets | $363,665,638 | $ 7,756,086 | $371,421,724 |

The major categories of life membership fund financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2016, are as follows:

| | Fair Value Measurement Using | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Asset Category** | **Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)** | **Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)** | **Total** |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 79,963 | $ | $ 79,963 |
| Common stocks | 2,012,622 | | 2,012,622 |
| Mutual funds/ETF's: | | | |
| Domestic fixed-income funds | 17,109,085 | | 17,109,085 |
| Domestic equity funds/ETF's | 19,426,768 | | 19,426,768 |
| International equity funds | 10,773,191 | | 10,773,191 |
| Real estate equity funds | 1,453,774 | | 1,453,774 |
| Total mutual funds/ETF's | 48,762,818 | | 48,762,818 |
| Total life membership fund assets | $50,855,403 | $ | $50,855,403 |

## 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 2016, 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 have completed 20 years of service upon retirement. The High Cost Plan Excise (a.k.a. "Cadillac") tax that is set to begin in 2020 would apply to the pre-Medicare retiree medical benefits and has been valued. The post- Medicare retiree medical benefits are now a health reimbursement account (HRA), which is not subject to the Cadillac Tax.

**Effects of Significant Transactions and Events -** The information provided in this note is affected by the following transactions and events for the Other Postretirement Benefit Plans.

In November 2016, the retirement medical and prescription drug (health care) offering for Medicare eligible participants was amended. On January 1, 2017, the self-funded Medicare Access and Limited plans were eliminated. Instead, DAV will offer these Medicare eligible retirees access to health care coverage through a private exchange and provide an HRA to subsidize benefits. DAV also established a catastrophic HRA with $75,000 aggregate limit to cover catastrophic prescription drug expenses incurred by qualifying participants.

Midyear Remeasurement of Assets and Liabilities:

DAV's Other Postretirement Benefit Plans are typically remeasured as of the calendar year-end unless a significant event occurs that requires remeasurement. As a result of the Plan amendments noted above, DAV remeasured the Other Postretirements Benefit Plans during the fourth quarter 2016.

The net effect of the remeasurement was as follows:

- DAV's Other Postretirement Benefit Obligation was reduced by $47.8 million primarily due to the plan changes noted above which will be amortized annually as prior service cost over 11.84 years at a rate of approximately $4.0 million per year.

- A $12.6 million loss was incurred due the change in the discount rate at the date of remeasurement. The discount rate used to remeasure the other postretirement benefit plan was 4.5% at January 1, 2016 and 3.75% percent as of November 1, 2016. There were no other assumptions changed as a result of the plan amendment.
- Total Unrestricted Net Assets increased $35.2 million reflecting the net effect of the items discussed above.

Summarized information for the Plans as of the December 31, 2016 measurement date is as follows:

| | Pension | Other Postretirement Benefits |
|---|---|---|
| Accumulated benefit obligation | $ 61,753,702 | $ |
| Projected benefit obligation | $ 69,502,040 | |
| Accumulated postretirement benefit obligation (APBO) | | $ 49,917,581 |
| Fair value of plan assets | (52,938,739) | |
| Unfunded status recognized | $ 16,563,301 | $ 49,917,581 |

Summarized information of the plans for the year ended December 31, 2016, is as follows:

| | Pension | Other Postretirement Benefits |
|---|---|---|
| Components of net periodic benefit cost: | | |
| Service cost | $ 2,536,343 | $ 3,020,806 |
| Interest cost | 2,758,676 | 3,487,118 |
| Expected return on assets | (3,211,655) | |
| Amortization of net loss | 1,371,490 | 266,247 |
| Amortization of prior service cost (benefits) | 31,964 | (795,257) |
| Settlement cost | 2,330,767 | |
| Net periodic benefit cost | $ 5,817,585 | $ 5,978,914 |
| Components of pension and postretirement benefit obligation adjustment: | | |
| Amortization of prior service cost (benefit) | $ 31,964 | $ (795,257) |
| Amortization of net loss | 1,371,490 | 266,247 |
| Actuarial net loss during the year | (757,228) | (4,387,121) |
| Plan changes | | 47,757,750 |
| Settlement cost | 2,330,767 | |
| Pension and postretirement benefit obligation adjustment | $ 2,976,993 | $ 42,841,619 |

Amounts not yet recognized as a component of periodic pension cost at December 31, 2016, are as follows:

| | Pension | Other Postretirement Benefits |
|---|---|---|
| Prior service cost (benefit) | $ 191,783 | $ (47,786,528) |
| Net actuarial loss | 19,013,255 | 16,964,822 |
| Amounts recognized as reduction (increase) in unrestricted net assets | $ 19,205,038 | $ (30,821,706) |

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 2017 are $1,068,472 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 2017 will result in a cost of $934,545and gain of $4,156,585, respectively.

| | Pension | Other Postretirement Benefits |
|---|---|---|
| For the year ended December 31, 2016: | | |
| Benefit expense (net periodic pension benefit cost of $5,817,585 offset by $41,144 reimbursed by DAVA) | $ 5,776,441 | $ 5,978,914 |
| Actual return /(loss) on plan assets | 2,539,892 | |
| Employer contribution | 8,776,332 | 2,066,440 |
| Plan participants' contributions | | 218,669 |
| Benefits paid | 9,354,558 | 2,285,109 |
| Weighted-average rate assumptions used for the December 31 valuation: | | |
| For year-end benefit obligation: | | |
| Discount rate | 3.90 % | 4.11 % |
| Rate of compensation increase | 3.00 % | 3.00 % |

For the year end benefit obligation, the RP-2014 Employee Mortality Tables and RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Tables for males and females projected generationally with Scale MP-2016 were utilized.

| | Pension | Other Postretirement Benefits |
|---|---|---|
| Weighted-average rate assumptions used for the Annual benefit cost: | | |
| Discount rate - January 1, 2016 - October 31, 2016 | 4.00 % | 4.50 % |
| Discount rate - November 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016 | 4.00 % | 3.75 % |
| Rate of compensation increase | 3.00 % | 3.00 % |

For the annual benefit cost, the RP-2014 Employee Mortality Tables and RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Tables for males and females projected generationally with Scale MP-2015 was utilized.

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 7.5 % in 2016 to 4.5% in 2022, after which the trend rate is expected to stabilize.

DAV expects to contribute $3 million to its pension plan in 2017.

The DAV's pension plan investment allocation at December 31, 2016, is as follows:

| Asset Category | Percentage of Plan Assets |
|---|---|
| Equity based securities | 54 % |
| Fixed-income securities | 30 |
| Alternative and Other | 12 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 4 |
| Total | 100 % |

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, 2016, are as follows:

| | Fair Value Measurements Using | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Asset Category** | **Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)** | **Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)** | **Total** |
| Money market funds | $ 2,170,105 | $ | $ 2,170,105 |
| U.S. Government securities | 4,108,126 | | 4,108,126 |
| U.S. Government agency notes | | 1,094,759 | 1,094,759 |
| Municipal bonds | | 294,144 | 294,144 |
| Corporate bonds | | 5,977,622 | 5,977,622 |
| Common stocks: | | | |
| International Developed | 159,093 | | 159,093 |
| Domestic Large Cap | 6,126,765 | | 6,126,765 |
| Domestic Small & Mid Cap | 1,634,862 | | 1,634,862 |
| Real Estate | 2,291,866 | | 2,291,866 |
| Total common stocks | 10,212,586 | | 10,212,586 |
| Mutual funds/ETF's: | | | |
| Domestic fixed-income funds | 2,969,229 | | 2,969,229 |
| International fixed-income funds | 1,618,685 | | 1,618,685 |
| Domestic equity funds/ETFs | 12,055,835 | | 12,055,835 |
| International equity funds | 6,145,722 | | 6,145,722 |
| Alternative and Other | 6,291,926 | | 6,291,926 |
| Total mutual funds/ETF's | 29,081,397 | | 29,081,397 |
| Total pension plan assets | $45,572,214 | $ 7,366,525 | $52,938,739 |

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 |
|---|---|
| 2017 | $ 1,677,338 |
| 2018 | 3,171,691 |
| 2019 | 2,308,576 |
| 2020 | 2,968,370 |
| 2021 | 3,765,761 |
| 2022–2026 | 24,229,754 |

DAV had concluded that the prescription drug benefits available under the Other Postretirement Benefit Plans to some or all participants for some or all future years were "actuarially equivalent" to Medicare Part D. Thus, they qualified 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. With the plan change effective January 1, 2017, DAV will no longer have a self-funded prescription drug program in place that qualifies for the Part D subsidy.

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

| Fiscal Years Ending | Benefit Payments |
|---|---|
| 2017 | $ 2,207,151 |
| 2018 | 2,188,666 |
| 2019 | 2,140,936 |
| 2020 | 2,148,531 |
| 2021 | 2,218,302 |
| 2022–2026 | 12,766,786 |

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 2016 were $2,519,266 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, 2016, net assets of the Foundation were $120,879,072. During 2016, DAV personnel assisted the Foundation on a limited basis in administering its business operations and fundraising program. For these services, DAV charged the Foundation $101,026. DAV provides the Foundation with the use of

facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge. Additionally, in 2016, DAV contributed $72,866 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 2016, the Foundation appropriated the following in support of DAV programs and services:

- $360,000 - National Service Office Structured and Continuing Training Program
- $10,000 - National Service Office Furniture and Equipment Fund
- $20,174 - National Service Office Copier Fund
- $25,000 - National Service Office Reference Manuals

At December 31, 2016, the Foundation owed $120,777 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, 2016, net assets of the Trust were $22,289,257. DAV personnel assist the Trust on a limited basis in administering its business operations, fundraising, and grant programs. For these personnel services, DAV charged the Trust $172,830. DAV provides the Trust with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge.

In 2016, the Trust appropriated the following in support of DAV programs and services:

- $900,000 - National Service Officers' Case Management System
- $364,380 - National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic
- $45,000 - Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program
- $200,000 - Transportation Network
- $300,000 - DAV "Just B Kids" Scholarship
- $42,069 - DAV 5k Program
- $15,000 - National Service Officer Programs-other
- $206,310 - Assistance to disabled veterans and their families

At December 31, 2016, the Trust owed $475,567 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, 2016, net assets of DAVA were $7,021,648. 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 $9,154 in 2016.

# Committee on Credentials

**Advisor: Douglas K. Wells, Jr. and Michael Dobmeier**

| DISTRICT | MEMBER NAME | TITLE | DEPARTMENT | CHAPTER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Valila, Michael | Delegate | MASSACHUSETTS | 24 |
| | Gerety, Philip | Alternate | MASSACHUSETTS | 3 |
| 2 | Sander, George | Delegate | NEW YORK | 15 |
| | Gibney, William | Alternate | NEW YORK | 38 |
| 3 | Fournier, Richard | Delegate | MAINE | 1 |
| | Welch, Jesse | Alternate | NEW HAMPSHIRE | 19 |
| 4 | Countryman, Raymond | Delegate | DELAWARE | 1 |
| | Watts, Michael | Alternate | NEW JERSEY | 56 |
| 5 | Noel, Kevin | Delegate | PENNSYLVANIA | 8 |
| | Jiga, Carlos | Alternate | PENNSYLVANIA | 15 |
| 6 | Swientek, Joseph | Alternate | MARYLAND | 7 |
| 7 | Ayala, Thomas | Delegate | FLORIDA | 1 |
| | Makas, John | Alternate | FLORIDA | 4 |
| 8 | Waugh, Charles | Delegate | ALABAMA | 66 |
| | Miller, Vernon | Alternate | MISSISSIPPI | 17 |
| 9 | Wilner, Brian | Delegate | SOUTH CAROLINA | 44 |
| | Robinson, William | Alternate | SOUTH CAROLINA | 1 |
| 10 | Cutler, Jo Linda | Delegate | MICHIGAN | 20 |
| | Barenbrugge, Ricky | Alternate | MICHIGAN | 19 |
| 11 | Habern, Robert | Delegate | OHIO | 54 |
| | Hanneman, Dennis | Alternate | OHIO | 77 |
| 12 | Walkowski, Kevin | Delegate | WISCONSIN | 34 |
| | Johnson, Alger | Alternate | ILLINOIS | 1 |
| 13 | Fivecoate, Gerald | Delegate | INDIANA | 28 |
| | Woodhouse, Larry | Alternate | INDIANA | 28 |
| 14 | Tobin, Warren | Delegate | NORTH DAKOTA | 31 |
| | Holweger, Lawrence | Alternate | NORTH DAKOTA | 2 |
| 15 | Suesakul, Robert | Delegate | IOWA | 20 |
| | Ortiz, Blas | Alternate | KANSAS | 3 |
| 16 | Plante, Joel | Delegate | CALIFORNIA | 23 |
| | Wheeler, Patricia | Alternate | CALIFORNIA | 6 |
| 17 | Schievelbein, Michael | Delegate | COLORADO | 7 |
| | Timmerman, Timothy | Alternate | NEW MEXICO | 9 |
| 18 | Slade, Carey | Delegate | ARIZONA | 8 |
| | Girard, Cathryn | Alternate | NEVADA | 15 |
| 19 | Marker, Brigitte | Delegate | OREGON | 12 |
| | Pugh, Charles | Alternate | OREGON | 1 |
| 20 | Bigley, Terrance | Delegate | TEXAS | 20 |
| | Zomalt, Vernice | Alternate | TEXAS | 233 |
| 21 | Halford, Jerletta | Delegate | OKLAHOMA | 9 |
| | McLaughlin, Chester | Alternate | OKLAHOMA | 32 |
| 99 | Kaminsky, Paul | Delegate | BLIND NO DEPT | 1 |

# Committee on General Resolutions and Membership

**Advisor: Shawn Hope and Shurhonda Love**

| DISTRICT | MEMBER NAME | TITLE | DEPARTMENT | CHAPTER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Olson, Debora | Delegate | MASSACHUSETTS | 85 |
| | Pratt, Stanley | Alternate | MASSACHUSETTS | 29 |
| 2 | Morales, Paul | Delegate | NEW YORK | 28 |
| | Crouse, Robert | Alternate | NEW YORK | 4 |
| 3 | Rhilinger, Michael | Delegate | RHODE ISLAND | 21 |
| | Laverdiere, James | Alternate | MAINE | 1 |
| 4 | Werlich, Ronald | Delegate | CONNECTICUT | 47 |
| | Valente, Ignazio | Alternate | NEW JERSEY | 15 |
| 5 | Arnold, Philip | Delegate | PENNSYLVANIA | 81 |
| | Stensland, Ronald | Alternate | PENNSYLVANIA | 81 |
| 6 | Brown, Betty | Delegate | MARYLAND | 4 |
| | Perez-Cabrera, Carlos | Alternate | PUERTO RICO | 4 |
| 7 | Bouters, Bradley | Delegate | FLORIDA | 16 |
| | Sanders, Sheila | Alternate | FLORIDA | 7 |
| 8 | Cobb, Gary | Delegate | ALABAMA | 98 |
| | Boulton, Jane | Alternate | TENNESSEE | 28 |
| 9 | Knowlton, J. | Delegate | NORTH CAROLINA | 84 |
| | Humphrey, Grethel | Alternate | NORTH CAROLINA | 16 |
| 10 | Spencer, David | Delegate | MICHIGAN | 52 |
| | Moses, Toni | Alternate | MICHIGAN | 1 |
| 11 | Plahovinsak, John | Delegate | OHIO | 63 |
| | Martyn, Nolan | Alternate | OHIO | 35 |
| 12 | Hall, Crystal | Delegate | ILLINOIS | 16 |
| | Bliske, Brian | Alternate | WISCONSIN | 3 |
| 13 | Bunting, Randy | Delegate | KENTUCKY | 89 |
| | Neal, Michael | Alternate | KENTUCKY | 89 |
| 14 | Vandrovec, Michael | Delegate | NORTH DAKOTA | 1 |
| | Medhaug, Michael | Alternate | NORTH DAKOTA | 1 |
| 15 | Mizio, Melissa | Delegate | MISSOURI | 62 |
| | Thornburg, David | Alternate | IOWA | 20 |
| 16 | Raba, Mariana | Delegate | CALIFORNIA | 6 |
| | Bravo, Jazmin | Alternate | CALIFORNIA | 2 |
| 17 | Prescott, Gary | Delegate | NEW MEXICO | 5 |
| | McGinnis, Carmen | Alternate | COLORADO | 7 |
| 18 | Chadwell, Robert | Delegate | ARIZONA | 8 |
| | Samuel, Redell | Alternate | NEVADA | 15 |
| 19 | Garcia, Dena | Delegate | WASHINGTON | 5 |
| | Wentz, David | Alternate | OREGON | 6 |
| 20 | Jackson, Karen | Delegate | TEXAS | 42 |
| | Higginbotham, Walter | Alternate | TEXAS | 17 |
| 21 | Smith, Joseph | Delegate | OKLAHOMA | 32 |
| | Adams, William | 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 Shane Liermann**

| DISTRICT | MEMBER NAME | TITLE | DEPARTMENT | CHAPTER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Dubey, Paul | Delegate | MASSACHUSETTS | 46 |
| | Meservey, Kristina | Alternate | MASSACHUSETTS | 96 |
| 2 | Montes, Diane | Delegate | NEW YORK | 120 |
| | Fredericks, Rachel | Alternate | NEW YORK | 38 |
| 3 | Anderson, Michael | Delegate | RHODE ISLAND | 9 |
| | Schatz, Richard | Alternate | RHODE ISLAND | 12 |
| 4 | Newell, Harry | Delegate | CONNECTICUT | 47 |
| | Lardizzone, Paul | Alternate | DELAWARE | 1 |
| 5 | Cudworth, Robert | Delegate | PENNSYLVANIA | 1 |
| | Fiumara, Philip | Alternate | PENNSYLVANIA | 76 |
| 7 | Linden, Albert | Delegate | FLORIDA | 90 |
| | Grooten, William | Alternate | FLORIDA | 123 |
| 8 | Baker, William | Delegate | ALABAMA | 9 |
| | Kane, Justin | Alternate | TENNESSEE | 3 |
| 9 | Travis, Johnny | Delegate | GEORGIA | 18 |
| | Broddie, Gordon | Alternate | GEORGIA | 10 |
| 10 | Sarnacki, Evan | Delegate | MICHIGAN | 114 |
| | Hajek, Brandi | Alternate | MICHIGAN | 119 |
| 11 | Parker, John | Delegate | OHIO | 35 |
| | Lenhart, Joseph | Alternate | OHIO | 73 |
| 12 | Aaron, Mark | Delegate | ILLINOIS | 1 |
| | Hilliard, Robert | Alternate | WISCONSIN | 27 |
| 13 | Peek, Donald | Delegate | INDIANA | 52 |
| | Purcell, Ralph | Alternate | INDIANA | 3 |
| 14 | Wells, Eric | Delegate | MONTANA | 17 |
| | Parr, Helen | Alternate | SOUTH DAKOTA | 1 |
| 15 | Rieger, Carl | Delegate | MISSOURI | 2 |
| | Hernandez, Alex | Alternate | MISSOURI | 10 |
| 16 | Wilson, Gerald | Delegate | CALIFORNIA | 154 |
| | Brown, Penni | Alternate | CALIFORNIA | 91 |
| 17 | Mitchell, Edward | Delegate | NEW MEXICO | 5 |
| | Perez, George | Alternate | NEW MEXICO | 3 |
| 18 | Wagar, Fred | Delegate | NEVADA | 12 |
| | Smith, Aunjel | Alternate | ARIZONA | 20 |
| 19 | Cousino, Thomas | Delegate | OREGON | 1 |
| | Mullins, Calori | Alternate | WASHINGTON | 2 |
| 20 | Hardaway, Lincoln | Delegate | TEXAS | 128 |
| | Morales, Rafael | Alternate | TEXAS | 5 |
| 21 | Pandos, Ronald | Delegate | OKLAHOMA | 9 |
| | Halpain, William | Alternate | OKLAHOMA | 31 |
| 99 | O'Connell, Dennis | Delegate | BLIND NO DEPT | 1 |

# Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

**Advisors: Edward Hartman and Robert Reynolds**

| DISTRICT | MEMBER NAME | TITLE | DEPARTMENT | CHAPTER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Connor, Richard | Delegate | MASSACHUSETTS | 11 |
| | McGreevy, Eugene | Alternate | MASSACHUSETTS | 11 |
| 2 | Barradas, Shannon | Delegate | NEW YORK | 15 |
| | Cheney, Marla | Alternate | NEW YORK | 120 |
| 3 | Burrows, James | Delegate | RHODE ISLAND | 9 |
| | McKinney, Darrell | Alternate | MAINE | 1 |
| 4 | Kopley, James | Delegate | NEW JERSEY | 41 |
| | Rivard, Mark | Alternate | CONNECTICUT | 17 |
| 5 | Blow, Samuel | Delegate | PENNSYLVANIA | 15 |
| | Brooker, Michael | Alternate | PENNSYLVANIA | 8 |
| 6 | Reynolds, Robert | Delegate | VIRGINIA | 10 |
| | Adkins, Jennings | Alternate | WEST VIRGINIA | 2 |
| 7 | Tyson, Wallace | Delegate | FLORIDA | 11 |
| | Markiewicz, John | Alternate | FLORIDA | 1 |
| 8 | Sensat, Davis | Delegate | LOUISIANA | 17 |
| | Hanas, Garrett | Alternate | TENNESSEE | 24 |
| 9 | Roberts, Jeremy | Delegate | NORTH CAROLINA | 16 |
| | McMullen, Larry | Alternate | NORTH CAROLINA | 6 |
| 10 | Hughes, Albert | Delegate | MICHIGAN | 1 |
| | Body, Bobby | Alternate | MICHIGAN | 8 |
| 11 | Weeks, David | Delegate | OHIO | 9 |
| | Robertson, Reynolds | Alternate | OHIO | 63 |
| 12 | Kempainen, Matthew | Delegate | WISCONSIN | 3 |
| | Thompson, Dennis | Alternate | ILLINOIS | 103 |
| 13 | Baker, Jerome | Delegate | INDIANA | 3 |
| | Burt, Christopher | Alternate | KENTUCKY | 89 |
| 14 | Berndt, Scott | Delegate | MINNESOTA | 39 |
| | Grantier, Kevin | Alternate | MONTANA | 3 |
| 15 | Spillars, Larry | Delegate | MISSOURI | 2 |
| | Jakub, Jamie | Alternate | NEBRASKA | 20 |
| 16 | Valdez, Richard | Delegate | CALIFORNIA | 12 |
| | Patterson, Mary | Alternate | CALIFORNIA | 2 |
| 17 | Grieb, Andrew | Delegate | COLORADO | 21 |
| | Weber, Eugene | Alternate | NEW MEXICO | 6 |
| 18 | Donberger, Mark | Delegate | NEVADA | 7 |
| | Cardarelli, Gregory | Alternate | NEVADA | 15 |
| 19 | Young, Bruce | Delegate | OREGON | 1 |
| | Owens, Kevin | Alternate | OREGON | 38 |
| 20 | Montgomery, Lillie | Delegate | TEXAS | 128 |
| | Cook, David | Alternate | TEXAS | 74 |
| 21 | Sellers, Tommy | Delegate | OKLAHOMA | 44 |
| | Soule, Stephanie | Alternate | OKLAHOMA | 32 |
| 99 | Pope, Leonard | Delegate | BLIND NO DEPT | 1 |

# Committee on Employment

**Advisor: Jeffrey Hall and LeRoy Acosta**

| DISTRICT | MEMBER NAME | TITLE | DEPARTMENT | CHAPTER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Boyd, David | Delegate | MASSACHUSETTS | 27 |
| | Fitzgerald, David | Alternate | MASSACHUSETTS | 6 |
| 2 | Rivera, Israel | Delegate | NEW YORK | 118 |
| | Pennell, Joseph | Alternate | NEW YORK | 158 |
| 3 | Boisvert, Ernest | Delegate | RHODE ISLAND | 12 |
| 4 | Walker, Michael | Delegate | NEW JERSEY | 24 |
| | Flynn, Benjamin | Alternate | DELAWARE | 1 |
| 5 | Darcangelo, Vincent | Delegate | PENNSYLVANIA | 55 |
| | Stratos, Wayne | Alternate | PENNSYLVANIA | 55 |
| 6 | Adkins, Jennings | Delegate | WEST VIRGINIA | 2 |
| | Mills, Mark | Alternate | MARYLAND | 18 |
| 7 | Bueno, Eduard | Delegate | FLORIDA | 4 |
| | Driscoll, Darwin | Alternate | FLORIDA | 7 |
| 8 | Deatherage, James | Delegate | TENNESSEE | 20 |
| | Causey, Mason | Alternate | LOUISIANA | 20 |
| 9 | Jones, Paul | Delegate | SOUTH CAROLINA | 72 |
| | DeBramaletta, Mattie | Alternate | SOUTH CAROLINA | 4 |
| 10 | Dempsey, James | Delegate | MICHIGAN | 13 |
| | Tillman, Kwan | Alternate | MICHIGAN | 119 |
| 11 | Dibble, Timothy | Delegate | OHIO | 39 |
| | Caine, William | Alternate | OHIO | 116 |
| 12 | Geiser, Lynn | Delegate | WISCONSIN | 3 |
| | Starkey, Allen | Alternate | ILLINOIS | 60 |
| 13 | Vaccari, Richard | Delegate | KENTUCKY | 89 |
| | Rice, John | Alternate | KENTUCKY | 89 |
| 14 | Hall, Joseph | Delegate | NORTH DAKOTA | 3 |
| | Beauchamp, Robert | Alternate | NORTH DAKOTA | 2 |
| 15 | Bauer, Adam | Delegate | IOWA | 6 |
| | Ortiz, Linda | Alternate | KANSAS | 3 |
| 16 | Anastasia, Guy | Delegate | CALIFORNIA | 70 |
| | Casey, Nancy | Alternate | CALIFORNIA | 2 |
| 17 | Schow, Terry | Delegate | UTAH | 4 |
| | Weston, Lashanda | Alternate | COLORADO | 11 |
| 18 | Burks, William | Delegate | ARIZONA | 26 |
| | Knight, Reginald | Alternate | NEVADA | 15 |
| 19 | Kotanchick, Gregory | Delegate | WASHINGTON | 23 |
| | Dixon, Harvey | Alternate | IDAHO | 22 |
| 20 | Beason, Betty | Delegate | TEXAS | 42 |
| | Keith, Elizabeth | Alternate | TEXAS | 17 |
| 21 | Giles, Leroy | Delegate | OKLAHOMA | 29 |
| | White, Fred | Alternate | OKLAHOMA | 7 |

# Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services

**Advisor: Adrian Atizado and John Kleindienst**

| DISTRICT | MEMBER NAME | TITLE | DEPARTMENT | CHAPTER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Latham, Sheretta | Alternate | MASSACHUSETTS | 90 |
| 2 | Ingram, Thomas | Delegate | NEW YORK | 28 |
| | Conklin, Richard | Alternate | NEW YORK | 135 |
| 3 | Reed, Daniel | Delegate | VERMONT | 3 |
| | Sloan, Lisa | Alternate | VERMONT | 4 |
| 4 | Butler, Donald | Delegate | CONNECTICUT | 12 |
| | Martir, Philip | Alternate | NEW JERSEY | 56 |
| 5 | Smith, William | Delegate | PENNSYLVANIA | 1 |
| | Butler, Jesse | Alternate | PENNSYLVANIA | 25 |
| 6 | Garry, Theodore | Alternate | MARYLAND | 13 |
| 7 | Keckler, Mary Ann | Delegate | FLORIDA | 67 |
| | Tolliver, Michael | Alternate | FLORIDA | 4 |
| 8 | Mercer, John | Delegate | LOUISIANA | 2 |
| | Walker, Deborah | Alternate | ALABAMA | 7 |
| 9 | McClendon, Joy | Delegate | SOUTH CAROLINA | 13 |
| | Johnston, James | Alternate | SOUTH CAROLINA | 12 |
| 10 | Zielke, Jason | Delegate | MICHIGAN | 114 |
| | Tucker, Lolita | Alternate | MICHIGAN | 114 |
| 11 | Kaster, James | Delegate | OHIO | 3 |
| | Mitchell, Arlinda | Alternate | OHIO | 35 |
| 12 | Shier, Leonard | Delegate | WISCONSIN | 52 |
| | Alexander, Tim | Alternate | ILLINOIS | 90 |
| 13 | Sparks, Michael | Delegate | KENTUCKY | 12 |
| | Moore, Mark | Alternate | KENTUCKY | 19 |
| 14 | Saddoris, Robert | Delegate | MINNESOTA | 7 |
| | Bjerke, Jerrold | Alternate | MINNESOTA | 38 |
| 15 | Shuey, James | Delegate | NEBRASKA | 7 |
| | Cook, Joy | Alternate | MISSOURI | 11 |
| 16 | Johnson, Kirk | Delegate | CALIFORNIA | 85 |
| | Arnold, Gerald | Alternate | CALIFORNIA | 11 |
| 17 | Larsen, Penny | Delegate | UTAH | 6 |
| | Francis, Cynthia | Alternate | COLORADO | 11 |
| 18 | Richardson, Joe | Delegate | NEVADA | 12 |
| | Burden, John | Alternate | ARIZONA | 24 |
| 19 | Janus, Wanda | Delegate | OREGON | 1 |
| | Thomsen, Alice | Alternate | OREGON | 8 |
| 20 | Garcia, Jose | Delegate | TEXAS | 14 |
| | Moreland, Harold | Alternate | TEXAS | 17 |
| 21 | Scott, James | Delegate | ARKANSAS | 46 |
| | Dunning, William | Alternate | OKLAHOMA | 32 |
| 99 | Hogan, James | Delegate | BLIND NO DEPT | 1 |

# Committee on Nomination of National Officers

**Advisor: Albert Church and Joseph Johnston**

| 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 |
| | Reilly, Ron | Alternate | NEW HAMPSHIRE | 4 |
| 4 | Pescatore, Richard | Delegate | CONNECTICUT | 5 |
| | Clynch, James | Alternate | CONNECTICUT | 12 |
| 5 | Kauffman, Joseph | Delegate | PENNSYLVANIA | 25 |
| | Yost, Jeremy | Alternate | PENNSYLVANIA | 76 |
| 6 | Miller, Nachee | Delegate | D C | 3 |
| | Borges-Rivera, Luis | Alternate | PUERTO RICO | 11 |
| 7 | Joyner, Dennis | Delegate | FLORIDA | 16 |
| | Wolfe, Kenneth | Alternate | FLORIDA | 101 |
| 8 | Wenthe, Kevin | Delegate | LOUISIANA | 20 |
| | Calhoun, Leamon | Alternate | TENNESSEE | 20 |
| 9 | Myrick, Donnell | Delegate | GEORGIA | 2 |
| | Jackson, Doris | Alternate | GEORGIA | 2 |
| 10 | Lee, Rolly | Delegate | MICHIGAN | 129 |
| | Reeves, Edward | Alternate | MICHIGAN | 130 |
| 11 | Stith, Michael | Delegate | OHIO | 35 |
| | Manning, Fred | Alternate | OHIO | 15 |
| 12 | Hert, Michael | Delegate | WISCONSIN | 17 |
| | Reynolds, Alfred | Alternate | ILLINOIS | 17 |
| 13 | Sanders, Terry | Alternate | INDIANA | 2 |
| 14 | Murphy, Eugene | Delegate | SOUTH DAKOTA | 1 |
| | Litzinger, Joseph | Alternate | NORTH DAKOTA | 2 |
| 15 | Helms, Cody | Delegate | KANSAS | 27 |
| | Marley, Julius | Alternate | MISSOURI | 1 |
| 16 | Powers, Frederick | Delegate | CALIFORNIA | 20 |
| | Vogel, Ronald | Alternate | CALIFORNIA | 20 |
| 17 | Maughan, Frank | Delegate | UTAH | 4 |
| | Kenner, Leroy | Alternate | WYOMING | 2 |
| 18 | Dolan, Bill | Delegate | NEVADA | 15 |
| | Stewart, Johnny | Alternate | ARIZONA | 26 |
| 19 | Gavin, JoAnn | Delegate | WASHINGTON | 5 |
| | Rubino, James | Alternate | OREGON | 1 |
| 20 | Spence, Percy | Delegate | TEXAS | 17 |
| | Paquette, Roland | Alternate | TEXAS | 20 |
| 21 | Miller, Linda | Delegate | OKLAHOMA | 29 |
| | Egan, Richard | Alternate | ARKANSAS | 10 |
| 99 | Lester, Ronnie | Delegate | BLIND NO DEPT | 1 |

# Columbia Trust Advisory Board

| DISTRICT | MEMBER NAME | TITLE | DEPARTMENT | CHAPTER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Vicini, William | Delegate | MASSACHUSETTS | 6 |
| | Follis, James | Alternate | MASSACHUSETTS | 85 |
| 2 | Sioss, Donald | Delegate | NEW YORK | 76 |
| | Day, Donald | Alternate | NEW YORK | 28 |
| 3 | Fournier, Richard | Delegate | MAINE | 1 |
| | Nicodemus, Robert | Alternate | VERMONT | 3 |
| 4 | Velez, Abraham | Delegate | DELAWARE | 1 |
| | Pescatore, Richard | Alternate | CONNECTICUT | 5 |
| 5 | Kelly, Lawrence | Delegate | PENNSYLVANIA | 3 |
| 6 | Sabree, Joan | Delegate | MARYLAND | 36 |
| | Gregory, Lisa | Alternate | VIRGINIA | 7 |
| 7 | Chicollo, Frank | Delegate | FLORIDA | 4 |
| | Zecman, Charles | Alternate | FLORIDA | 123 |
| 8 | Wenthe, Kevin | Delegate | LOUISIANA | 20 |
| 9 | Solomon, Robert | Delegate | GEORGIA | 1 |
| | Jimmerson, Burl | Alternate | GEORGIA | 33 |
| 10 | Lee, Rolly | Delegate | MICHIGAN | 129 |
| | Hajek, Brandi | Alternate | MICHIGAN | 119 |
| 11 | Bertschy, Robert | Delegate | OHIO | 47 |
| | Hanneman, Dennis | Alternate | OHIO | 77 |
| 12 | Helgeson, Rodney | Delegate | WISCONSIN | 27 |
| | Meier, Eugene | Alternate | WISCONSIN | 55 |
| 13 | Coley, William | Delegate | INDIANA | 72 |
| 14 | Valtinson, David | Delegate | MINNESOTA | 13 |
| | Remus, Gregory | Alternate | MINNESOTA | 38 |
| 15 | Salladay, Chris | Delegate | IOWA | 6 |
| 17 | Watson, Floyd | Delegate | WYOMING | 2 |
| 19 | Royse, Sarah | Delegate | OREGON | 5 |
| 20 | Archer, Tommy | Delegate | TEXAS | 89 |
| 21 | Vance, Craig | Delegate | OKLAHOMA | 66 |

# National Executive Committee

| DISTRICT | MEMBER NAME | TITLE | DEPARTMENT | CHAPTER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Nee, Coleman | Delegate | MASSACHUSETTS | 3 |
| | Bennett, Helen | Alternate | MASSACHUSETTS | 35 |
| 2 | Wisnesky, Chester | Delegate | NEW YORK | 182 |
| | Robinson, Keith | Alternate | NEW YORK | 15 |
| 3 | Nicodemus, Robert | Delegate | NEW HAMPSHIRE | 3 |
| | Boisvert, Ernest | Alternate | RHODE ISLAND | 12 |
| 4 | Kopley, James | Delegate | NEW JERSEY | 41 |
| | Velez, Abraham | Alternate | DELAWARE | 1 |
| 5 | Blow, Samuel | Delegate | PENNSYLVANIA | 15 |
| | Iacavazzi, Michael | Alternate | PENNSYLVANIA | 1 |
| 6 | Marquez, Idalis | Delegate | PUERTO RICO | 16 |
| | Cox, Robert | Alternate | VIRGINIA | 60 |
| 7 | Raber, John | Delegate | FLORIDA | 18 |
| | Johnson, Jack | Alternate | FLORIDA | 150 |
| 8 | Carver, Johnnie | Delegate | TENNESSEE | 94 |
| | Samuels, Donald | Alternate | TENNESSEE | 3 |
| 9 | Lynch, Tincie | Delegate | GEORGIA | 91 |
| | Bledsoe, Robert | Alternate | GEORGIA | 18 |
| 10 | Dempsey, James | Delegate | MICHIGAN | 13 |
| | Hughes, Albert | Alternate | MICHIGAN | 1 |
| 11 | Uetterling, David | Delegate | OHIO | 36 |
| | Stith, Michael | Alternate | OHIO | 35 |
| 12 | Reynolds, Alfred | Delegate | ILLINOIS | 17 |
| | Huckaby, Eric | Alternate | ILLINOIS | 15 |
| 13 | Hall, George | Delegate | KENTUCKY | 169 |
| | Bunting, Randy | Alternate | KENTUCKY | 89 |
| 14 | Valtinson, David | Delegate | MINNESOTA | 13 |
| | Remus, Gregory | Alternate | MINNESOTA | 38 |
| 15 | Shuey, James | Delegate | NEBRASKA | 7 |
| | Thornburg, David | Alternate | IOWA | 20 |
| 16 | Steinbaugh, Michael | Delegate | CALIFORNIA | 7 |
| | Johnson, Kirk | Alternate | CALIFORNIA | 85 |
| 17 | Jackson, Paul | Delegate | COLORADO | 7 |
| | Talley, Timothy | Alternate | TEXAS | 6 |
| 18 | Walker, Richard | Delegate | NEVADA | 12 |
| | Carson, Jeffrey | Alternate | NEVADA | 13 |
| 19 | Dixon, Harvey | Delegate | IDAHO | 22 |
| | Sellers, Robert | Alternate | IDAHO | 6 |
| 20 | Spence, Percy | Delegate | TEXAS | 17 |
| | Parker, Thomas | Alternate | TEXAS | 3 |
| 21 | Oliver, Danny | Delegate | OKLAHOMA | 88 |
| | Donovan, John | Alternate | ARKANSAS | 10 |

## SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

### August 1, 2017

- - -

The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 96th National Convention convened in the Grand Ballroom on the Lower Level of the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, on Tuesday morning, August 1, 2017, and was called to order at 8:30 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander David W. Riley.

COMMANDER DAVID W. RILEY: The convention will please come to order. As a reminder to everyone, please turn off or mute your cell phones and portable devices. Please join me in the Pledge of the Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER RILEY: Two. I would like to call on Chaplain Dover to lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN MICHAEL DOVER: Ladies and gentlemen, let us pray. Assist us in using our best skills and judgment, keeping ourselves impartial and neutral as we consider the merits and pitfalls of each matter that is placed before us. And allow us to act in accordance with what is best for our organization. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you. I would like to remind you that in order for a delegate to be heard at this Convention, you must first be recognized by the Chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. Upon being so recognized, the delegate must state their name, Chapter number, and the state they represent.

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

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARREN TOBIN: Comrade Commander and delegates, the Credentials Committee met this morning in the Grand Salon Room Number 18 at the Hilton in New Orleans, Louisiana. There are 1,296 delegates, and 70 alternates have registered, with 32 Departments and 449 Chapters represented. There are 8 National Officers, 20 National Executive Committeemen, and 9 Past National Commanders for a total of 8,859 votes.

This partial report is for informational purposes only, and it reflects the registration at the close of business at 5:00 o'clock on July 31st, 2017. This completes the partial report of the Credentials Committee, Commander.

COMMANDER RILEY: This is a reminder that registration will close this morning at 10:00.

At this time, I would like to call upon Chairman Rob Reynolds for the final report on the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERT 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 resolution.

Resolution Number 210, it is proposed that Article 3, Section 3.10, Rule 21(e) be deleted in its entirety and the remaining sections be renumbered accordingly.

Resolution Number 211, it is proposed that Article 15, Section 15.3, Paragraph 8, be amended as follows and incorporated as Article 11, Section 11.7, Paragraph 2 and the remaining paragraphs in Article 15, Section 15.3, be renumbered as necessary:

"No person may hold or perform the duties of the position of Department or Chapter Service Officer, DSO/CSO, unless that person has been properly hired, elected or appointed to such position.

"No one may hold the position of or serve as a DSO/CSO if that person is currently, or has in the last twelve months, engaged in the representation of veterans or their dependents in applying for benefits to which they are entitled under the law with an arrangement wherein the veteran or their dependent themselves pay or may in some way be liable for the costs of such representation.

"Absent special circumstances approved in writing by the National Adjutant no person not a member of DAV may serve as a DSO/CSO."

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 RILEY: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mic 1.

COMMANDER RILEY: Mic 1.

MR. STEINBAUGH: Michael Steinbaugh, Chapter 7, of Oakland, California, so moves.

COMMANDER RILEY: In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish read? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Next, I would like to call on Chairman Terry Schow for the report of the Committee on Employment.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TERRY SCHOW: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SCHOW: The National Convention Committee on Employment was called to order on July 29th by the Committee advisors, Jeff Hall and LeRoy Acosta.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. I, Terry Schow, was elected as chairman, and Leroy Giles was selected as secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted, and I will now report to you the resolution recommendations for adoption by this National Convention. For the purposes of saving time, I will read only the numbers and purpose of the resolution.

Number 10, provide educational benefits for dependents of service-connected veterans rated 80 percent or more disabled; Number 15, support prompt payment of contracts to service-disabled veteran-owned businesses; Number 16, support fraud prevention controls over service-disabled veteran-owned small business programs;

Number 21, support verification improvements for veteran-owned businesses within the VA; Number 66, support veteran preference in public employment; Number 122, monitor activities of the Mandatory Transition GPS Program;

Number 123, eliminate the delimiting date for eligible spouses and surviving spouses for benefits provided under Chapter 35, Title 38 of the United States Code; Number 132, 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;

Number 133, support legislation enhancing government-wide goals for participation by small businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans; Number 134, oppose using D-VOP/LVR to work with or process assistance programs unrelated to veterans;

Number 135, eliminate annual employment verification questionnaire by veterans in receipt of individual unemployability benefits; Number 248, support licensure and certification of active-duty service personnel; Number 249, support outreach and employment of women veterans;

Number 250, eliminate the 12-year rule to request VA Voc-Rehab benefits under Chapter 31, leaving the date to apply for that benefit open-ended; Number 251, provide adequate funding and permanency for veterans' employment and/or training programs;

Number 252, increase staffing levels of the VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service; Number 254, remove requirements that VA compensation to service-connected veterans is counted as income for purposes of federal financial aid determinations; Number 255, protect veterans from employment discrimination when receiving health care for service-connected veterans.

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 thanks of the National Convention.

And a special thanks to Jeff Hall for the great job he does as the head of the employment for the DAV.

* * *

## RESOLUTION NO.010
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 015
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 016
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 021
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, recommends VA simplify its verification process for SDVOSBs and VOSBs interested in participating in the VA's Veterans First Contracting Program.

* * *

## RESOLUTION NO. 066
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 122
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 123
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 132
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 133
### 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 va.gov/osdbu 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 134
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 135
### 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 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 of 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, is 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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 248
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 249
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 250
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 251
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, seeks and supports adequate funding and permanency for all veterans employment and training programs.

* * *

## RESOLUTION NO. 252

### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 254

### REMOVE REQUIREMENT THAT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMPENSATION TO SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS IS 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 255
## PROTECT VETERANS FROM EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION WHEN RECEIVING HEALTH CARE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) requires certain employers to allow employees to take reasonable unpaid leave for qualified medical and family reasons; and

WHEREAS, the National Defense Authorization Acts for fiscal years 2008 and 2010 amended the FMLA to include "qualifying exigency leave" and "military caregiver leave" to better balance the unique needs of employees with family members in the military and family members ill and injured while serving in the military; and

WHEREAS, the FMLA delays service-connected disabled veterans' eligibility to job-protected medical leave; and

WHEREAS, many service-disabled veterans with the ability to work need ongoing care to maintain their health status and retain their employability; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, urges Congress to extend protection under the FMLA to encompass the medical care needs of veterans with service-connected disabilities.

* * *

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Terry.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SCHOW: Thank you, my friend.

COMMANDER RILEY: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. ROBERT SADDORIS: Saddoris, Comrade Commander Saddoris, Commander, Minnesota, second.

COMMANDER RILEY: 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, JUNIOR: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

LEGISLATION AND VETERANS RIGHTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LINDEN: Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Legislation and Veterans' Rights was called to order on July 30th, 2017, by the Committee advisors Joy Ilem and Shane Liermann.

The first order of business was the election of convention committee chair and secretary. I, Al Linden, was elected chairman. And Tom Cousino was elected as secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review all resolutions submitted, and I will now report to you on 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 5, support legislation to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of SVP and DIC; 11, compensate Persian Gulf veterans suffering from illness circumstantially linked to their service in the Persian Gulf War;

17, Amend the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities for Mental Disorders; 23, oppose reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans' benefits; Number 25, support legislation to provide the service-connection for disabling conditions resulting from toxic and environmental exposures;

Number 27, expand POW presumptions; 28, support legislation to provide for a realistic cost-of-living allowance; 29, support legislation to exclude veterans' disability compensation from countable income for the purposes of eligibility for benefits and services from other government agencies;

Support—Number 33, support legislation that, of service in the waters offshore Vietnam and establish the presumption of exposure to Agent Orange; Number 34, oppose the recommendation for any commission or other source to reduce or eliminate benefits of disabled veterans;

Number 35, support the change in regulatory requirements for temporary total disability ratings; Number 36, support legislation to reduce the ten-year rule for dependency and indemnity compensation;

37, support legislation to provide for temporary total disability compensation rating for an amputee veteran while a new prosthetic device is being developed and delivered;

38, support legislation to award special monthly compensation to veterans with anatomical loss or loss of use of three extremities; Number 39, support interest payments for Department of Veterans Affairs Retroactive Awards of one year or more;

Number 40, support legislation to provide a realistic increase in the VA compensation rates to address the loss of quality-of-life; Number 41, support reinstatement of reasonable presumptive period for undiagnosed illnesses in the Gulf War veterans;

Number 42, support oversight of VA practices in evaluating disability compensation for residuals of the military sexual trauma; Number 46, oppose regional dispensation of the Board of Veterans Appeals; Number 47, support legislation to cap attorneys' fees for the benefits of consulting and other services before the VA;

Number 48, support legislation to require the Court of Veterans Appeals for Veterans' Claims to decide each applicant's assignment of error; Number 49, establish eligibility for mortgage protection life insurance for 100-percent service-connected veterans;

Number 50, support the increase in the Department of Veterans Affairs Burial Allowance for service-connected veterans and provide automatic annual adjustments; Number 51, increase the benefit rate for the Home Improvements and Structural Alterations, HISA, grant;

Number 70, support legislation authorizing the presumption of service-connection for all radiogenic diseases and eliminate the exposure—dose exposure estimate requirements; Number 71, support legislation, the elimination of the link between chronic and continuous with chronic diseases listed in 38 C.F.R., Section 3.309;

Number 72, support legislation, the elimination of a 30-day requirement for disease associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply in Camp Lejune; Number 73, provide for compensable ratings for hearing-impaired veterans required to use a hearing aid;

Number 74, eliminate on-site finalization of grants at the Board of Veterans Appeals; Number 82, support legislation to allow all veterans to recover amounts withheld on the tax of disability severance pay; Number 86, oppose any proposal that would reduce payments of Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation by payments of Social Security Disability Insurance or other federal benefits paid to the veteran;

Number 87, oppose subjecting disability compensation and DIC to means testing; Number 88, oppose the permanent rounding-down of COLA in veterans' benefits; Number 93, support legislation that would exempt the benefits paid to war-time service-connected disabled veterans from paying pay-go/cut-go provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act;

Number 94, amend the law to provide ten-year protection for service-connected disability ratings; Number 95, support legislation to increase disability compensation; Number 96, support legislation to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of longevity retired pay and veterans disability compensation for all longevity retired veterans;

97; support legislation to provide the presumption of service-connection for tinnitus and hearing loss; Number 98, support legislation providing that special separation benefits not be withheld from the VA Disability Compensation payments;

Number 99, oppose any changes that would redefine service-connection disability or restrict the condition or circumstances upon which it may be established; Number 100, consider the treatment of previous service-connection conditions as a claim for VA compensation;

Number 101, oppose lump sum payments for service-connected disabilities; Number 102, oppose the imposition of time limits for filing disability compensation claims; 124, support a more level review of Other Than Honorable Discharge for the purpose of establishing VA benefits and health care services;

Number 125, amend the provision 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; 126, increase the grant and special adaptive equipment reimbursement rates for automobiles and other conveniences to certain disabled veterans and authorize the reimbursement of new adaptive equipment;

163, support adequate funding for all VA programs; 193, support legislation for presumption of service-connection for disabilities relating to contaminated water in Camp Lejeune; 212, support meaningful appeals processing reform;

213, establish an automatic waiver of payments and debts where the VA received and required information within 90 days; 214, support legislation authorizing presumptive service connection based

on herbicide exposure for military personnel that served at the air bases in Thailand during the Vietnam War;

215, oppose all attempts to change the basis of the Department of Veterans Affairs Rating Schedule from the average impairment of earnings capacity standard; 216, support legislation that requires the VA to consider private medical evidence provided by licensed private health care providers;

217, provide an open period to apply for service-disabled veterans insurance, RH; 218, support legislation to reduce the premiums for service-disabled veterans insurance to be more consistent with life expectancy;

219, support legislation to provide for waiver of premiums for supplemental service disabled-veterans insurance, RH; 220, increase the face value of the veterans' disabled veterans insurance, RH; 221, support meaningful accountability measures, but within the due process for employees of the VA.

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 a vote of thanks of the National Convention.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 005
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 011
### 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, based on Government Accounting Office (GAO) Report (GAO 17-511) findings, approval rates for Gulf War Illness claims are about three times lower than for all other claimed

disabilities which is due, in large part, to current law requiring veterans to suffer from an “undiagnosed ” or “medically unexplained” illness for eligibility to receive disability compensation for medical conditions occurring in Persian Gulf War veterans; and

WHEREAS, based on the available medical evidence medical examiners must rule out all known diseases that could cause the veteran’s symptoms for it to be determined as an undiagnosed illness or unexplainable illness; and

WHEREAS, clinicians are highly unlikey to provide a diagnosis of an undiagnosed illness or unexplainable illness in most cases creating an unfair standard for Gulf War veterans to be properly service connected for conditions related to their military service; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the requirements in the existing law, these brave veterans suffering from these unknown ailments are often prevented from obtaining service connection and 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 017
### 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 amnestic 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 023
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, vigorously opposes reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans benefits.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 025
### 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 has 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 027
### EXPAND PRESUMPTIONS FOR SERVICE CONNECTION FOR 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 028
### 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, 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports legislation to provide a realistic cost-of-living allowance for our nation's disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 029
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, seeks legislation to exclude veterans disability compensation from countable income for purposes of eligibility for benefits or services under other government programs.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 033
### 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, 38 C.F.R. § 3.3.7(a)(6)(iii) notes, “Service in the Republic of Vietnam” includes service in the waters offshore; 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports legislation to expressly provide that the phrase “served in the Republic of Vietnam” includes service in the territorial waters offshore.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 034
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, reminds our elected officials of our undebatable responsibility to fairly and fully compensate veterans for all the effects of disabilities incurred or aggravated in the line of duty as provided 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 035
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 036
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports legislation to reduce the 10-year rule for DIC qualification to a more reasonable period of time.

* * *

## RESOLUTION NO. 037
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 038
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports legislation to award special monthly compensation under the provisions of section 1114(r)(1), title 38, United States Code, to veterans with anatomical loss or loss of use of three extremities.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 039
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 040
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports the enactment of legislation to provide a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to address loss of quality of life.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 041
### REMOVE THE DELIMITING DATE FOR PERSIAN GULF VETERANS' ILLNESSES

WHEREAS, thousands of Gulf War veterans still suffer from chronic and unexplained physical symptoms; and

WHEREAS, current law limits filing dates for illnesses and injuries in veterans from certain service during active-duty periods, including the Southwest Asia theater 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, 2021" 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 the "Gulf War and Health: Volume 10: Update of Health Effects of Serving in the Gulf War, 2016" on the health effects of exposures during the Gulf War; 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 assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, urges Congress to support legislation to remove the delimiting date for disabilities as a result of active-duty service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations.

* * *

## RESOLUTION NO. 042
### SUPPORT OVERSIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PRACTICES IN EVALUATING DISABILITY CLAIMS FOR RESIDUALS OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

WHEREAS, DAV maintains a long-standing 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 1 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports VA's 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 046

### OPPOSE REGIONAL DISPERSION OF THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS

WHEREAS, veterans and other claimants for veterans benefits may appeal ratings 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) 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, categorically opposes any decentralization of the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 047
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, seeks legislation to provide for a reasonable cap on the amount of fees an attorney can charge veterans for benefits counseling and claims services before the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 048
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 049

### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend VMLI to service-connected veterans who are rated as permanently and totally disabled.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 050

### SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BURIAL ALLOWANCE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS AND PROVIDE AUTOMATIC ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS

WHEREAS,the National Cemetery Administration burial allowance provides partial reimbursement for eligible funeral and burial costs, with a maximum payment of $2,000 for service-connected burial allowance, $300 for nonservice-connected burial allowance and $749 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 $749 for nonservice-connected deaths in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities, effective October 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, this law did 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports legislation to increase the burial allowance payable in the case of death due to service-connected disability regardless of whether the death occurs in a VA and provide for automatic annual adjustments indexed to the rise in the cost of living.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 051
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, calls for a reasonable increase in HISA benefits for veterans.

* * *

## RESOLUTION NO. 070
### 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 “cleanup” 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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 cleanup 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. 071
### SUPPORT ELIMINATION OF THE LINK BETWEEN CHRONICITY AND CONTINUITY WITH THE CHRONIC DISEASES AS LISTED IN FEDERAL REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, service connection may be granted for a disability resulting from disease or injury incurred in or aggravated by service; and

WHEREAS, to prevail on the issue of service connection there must be competent evidence of a current disability, medical or lay evidence of in-service occurrence or aggravation of a disease or injury, and medical or lay evidence of a nexus between the present disability and the in-service occurrence or aggravation; and

WHEREAS, a veteran may establish service connection by "chronicity" if the evidence demonstrates the existence of a chronic disease in service and later manifestations of the same disease; and

WHEREAS, prior to the precedent decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Walker v. Shinseki, 708F.3d 1331 (Fed. Cir. 2013), veterans could establish a nexus between a present disability and an in-service occurrence or aggravation by "chronicity" when evidence demonstrates the existence of a disease in service and present manifestations of the same disease; and

WHEREAS, prior to the precedent decision, the veteran may alternatively establish service connection by "continuity of symptomatology" if the evidence demonstrates a condition was "noted" during service, there is post-service evidence of the same symptomatology, and there is medical or lay evidence of a nexus between the current disability and the post-service symptomatology, and

WHEREAS, the precedent decision limited establishing service connection by chronicity only for the specific chronic diseases listed in title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), section 3.309(a); and

WHEREAS, the precedent decision additionally abrogated previous decisions by the court extending the use of "continuity of symptomatology" to establish service connection for chronic diseases not specifically listed in the regulation, thereby overruling an entire body of case law; and

WHEREAS, the precedent decision removes veterans' ability to argue "chronicity and continuity of symptomatology" in all claims for service connection and places a higher standard than intended or required by the plain language of the statute, thereby hindering the non-adversarial nature of the VA claims system; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports the enactment of legislation to establish service connection for a disease not specifically listed in 38 CFR, section 3.309(a), using chronicity or continuity of symptomatology.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 072
### SUPPORT THE ELIMINATION OF THE 30-DAY REQUIREMENT FOR DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO CONTAMINANTS IN THE WATER SUPPLY AT CAMP LEJEUNE

WHEREAS, title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 3.307(a)(7)(i) provides contaminants in the water supply means the volatile organic compounds (VOC) trichloroethylene (TCE), perchloroethylene (PCE), benzene and vinyl chloride, were in the on-base water supply systems located at United States Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune; and

WHEREAS, 38 CFR § 3.307(a)(7)(iii) notes that a veteran, or former reservist or member of the National Guard, who had no less than 30 days (consecutive or nonconsecutive) of service at Camp Lejeune during the period beginning on August 1, 1953, and ending on December 31, 1987, shall be presumed to have been exposed during such service to the contaminants in the water supply; and

WHEREAS, the 30-day requirement is not based on the potential systemic, external and internal exposures to the VOCs; and

WHEREAS, review of the National Research Council, Committee on Contaminated Drinking Water at Camp Lejeune study, Contaminated Water Supplies at Camp Lejeune: Assessing Potential Health Effects, notes that the internal doses of TCE from showering provide inhalation and dermal exposure that is equivalent with ingesting two liters of water; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) notice of proposed rulemaking on the above-referenced subject, as published in the Federal Register on September 9, 2016, notes, "VA experts

agree that there is no science to support a specific minimum exposure level for any of the conditions;" and

WHEREAS, the VA plainly states, the 30-day requirement is intended to provide consistency with the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, Public Law 112-154; and

WHEREAS, the VA notes in multiple instances that the 30-day requirement is to keep consistency with the requirement for health care but does not assert that there is a scientific basis or legal requirement for the 30-day period; and

WHEREAS, the 30-day requirement is not consistent with any other laws or regulations providing presumptive service connection for exposure to toxic substances, such as veterans exposed to herbicide agents during service in Vietnam; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports the elimination of the 30-day requirement for Diseases Associated with Exposure to Contaminants in the Water Supply at Camp Lejeune as it is not: based on the potential systemic, external and internal, exposures to the VOCs; predicated on any science; based on any legal requirements nor consistent with existing laws and regulations concerning presumptive service connection for exposure to toxic substances.

* * *

## RESOLUTION NO. 073
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports VA granting veterans with high-frequency hearing loss a compensable rating (10 percent) when it has been medically determined that the veteran requires and has been issued a hearing amplification device.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 074
### ESTABLISH IMMEDIATE AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS BY THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS ON ALL CASES ADVANCED ON THE DOCKET

WHEREAS, in a case before the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board), an appellant can request the case advanced on the docket, due to financial hardship, homelessness, and/or a serious illness; and

WHEREAS, once the Board grants an appeal that is advanced on the docket, it is then sent to either the agency of original jurisdiction (AOJ) or the Appeals Resource Center (ARC) for the decision to be granted, authorized and promulgated prior to payment of benefits to an appellant; and

WHEREAS, the average processing time of these cases by the AOJ or the ARC can be more than 90 days; and

WHEREAS, many appellants with serious illness die prior to the grant and authorization; and

WHEREAS, this delay defeats the purpose of the Board granting a case to be advanced on the docket; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports the allocation of VA Resources either to the Board of Veterans' Appeals or via the National Work Queue, to grant, authorize, and promulgate all cases advanced on the docket and granted by the Board of Veterans' Appeals within 30 days of the decision.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 082
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, strongly supports legislation which would allow all veterans to recover taxes from their disability severance pay.

* * *

## RESOLUTION NO. 086
### OPPOSE ANY PROPOSAL THAT WOULD REDUCE PAYMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DISABILITY COMPENSATION BY PAYMENTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY INSURANCE, SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE OR ANY OTHER FEDERAL BENEFIT PAID TO A VETERAN

WHEREAS, consideration has been given to offsetting Social Security Insurance (SSI) and 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

WHEREAS, such an offset creates undue hardship on 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 SSI or SSDI benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 087
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, opposes any proposal to means test disability compensation and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 088
### OPPOSE LONG-TERM ROUNDING DOWN 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, long-term rounding down of 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, the rounding down of 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, opposes long-term rounding down COLAs for veterans disability compensation, and compensation to their dependents and survivors.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 093
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 094
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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. 095
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 096
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports legislation to repeal the offset between military longevity retired pay and VA disability compensation.

* * *

## RESOLUTION NO. 097
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports entitlement to service connection on a presumptive basis for any veteran suffering from hearing loss or tinnitus, which manifests itself to any degree and the

evidence shows the veteran participated in combat or worked in a position or military occupational specialty likely to cause acoustic trauma.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 098
### 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, a VA General Counsel opinion 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports legislation to clarify that SSB payments are not disability payments and therefore should not be recouped from VA disability compensation payments.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 099
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, opposes changes in current law so as to redefine and restrict the conditions under which service connection may be established.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 100
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, urges Congress to enact legislation requiring that treatment by the VA for a condition or disease recognized as presumptively service-connected will be considered to be an informal claim for service connection for compensation purposes.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 101
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, opposes any change in law to provide for lump-sum payments of Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 102
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, opposes any change in law to limit the time for filing compensation claims.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 124
### 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 Afghanistan and Iraq service members with undiagnosed traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), military sexual trauma (MST) and other trauma are twice that during the Vietnam Era and nearly four times the rate of veterans during 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 125

### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports the enactment of legislation that would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing the adaptive equipment deemed necessary to any veteran whose service-connected disability interferes with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 126

### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 163
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 193
### SUPPORT LEGISLATION FOR PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION FOR DISEASES RELATED TO CONTAMINATED WATER AT CAMP LEJEUNE

WHEREAS, military personnel and their families were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina from August 1, 1953 to December 31, 1987; and

WHEREAS, the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 established fifteen different conditions where the exposed military personnel and their families were eligible to seek treatment at Department of Veterans Affairs health facilities at no cost; and

WHEREAS, the conditions identified for cost-free health care were esophageal cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, bladder cancer,, kidney cancer, leukemia, multiple myeloma, myelodysplastic syndromes, renal toxicity, hepatic steatosis, female infertility, miscarriage, scleroderma, neurobehavioral effects, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs established the presumptive list for service connection for diseases associated with said water supply exposure as of January 2017 included only eight conditions, adult leukemia, aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, liver cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and Parkinson's disease; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary will continue to review relevant information to support the creation of additional presumptive conditions, as it becomes available; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 900,000 service members were potentially exposed to the tainted water; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, urges the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to consider expanding the presumptive list to include all conditions set in the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, (Public Law 112-154) that were not previously included.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 212
### SUPPORT MEANINGFUL APPEALS PROCESSING REFORM

WHEREAS, over the past few years, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) has undergone significant transformation to modernize the benefit claims process and worked diligently to reduce the backlog of pending claims; and

WHEREAS, due to VBA's concentrated efforts to reduce the disability compensation claims backlog, the processing of appeals of claims was considered a lesser priority, resulting in a growing backlog of pending appeals; and

WHEREAS, as of June 30, 2017, there were over 470,000 appeals pending, roughly 320,000 within VBA's jurisdiction and approximately 150,000 within the jurisdiction of the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) creating long wait times for veterans to get decisions on their appeals; and

WHEREAS, the Board also faces serious processing delays due to its workload and resource mismatch; and

WHEREAS, without commensurate resources, emphasis and urgency directed toward appeals processing at both VBA and the Board, veterans will continue to experience excessive delays for decisions while the appeals backlog continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, DAV joined with VBA, the Board and other stakeholders to develop a new framework to reform and modernize how VA processes appeals that includes several appeal options that claimants could choose, including filing supplemental claims, seeking higher level review of VBA claims decisions, and filing formal appeals directly to the Board; and

WHEREAS, throughout this process, claimants would have the ability to request hearings and submit evidence, protect their earliest effective dates, and have all of their due process rights protected; and

WHEREAS, legislation and additional resources are necessary to successfully accomplish appeals reform efforts in VBA; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, calls on Congress to pass legislation that supports significant and meaningful appeals processing reform to address VA's overall appeals workloads; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that representatives of veterans service organizations with Service programs should be included in the implementation phase of the appeals reform process and that Congress should provide continued oversight to ensure VA has adequate resources to accomplish appeals reform; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should provide continued oversight during the reform period and must ensure that adequate resources are provided throughout the implementation and operation of this new system, particularly to resolve the backlog of legacy appeals, as well as provide regular oversight to monitor and measure VA's progress so these reforms achieve their intended purpose.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 213
### ESTABLISH AN AUTOMATIC WAIVER OF OVERPAYMENTS AND DEBTS WHERE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RECEIVED THE REQUIRED INFORMATION WITHIN 90 DAYS

WHEREAS, when a veteran receives Drill Pay and VA Compensation, or dissolves a marriage or removes a dependent from their benefits, this will create an overpayment and potential debt within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, when a veteran submits the Notice of Waiver of VA Compensation per Drill Pay or provides proper documentation of divorce, death, or request to remove a dependent, in a timely manner, but the VA takes several months in processing and notifying the veteran, thus creating a significant overpayment or debt which results in a financial hardship on the veteran; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports legislation to enact an automatic waiver of the overpayment and debt if the VA takes over 90 days to process the Notice of Waiver of Compensation for Drill Pay and to process any changes to dependency; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 90 days would start on the date the VA received the Notice of Waiver of Compensation for Drill Pay and any information to change dependency status; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this includes any dependency information that is shared or submitted to any VA facility, to include medical centers, clinics, and national cemeteries.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 214
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 215
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 216
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 217
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, seeks the enactment of legislation that would authorize an open period for eligible service-connected disabled veterans to apply for coverage under the S-DVI program.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 218
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports legislation to amend section 1922, title 38, United States Code, to provide that S-DVI premiums will be based on current mortality tables.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 219
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 220
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports amendment of section 1922(a), title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum amount of insurance coverage available under S-DVI.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 221
### 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 either appointed, demoted or 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Al. You have heard the motion. May I have a second? Mic 1.

MR. JOHNSON: Mic 3, Jack Johnson, Chapter 150, Florida, so moves, seconds.

COMMANDER RILEY: 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 upon 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 July 29th, 2017, 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 resolutions.

009, support legislation to provide comprehensive support services for caregivers of severely-wounded, injured or ill veterans from all eras; 013, provide comprehensive dental care to all service-connected veterans; 014, oppose any restrictions on eligibility of military retired veterans to receive care in DoD or VA health care systems;

019, support consistent, reasonable access for service and guide dogs in VA facilities; 020, enhance CHAMP/VA benefits and services; 059, support legislation to require the President, Vice-President and members of Congress to receive health care exclusively from the VA; (Applause)

060, support legislation to create a rehabilitation special event office within VHA; 061, support new models of care within the VA for veterans with dementia; 062, support state veteran home programs; 107, support modernizing VA health care infrastructure;

109, support legislation to extend eligibility of qualifying veteran adult children for CHAMP/VA; 112, ensure timely access to quality VA health care and medical services; 113, adequately fund and sustain the Successful Readjustment Counseling Service of the VA and its highly-effective Vet Center Program;

114, oppose means testing service-connected veterans for VA health care; 115, support legislation to eliminate or reduce VA and DoD health care copayments for service-connected disabled veterans; (Applause) 116, support humane consistent pain management programs in the VA health care system;

117, support enhanced treatment of military sexual trauma; (Applause) 118, support programs to provide psychological support and mental health counseling services to family members of veterans suffering from post-deployment mental health challenges or other service-connected conditions; (Applause)

119, oppose third-party payments for service-connected disabilities; 120, improve the care and benefits of veterans exposed to military toxic and environmental hazards; 128, suppose the provisions—as you were—support the provisions of comprehensive VA health care services to enrolled veterans;

129, urge the VA to support comprehensive research of health effects of children of male Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange; 130, improve timely reimbursements by VA for purchased care and protect veterans from debt collection and adverse credit reporting associated with such care; (Applause)

131, improve the care provided to veterans with service-connected disabilities affecting the ability to procreate through assisted reproductive technology; 173, strengthen, reform and sustain the VA health care system; 174, provide easy and equitable access to veteran transportation benefits and services;

175, provide beneficiary travel benefits for unscheduled acute and urgent care from VA; 176, support sufficient resources for poly-trauma units at VA medical centers; 177, support legislation to authorize scholarships for new health, mental health providers in exchange for agreements to serve veterans in VA facilities;

178, support sufficient funding for VA prosthetics and sensory aids, service and timely delivery of prosthetic items; 225, support enhanced medical services and benefits for women veterans; (Applause) 226, encourage VA to process volunteer applications in a timely manner; (Applause)

227, enhance long-term services and supports to service-connected disabled veterans; 228, support effective recruitment, retention and development of VA health care system workforce; 229, support the rights and benefits earned by service-connected Native Americans and Alaskan Native veterans;

230, support sufficient resources for VA to improve health care for veterans living in rural and remote areas; 231, require a veteran's attending VA physician to provide a medical opinion in regards to a claim for a VA disability compensation benefit when requested; (Applause)

232, support consistent, reasonable access for power-driven mobility devices; 233, reduce VA medication copayment equal to or less than the lowest charged by private sector commercial outlets; 234, apply a consistent, coordinated care policy in the VA for traveling veterans;

235, support top-priority access for service-connected veterans within the VA health care system; 236, support VA medical and prosthetic research programs; 237, support legislation to improve VA programs designed to prevent and treat substance use disorders in veterans;

238, support legislation to establish comprehensive programs for traumatic brain injury rehabilitation; 239, support sustained and sufficient refunding to improve services for homeless veterans; (Applause) 240, repeal beneficiary travel deductible for service-connected disabled veterans and increase reimbursement rates;

241, require assistance technology training for VA staff who work to rehabilitate blind and visually-impaired veterans; 242, establish urgent care benefits to improve emergency care benefits; 243, increase capacity at VA facilities by operating extended hours and weekends;

245, support program improvements and enhance resources for VA medical health programs; 246, encourage the VA to submit candidate for the George H. Seal Memorial Award Program;

247, encourage the VA to submit candidates for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship program; 256, extend appreciation to the VA New Orleans health care system for the success of the 96th DAV National Convention. (Applause)

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee of 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 009
### SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE AND 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, DAV commissioned a veterans caregiver survey and report published in 2017 which describes family caregivers of veterans have been in this role on average for nearly 10 years, and that nearly one-third of family caregivers provide 8 or more hours of care each day of which over 12 percent provide 16 or more hours of care a day, and;

WHEREAS, the DAV report confirmed that despite a government that provides some services to support family caregivers of veterans, over 80 percent indicate they do not receive those services most important to them such as medical training, caregiver education, home health aide services, respite care and direct financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, 25 percent of family caregivers report their veteran would need to be placed into institutional care, such as a skilled nursing or assisted living facility now and an another 50 percent in the future; 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and VA must create and execute a strategic plan for military and veteran caregiver research, including longitudinal surveys and assessments, to evaluate current programs and services and monitor the health and well-being of caregivers to better inform policymakers.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 013
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outpatient dental care to all enrolled veterans.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 014
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, opposes any action to restrict health care eligibility for military retired veterans in either the DoD or the VA health care systems.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 019
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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 research and expansion of ongoing model programs to determine the most efficacious use of guide and service dogs in defined populations, in particular veterans with mental health conditions, and to broadly publish the results of that research; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should enact legislation setting forth VA standards for admission to VA properties and management of service and guide animals that are equivalent to rules applicable to every other private and public structure in the United States as dictated by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 020
### 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; 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 059
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 060
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 061
### 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, it is prevalent in more than 774,000 veterans, including over 400,000 veterans 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, urges VA to increase support and resources for effective initiatives to improve dementia care for veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to implement in VA facilities nationwide its best models of integrated dementia care based on proven demonstration projects, to ensure patient-centered, high-quality and cost-effective care is provided to the growing number of veterans suffering from dementia.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 062
### 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 and innovations in delivering needed services 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; and

WHEREAS, State Veterans Homes must continue their cultural transformation towards veteran and family centered care by providing long-term services and supports in a home-like setting through small home designed community living centers, the model for which studies show has a positive impact on the quality of care, improves social interactions, and enhances staff engagement, reducing staff turnover; and

WHEREAS, the evidence also suggest that the costs of construction and operation of the small house model are less or no more than those associated with constructing traditionally designed nursing homes; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, calls on Congress and VA to support construction of small home designed State Veterans Homes; AND

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports sufficient funding for the State Home Construction Grant Program to include the construction of small house model; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that DAV 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 legislation to provide states greater flexibility in providing long-term supports and services to veterans in State Veterans Homes.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 107
### 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 1,800 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 medical centers are located on large, campus style settings in excess of 50 years old and were 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 $67.4 billion in capital facilities improvements and new construction through its Strategic Capital Investment Planning (SCIP) 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, because of insufficient appropriated funding VA and Congress must look for new and innovative ways to include public-private partnerships, which may hold promise in reforming VA's capital infrastructure program and should be explored as another way to address VA's infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, as of 2015, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have produced over 1.2 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 109
### 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); 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 madethe 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 112
### 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 nearly 7 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 113
### 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 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 innovating, expanding and extending their rehabilitative and readjustment services, including in more rural communities, to veterans

of past, present and future military service, and to their family members when necessary to aid in the recovery of veterans suffering the latent effects of combat exposure.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 114
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports the exclusion of service-connected disabled veterans from the requirements of means testing for treatment or service received at VA medical facilities and the inclusion of zero percent service-connected disabled veterans in Priority Group 3.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 115
### 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, to improve its ability to generate revenue on the backs of service-connected disabled veterans, some continue to propose implementing a policy to eliminate the current practice of first applying third-party payments to offset veterans copayment debts; 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, calls for legislation to eliminate or reduce VA and DoD health care out-of-pocket costs for service-connected disabled veterans.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 116
### 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, 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 VA's pain management program has been emulated in other public and private health care settings nationwide; 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, a growing number of veteran patients with chronic pain who have been prescribed pain medication over long periods have been abruptly denied further access to prescription medications for pain contrary to its own pain management policy of tapering to reduce or to eventually discontinue opioid therapy when risks exceed benefits; and

WHEREAS, because VA facilities and all prescribers are subject to the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, as amended, and 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, urges VA to redouble its efforts to conduct a uniform national pain management program to ensure that veterans with chronic pain who have used prescribed pain medications over long histories are managed in a patient-centered environment, with balanced regard for both patient safety and humane alternatives to the use of controlled substances, and while under VA care receive their prescribed medications in a timely fashion; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV encourages VA at all levels to monitor local pain management efforts and resolve any conflicts between the effects of the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 and VA prescribing policies and procedures to ensure they are compliant with VA's national pain management policy and guidelines, and consistent with the intent of this resolution.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 117
### SUPPORT ENHANCED TREATMENT FOR MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

WHEREAS, the fiscal year (FY) 2016 Department of Defense Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPRO) annual report on sexual assault in the military included 6,172 reports of sexual assault across the military services, representing a less than 1.5 percent decline from reports made in FY 2015; 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 1 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, calls on VA to ensure all MST survivors gain open access to the specialized treatment programs and services they need to fully recover from sexual trauma that occurred in military service; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to change beneficiary travel policies to meet the specialized clinical needs of veterans receiving MST-related treatment; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to continually improve its MST treatment programs, ensure dissemination of MST evidence-based clinical practice guidelines throughout the VA health care system and develop a formal mandatory certification process for mental health providers who treat MST survivors.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 118
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, calls on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish appropriate and effective programs to ensure that veterans who are enrolled in VA health care receive adequate care for their wounds and illnesses, including mental health-related illnesses, and, when appropriate, family members—whether family caregivers, spouses or other family dependents—receive necessary counseling, including psychological counseling, training and other mental health services authorized by law to aid in the recovery of veterans.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 119
### 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; and

WHEREAS, to improve its ability to generate revenue on the backs of service-connected disabled veterans, some continue to propose implementing a policy to eliminate the current practice of first applying third-party payments to offset veterans copayment debts; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, opposes any legislation that would require VA to recover third-party payments for the care and treatment of a veteran's service-connected disabilities.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 120
### 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 has 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, urges Congress to actively oversee its established mechanism of delegation to the National Academy of Sciences and VA to determine validations of, and develop equitable compensation policy for, environmentally exposed veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges Congress to provide adequate funding for research to identify all disabling conditions and effective screening and treatment for such disabilities that may have been caused by exposure to environmental hazards and man-made toxins while individuals served in the armed forces of the United States; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges greater collaboration between DoD and VA to share necessary deployment, health and exposure data from military operations and deployments, in order to timely and adequately address the subsequent health concerns of disabled veterans, whatever the causes of those disabilities; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV intends to closely monitor programs of care within the Veterans Health Administration to ensure veterans disabled by exposure to environmental hazards and man-made toxins receive effective, high-quality health care, and that the biomedical research and development programs of the Department are fully addressing their needs.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 128
### 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, care provided to veterans in the community when VA care is inaccessible should be done through responsive integrated networks that deliver high value quality care; 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports legislation that embodies the concepts and principles enumerated above and establishes certainty to clearly defined VA health care services for enrolled veterans.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 129
### 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 herbicides' and their contaminants' potential for inducing epigenetic modifications, study paternal exposure in the absence of maternal exposure, and review 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 130
### 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 nearly 16 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 131
### 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 Afghanistan and Iraq, 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 that of the 16,323 trauma admissions, 5 percent were GU injuries (the largest report of GU injuries during any military conflict); 65 percent of this group, having an average age of 26, were injured due to explosions; 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 173
### 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 and comprehensive primary, acute and rehabilitative care including pharmaceutical, mental health and readjustment counseling services; and

WHEREAS, VA facilities are affiliated with 168 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 69,000 medical students and residents—about 70 percent of all physicians in the United States—nearly 29,000 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 elevate 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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 the Department of Defense, other federal partners and academic affiliates, and other high-quality community providers where needed, with VA acting as the network coordinator and principal provider to ensure veterans receive 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 174
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, urges the VA to operate an effective and efficient transportation program for all service-connected veterans and to simplify access to transportation benefits and services to receive timely and high-quality VA health care, benefits and services.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 175
### PROVIDE BENEFICIARY TRAVEL BENEFITS FOR UNSCHEDULED VISITS TO RECEIVE 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 facilities have developed local policy to provide care to veterans on a "drop in" basis rather than through a scheduled appointment and without properly documenting such pre-scheduled encounter thus limiting travel benefits for service-connected veterans; 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 176
### 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, 86 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 the home community for veterans who have experienced a mild–moderate TBI or polytrauma injury; and

WHEREAS, 23 specialized rehabilitation programs (Polytrauma Network Sites) offer continued medical care and rehabilitation, are located in each Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN): PNS 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; 39 Polytrauma Points of Contact are located in Alaska, Hawaii, the Philippines, and are in locations without specialized rehabilitation teams; 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 177
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports legislation or administrative policy changes in the existing scholarship program to make its benefits available more broadly within both the community-based outpatient clinics and Readjustment Counseling Service Vet Centers of the Department so that these facilities will be able to adequately meet the needs of veterans of all generations who need mental health services and psychological counseling to aid in their recoveries.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 178
### 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 50,000 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 nearing completion of 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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 that 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 225
### SUPPORT ENHANCED MEDICAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS FOR WOMEN VETERANS

WHEREAS, the number of women serving in our military and veterans population continue to grow with women now comprising 10 percent of all veterans and 16 percent of our active duty service members; and

WHEREAS, women are now included in virtually all military occupations, including combat roles that expose them to the same injuries as male peers; and

WHEREAS, the number of women veterans using Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care has doubled in the last decade, and women of recent service eras are younger, more likely to have service-connected conditions and are more reliant upon VA health care; and

WHEREAS, 42 percent of women veteran users of VA care are under the age of 45 and therefore within their child-bearing years, and their gender-specific needs represent challenges to the current model and delivery of VA health care, which has traditionally focused on men; and

WHEREAS, significant numbers of women veterans, including those returning from current military deployments, are the primary or sole providers 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, a significant number of women report military sexual trauma and domestic violence and need specialized mental health services from VA; and

WHEREAS, VA has too few proficient, knowledgeable health care providers with expertise in women's health; and many facilities fail to adequately address environment of care standards that assure the safety, privacy and dignity of women patients; and

WHEREAS, many non-VA health providers which fill important gaps in VA services for women veterans, including mammography, maternity care, and gynecology lack the informatics to assure they are meeting VA care standards, including waiting times; and

WHEREAS, VA must improve outreach and services to meet the unique needs of women veterans who were catastrophically wounded, suffering amputations, blindness, spinal cord injury, post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, or who were sexually assaulted; and

WHEREAS, DAV's 2014 report, Women Veterans, The Long Journey Home found that despite 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; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, seeks to ensure the provision of health care services and specialized programs, inclusive of gender-specific services, by VA to eligible women veterans are provided to the same degree and extent that services are provided to eligible male veterans, inclusive of counseling and/or psychological services incident to combat exposure or sexual trauma; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge VA to strictly adhere to stated policies regarding privacy and safety issues relating to the treatment of women veterans and to proactively conduct research and health studies as appropriate, periodically review, adjust and improve its women's health programs, and seek innovative methods to address barriers to care, thereby better ensuring women veterans receive the quality treatment and specialized services they so rightly deserve.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 226
### 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, there is great variability in both the process and timeliness of providing prospective volunteers all the required screenings, interviews, orientations, and training prescribed by the VA facility; 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, strongly encourages each Voluntary Service program manager at every VA medical facility to standardize and expedite the process better leveraging information technology to attract and ensure volunteers are able to serve disabled veterans in VA medical facilities and in their communities.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 227
### 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, geropsychiatry 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports legislation to expand the comprehensive program of LTSS for service-connected disabled veterans irrespective of their disability ratings, and urges VA, in conjunction with key stakeholders, including other federal agencies and the states, to develop a strategic LTSS plan to invigorate and re-engineer VA-operated, purchased and subsidized LTSS.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 228
### SUPPORT EFFECTIVE RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WORKFORCE

WHEREAS, staffing shortages and vacancies at every level of the VA health care system and across numerous critical positions impedes service-connected disabled veterans who rely on VA to receive timely, high quality veteran-centric medical care; and

WHEREAS, in light of the fact that Section 7412 of title 38, United States Code, requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) to determine and report on the top five occupations of Veterans Health Administration (VHA) personnel covered under title 38, United States Code, section 7401, for which there are the largest staffing shortages; and

WHEREAS, the VAOIG found six occupations as having the largest staffing shortages in the identified time period: Medical Officer, Nurse, Psychologist, Physician Assistant, Physical Therapist and Medical Technologist and these six occupations are identified because the Psychologist and Physician Assistant positions tied for the third position, and the Physical Therapist and Medical Technologist positions tied for the fifth position; and

WHEREAS, VA nurses were one of the most critically needed positions at VA facilities across the country the past two years, and, according to September VAOIG report, VA hired 8,528 nurses in fiscal year 2015, but lost 4,966 that same year and missed opportunities to retain more than half of the nurses who left; and

WHEREAS, despite the total number of VA employees providing and supporting direct clinical care to veterans has grown from 211,192 in 2015 to 227,485 in 2017, to meet the medical care needs of service-connected disabled veterans VA has identified 45,360 vacancies throughout the VA as of April 2017; and

WHEREAS, there is a nationwide shortage of qualified doctors, nurses and specialists, particularly in rural areas, because VA must compete with the private sector for-profit and non-profit hospitals to recruit and retain the best and brightest clinical staff, and the federal hiring process for clinical staff remains lengthy and convoluted, with 13 percent of potential hires dropping out of the process; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports a simple-to-administer alternative VHA personnel system, in law and regulation, which governs all VHA employees, applies best practices from the private sector to human capital management, and supports pay and benefits that are competitive with the private sector.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 229
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 230
### 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 nearly 600 projects and programs, authorized new mobile rural clinics in Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs), appointed "Rural Health Consultants" in each of VA's 18 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 1050 community-based outpatient centers and 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, fully supports the right of rural veterans to be served by VA, including through rural health grants in certain circumstances, but insists that funding for additional rural care and outreach be sustained and not be the cause of reductions in highly specialized VA medical programs needed for the care of sick and disabled service-connected veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV insists that if Congress intends to continue to provide enhanced VA health care access to rural veterans, Congress must include appropriations for that specific purpose in advance appropriations acts.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 231
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, urges VA to develop and implement a consistent policy requiring VA health care practitioners to provide medical statements or opinions when requested by veterans in conjunction with claims for VA benefits.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 232
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 233
### 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 the current copayment structure of $5.00 for generic medications, $8.00 for preferred generics and $11.00 for brand name medications; 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, VA should continue its policy to first apply third-party payments to offset veterans copayment debts; 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 234
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 235
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports strict enforcement by the VHA, including VHA network and medical center directors, of governing policies providing service-connected veterans priority access to care, unless compelling medical reasons affecting other veterans prevent such priority from being extended to them.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 236
### 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 1 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, strongly supports VA's Medical and Prosthetic Research program as a vital investment in the future, affecting wounded, injured and ill veterans, and urges VA and Congress to adequately fund this program (including its infrastructure deficits) so that it may continue its remarkable traditions in helping veterans recover and rehabilitate, to improve the quality of their lives.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 237
### 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 the Afghanistan/Iraq War 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 Afghanistan/Iraq War veterans have been diagnosed with an alcohol-use disorder, a drug-use disorder or both, and VA data show that almost 22 percent of Afghanistan/Iraq War 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports program improvement and enhanced resources for VA substance-use disorder programs to achieve a full spectrum of evidence-based accessible and available treatment, including effective integrated treatment programs for veterans with co-morbid mental health and substance-use disorder conditions, regardless of their place of residence.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 238
### 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 Afghanistan and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, blast injuries from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that shake or compress the brain within the skull often cause devastating and permanent damage to brain tissue; and

WHEREAS, veterans with severe TBI and polytrauma will require extensive rehabilitation and 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 Afghanistan/Iraq War 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports legislation that would require VA and DoD to coordinate efforts to address mild and moderate TBI and concussive injuries, and establish a comprehensive rehabilitation program, including establishment of therapeutic residential facilities, and deployment of standardized protocols utilizing appropriately formed clinical assessment techniques to recognize and treat neurological and behavioral consequences of all levels of TBI and all generations of veterans who suffer the lingering effects from earlier injuries; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges that any TBI studies or research undertaken by VA and DoD for the current generation of TBI-injured veterans include older veterans of past military conflicts who may have suffered similar injuries that went undetected, undiagnosed and untreated.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 239
### SUPPORT SUSTAINED AND SUFFICIENT FUNDING TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

WHEREAS, compared to nonveterans, veterans are at higher risk of homelessness, women veterans face unique challenges that increase their susceptibility to 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 46 percent since 2009; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 240
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports legislation to repeal the Secretary's authority to impose a deductible for service-connected disabled veterans from the amount payable for beneficiary travel pay for medical examination, treatment or care; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to adopt the IRS mileage reimbursement rate to protect against erosion of the value of the benefit due to inflation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to make provision in its budget for the cost of increasing veterans' beneficiary travel reimbursement rates to a more reasonable amount so that it can make the needed adjustment without the reduction in funds for direct medical care to sick and disabled veterans.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 241
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, urges that the VA Blind Rehabilitation Service ensure that all personnel involved with the assessment and training of blind and visually impaired veterans receive regular training in the form of continuing education credits or achieve independent certification on technological solutions and adaptive aides.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 242
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## 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, Congress enacted Public Law 114-286 with the express desire to allow veterans to self-schedule, modify, and cancel appointments at any time for primary care, specialty care and mental health care; and

WHEREAS, local workload data, no-show rates, cancellation rates, and feedback from the self-appointing program, 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 245
### SUPPORT PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT AND ENHANCED RESOURCES FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, current research findings indicate that war veterans from Afghanistan and Iraq 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 January, 2017, VA reported that of the 1,964,534 separated Afghanistan/Iraq War veterans, 1,218,857 have obtained VA health care since fiscal year (FY) 2002, a total of 708,062 unique patients have received a diagnosis of a mental disorder, and 393,139 of the enrolled Afghanistan/Iraq War 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 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 has increased the number of outpatient mental health encounters or treatment visits, from 10.5 million in 2005 to 20.8 million in 2015—a 97% increase; and

WHEREAS, since 2012, VA has added 2,444 mental health full-time equivalent employees and hired over 1,100 peer specialists and apprentices, bringing the number of Veterans Health Administration'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, 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 300 Vet Centers located in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, and Puerto Rico, and has a fleet of 80 Mobile Vet Centers that are designed to extend the reach of Vet Center services through focused outreach, 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, 65 percent of all veterans 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports program improvements, data collection and reporting on suicide rates among service members and veterans; improved outreach through general media for stigma reduction and suicide prevention; sufficient staffing to meet demand for mental health services; and enhanced resources for VA mental health programs, including Vet Centers, to achieve readjustment of new war veterans and continued effective mental health care for all enrolled veterans needing such services.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 246
### 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 the Auxiliary 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 the Auxiliary 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, strongly encourages each Voluntary Service program manager at every VA medical facility to submit the name of a deserving member of DAV and the Auxiliary to be considered for this prestigious award in appreciation of their dedication and service to America's veterans through their voluntary service efforts.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 247
### 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 2017 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, strongly encourages each Voluntary Service program manager at every VA medical facility to submit the name of a deserving youth volunteer to be considered for one of the scholarships in appreciation of their dedication to serving America's veterans through their voluntary service efforts.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 256
### EXTEND APPRECIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NEW ORLEANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 96TH DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the cooperation and professionalism extended by Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical personnel to the delegates and guests of the 96th 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 New Orleans VA Health Care System, staffed and maintained a high-quality outpatient clinic and prosthetic service within the Hilton New Orleans Riverside; and

WHEREAS, the medical care and prosthetic services rendered to the delegates to this 96th 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29-August 1, 2017, expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the New Orleans VA Health Care System for the professional and skillful health care delivered to the delegates to this 96th National Convention and for contributing to the overall success of this Convention.

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COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Kirk. You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mic 1.

COMMANDER RILEY: Mic 1.

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mic 1. Michael Steinbaugh, Chapter 7, Oakland, California, seconds.

COMMANDER RILEY: 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.

I would like to call upon Chairman Michael Vandrovek for the report on the Committee on General Resolutions and Membership.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL VANDROVEK: The report of the National Convention Chairperson. Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on General Resolutions was called to order on July 29th, 2017, by the Committee Advisors Shurhonda Love and Scott Hope.

The first order of business was to elect a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. I, Mike Vandrovek, was elected chairman. And Gary Prescott was elected secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I 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 resolutions.

Number 18, support former POW slave labor claims against Japanese firms; Number 52, 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 of 1949;

Resolution 53, seek immediate release of any Americans who may still be held captive following any war, return the remains of any Americans who died during these wars; Number 54, encourage all disabled veterans to become registered voters and to vote;

Number 55, support the construction of a courthouse for United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; Number 56, oppose any authorization of use of Armed Forces for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent;

Number 57, condemn public desecration of the flag of the United States; Number 105, support—(Applause) Number 105, support an establishment of nationwide treatment courts for justice involved veterans;

Number 141, provide weekend burials at National Cemeteries; 167, support the defense of POW/MIA accounting agency; Number 222, extend commissary and exchange privileges to service-connected disabled veterans and their dependents;

Number 223, extend space-available air travel aboard military aircraft to 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans; Number 224, support the move to renew prisoner-of-war/missing-in-action discussions; Number 257, appreciation to all who are responsible for the success of the 96th National Convention;

Number 258, appreciation to the Hilton New Orleans Riverside for the success of the 96th National Convention; Number 259, extend appreciation to Yvonne Riley for her efforts in the DAV Unsung Heroes initiative; (Applause)

Number 260, support commemorative coin for the DAV's Centennial in 2020; Number 261, appreciation to National Commander David W. Riley. I will now read Resolution 259, Appreciation to Yvonne Riley, in its entirety. Resolution Number 259, Expressing Appreciation to Yvonne Riley:

"WHEREAS, 20 years ago Yvonne Riley willingly and without hesitation stepped into her role as a primary caregiver for then Aviation survivor man Petty Officer First Class David Riley;

"WHEREAS, in 1997, while stationed at the Coast Guard Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Alabama, her husband contracted a rate infection resulting in septic shock, forcing Yvonne to make a harrowing decision and allow doctors to remove all four of her husband's limbs and several internal organs to give him a chance of survival; and

"WHEREAS, for two decades since that fateful decision, Yvonne's loving support and actions have enabled her husband to adjust to a new normal and moral fortitude, helping him mend both physical and invisible scars; and

"WHEREAS, from sun-up to sun-down, Yvonne has ensured her husband can live a life with respect and dignity and paved the way for David Riley to be elected National Commander of the DAV where he continues to inspire, motivate and empower fellow disabled veterans; and

"WHEREAS, during Commander Riley's tenure, Yvonne went above and beyond, sharing her personal story of adapting and overcoming in the face of adversity to bring vital attention to the tremendous difficulties and numerous other family caregivers of severely-ill and injured veterans face on their own; and

"WHEREAS, she met with the lawmakers, spoke candidly about her experience as part of the DAV Unsung Heroes Initiative, to raise awareness about the challenges and inequities facing the nation's caregivers; and

"WHEREAS, she devoted 20 years of her life standing next to but not too often behind our National Commander David Riley; and

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the DAV National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, from July 29th through August 1st express its members' deepest appreciation and profound gratitude to Yvonne Riley for her unmatched resilience, selfless sacrifice, and dedication to her family, her husband, DAV National Commander David Riley, and to the DAV; and

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the DAV herein forever recognize and memorialize Yvonne Riley as one of America's Unsung Heroes." (Standing Ovation)

Thank you. According to tradition, I will read the Resolution Number 261, Appreciation to National Commander Riley, in its entirety. Resolution 261, Expression of Appreciation to National Commander David W. Riley:

"WHEREAS, the DAV National Commander David W. Riley of Mobile, Alabama, served honorably in both the United States Army and the United States Coast Guard; and

"WHEREAS, as a rescue swimmer in the U.S. Coast Guard stationed at Coast Guard Aviation Center in Mobile, Alabama, Commander Riley contracted a rare bacterium, resulting in septic shock which ultimately caused him to lose four limbs and several internal organs; and

"WHEREAS, after being medically-retired in 1998, Commander Riley earned a bachelor and a master's degree in computer science, later starting his own computer systems business, serving as Chief Information Officer of the Coast Guard Aviation Center and retiring as an analyst of the Gulf Coast Technical Services; and

"WHEREAS, Commander Riley's service to the DAV began as a life member of Chapter 7 of Mobile, Alabama; named Outstanding Disabled American Veteran in 2010; subsequently being Commander of the Department of Alabama in 2014; and continues to serve as Chapter and Department Service Officer and volunteers at a local VA clinic; and

"WHEREAS, the members of the Disabled American Veterans unanimously elected him for first quadriplegic amputee and Coast Guard veteran to hold the post of National Commander during his 2016 National Convention held in Atlanta, Georgia; and

"WHEREAS, he has shown outstanding compassion, leadership this year as National Commander, visiting disaster sites, participating in the DAV 5K Race, Winter Sports Clinic, to give veterans hope and inspiration in overcoming their own life challenges; and

"WHEREAS, Commander Riley worked tirelessly through his tenure to safeguard veterans' care and benefits, assist veterans in finding meaningful employment, and seek fair treatment for women veterans; and

"WHEREAS, Commander Riley was involved, advocated personally on behalf of family caregivers and veterans of all eras to ensure they are duly recognized and receive the support they need to continue their roles as caregivers and spoken candidly about the challenges of his wife of almost 30 years Yvonne has faced to enable him to lead and inspire millions of our nation's veterans; and

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29th through August 1st, express to its members a heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude to Commander Riley for his sacrifices, selfless service, professionalism, and dedication to his fellow wounded, ill and injured veterans and the families of the DAV during his year as National Commander; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the DAV also salutes and extends our sincere appreciation to Commander Riley's wife Yvonne and their family for their steadfast support and sacrifice during his year as National Commander."

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on General Resolutions. 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 018
### SUPPORT FORMER PRISONER-OF-WAR SLAVE LABOR CLAIMS AGAINST JAPANESE FIRMS

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2009, the government of Japan, through then–Ambassador to the United States Ichiro Fujisaki, offered an official apology to American prisoners of war (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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29-August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 052
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29-August 1, 2017, supports legislation which would extend military commissary and exchange privileges, as well as space-available air travel aboard military aircraft, to enlisted personnel who were discharged from active military service prior to October 1, 1949, for a service-incurred injury or disease rated by the VA as 30 percent or more disabling and who retained at least a 30-percent evaluation for a period of five years from the date of separation from active duty.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 053
### SEEK THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ANY AMERICANS WHO MAY STILL BE HELD CAPTIVE FOLLOWING ANY WAR AND THE RETURN AND IDENTIFICATION 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 (MIA) 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, though some 40,000 are deemed unrecoverable, mostly deep sea losses, some 7,500 from the Korean War, over

1,600 still missing in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam War, two from the Persian Gulf War and two from the Afghanistan/Iraq War, who have not been forgotten; and

WHEREAS, though 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 having achieved the fullest possible accounting of our prisoners of war (POW) 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 or immediate proximity to capture; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29-August 1, 2017, 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. 054
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29-August 1, 2017, encourages all 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 055
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29-August 1, 2017, shall take such actions as may be necessary or advisable in support of legislation to authorize and fund the construction of a suitable and appropriate courthouse for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 056
### 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 a violation of the ethical principle of the right of self-determination 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29-August 1, 2017, opposes any rule or provision that would authorize use of service members for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 057
### 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 First Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, and 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29-August 1, 2017, condemns any individual or group who at any time publicly and willfully desecrates the flag of the United States.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 105
### 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 141
### PROVIDE WEEKEND BURIALS AT NATIONAL CEMETERIES

WHEREAS, scheduling a weekend burial at a National Cemetery is not current policy; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 114-315 requires the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) to study the feasibility of weekend burials; and

WHEREAS, NCA operates 135 national cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, available cemetery benefits include a gravesite in any national cemetery with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial certificate, at no cost to the family; and

WHEREAS, the NCA works to continuously improve customer satisfaction, meeting the wishes of veterans and their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, providing weekend burial at a National Cemetery eases scheduling and lightens the burden on veterans' survivors, many of whom may need to travel great distances to pay their last respects and honor their loved one as he or she is laid to rest; and

WHEREAS, DAV and other veterans service organizations often provide volunteers who conduct military honors at funeral service burials; and

WHEREAS, weekend burial at National Cemeteries will allow more volunteers an opportunity to participate in military honor guard at funeral services due to scheduling; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, seeks legislation that would authorize weekend burials at cemeteries operated by the NCA.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 167
### 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 captive, missing and otherwise 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 and identification of their remains when possible; and

WHEREAS, DAV deeply appreciates Vietnam's 2009 proposal to expand the pace and scope of POW/MIA accounting cooperation, including use of United States Navy vessels for underwater operations; and

WHEREAS, the DAV recognizes the contributions to successful investigative efforts made by the Defense Intelligence Agency's Stony Beach Team of specialists; 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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 the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL), including specific authorization to augment assigned personnel when additional assets and resources are necessary.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 222
### EXTEND COMMISSARY PRIVILEGES TO SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

WHEREAS, access to the Department of Defense (DoD) Commissary benefit is similar to other military benefits, including Exchange privileges, which is limited only to active-duty service members, Guard and reservists, medical retirees, retirees, Gold Star widows, service-connected veterans in receipt of total compensation, Medal of Honor recipients and all of their respective dependents; and

WHEREAS, DoD announced in 2016 that all honorably discharged veterans will have access to DoD's online Exchange as of November 11, 2017, and opening the Exchange to the 20 million honorably discharged veterans is a strong business case; and

WHEREAS, the recent downsizing of the military jeopardizes the continued profitable operation of military commissary stores; and

WHEREAS, veterans injured while in service to their nation have earned the privilege to use commissary stores; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports legislation to extend commissary privileges to service-connected disabled veterans and their dependents.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 223
### 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, 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.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 224
### SUPPORT RENEWED PRISONER-OF-WAR/MISSING-IN-ACTION DISCUSSIONS

WHEREAS, DAV has long been and is now deeply committed to accounting as fully as possible for United States 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 discussions, separate from those held on strategic issues, but fully integrated with broader policy and national security priorities 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 to reach humanitarian agreements and restoring and increasing unilateral, bilateral and, as needed, multilateral field recovery operations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29–August 1, 2017, supports renewing and expanding direct bilateral humanitarian efforts for the purpose of restoring and improving US agreements and processes with counterpart nations required to account as fully as possible for unreturned American military personnel.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 257
### APPRECIATION TO ALL WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 96TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the success of the 96th DAV National Convention convened in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29-August 1, 2017, depends on the total cooperation, collaboration and unselfish devotion of the state, county, and local officials; and

WHEREAS, the success of this National Convention is also attributed to the Department and local Chapters and Units of the DAV and DAVA, particularly to Convention Chairman, Mr. Eddie Figureon; 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29-August 1, 2017, 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 New Orleans, Louisiana, 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 Eddie Figueron, and his entire Committee for providing personalized assistance to our friends and delegates during our Convention stay.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 258
### APPRECIATION TO HILTON NEW ORLEANS RIVERSIDE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 96TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the excellent service and ambience of the Hilton New Orleans Riverside contributed greatly to the success of the 96th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans convened in New Orleans, Louisiana; 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 96th National Convention a truly memorable experience; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29-August 1, 2017, expresses its deepest appreciation for the Hilton New Orleans Riverside and to its entire staff for their friendly, personalized attention which helped make the 96th National Convention a resounding success.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 259
### EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO YVONNE RILEY

WHEREAS, twenty years ago, Yvonne Riley willingly and without hesitation stepped into her role as a primary caregiver for then-Aviation Survivalman Petty Officer First Class David Riley; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, while stationed at Coast Guard Aviation Training Center Mobile, Alabama, her husband contracted a rare infection resulting in septic shock, forcing Yvonne to make the harrowing decision to allow doctors to remove all four of her husband's limbs and several internal organs to give him a chance of survival; and

WHEREAS, for the two decades since that fateful decision, Yvonne's loving support and actions have enabled her husband to adjust to a new normal, and her moral fortitude helped mend both visible and invisible scars; and

WHEREAS, from sunup to sundown, Yvonne has ensured that her husband can live a life with respect and dignity, and paved the way for David Riley to be elected National Commander of DAV, where he continues to inspire, motivate and empower fellow disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, during Commander Riley's tenure, Yvonne went above and beyond, sharing her personal story of adapting and overcoming in the face of adversity to bring vital attention to the tremendous difficulties numerous other family caregivers of severely ill and injured veterans face on their own; and

WHEREAS, she has met with lawmakers and spoken candidly of her experiences as part of DAV's Unsung Heroes Initiative to raise awareness about the challenges and inequities facing the nation's veteran caregivers; and

WHEREAS, she has devoted 20 years of her life standing next to, but all too often behind, our DAV National Commander Dave Riley; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29-August 1, 2017, expresses its members' deepest appreciation and profound gratitude to Yvonne Riley for her unmatched resilience, selfless sacrifice and dedication to her family, her husband DAV National Commander David Riley, and to DAV; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV herein forever recognizes and memorializes Yvonne Riley as one of America's Unsung Heroes.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 260
### SUPPORT A COMMEMORATIVE COIN FOR DAV'S CENTENNIAL IN 2020

WHEREAS, veterans who shared the unique experience of war and the wounds of battle joined together to form an organization devoted to building better lives for those suffering the effects of lifelong disabilities as a result of their service to their country, thereby founding the Disabled American Veterans in 1920; and

WHEREAS, as a part of its mission to represent the interests of this special group of patriots, the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) works to maintain public recognition and consciousness of the extraordinary sacrifices they made on behalf of their fellow citizens and country; and

WHEREAS, Congress may authorize commemorative coins to celebrate and honor American institutions that have a rich history of service and accomplishments and that will continue to serve the Nation and its citizenry in the future; and

WHEREAS, Congress may further authorize a surcharge on sales of such commemoratives that will allow DAV to invest in its future by expanding its programs and services for disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, over the last century, DAV has assisted millions of disabled American veterans and their families with accessing benefits and services from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); has provided ill and injured veterans essential transportation to VA medical care appointments; has continually advocated on behalf of veterans, family caregivers and other family members for access and improvement to critical services, honor their service, and empower the lives of our disabled veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29-August 1, 2017, supports, and solicits the support of all members of Congress to introduce and enact a bill to authorize the US Treasury to mint a commemorative coin to memorialize DAV's Centennial anniversary in 2020.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 261
### EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO NATIONAL COMMANDER DAVID W. RILEY

WHEREAS, DAV National Commander David W. Riley, of Mobile, Alabama, served honorably in both the United States Army and the United States Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, as a rescue swimmer of the U.S. Coast Guard stationed at the Coast Guard Aviation Center in Mobile, Alabama, Commander Riley contracted a rare bacterium, resulting in septic shock which ultimately caused him to lose all four limbs and several internal organs; and

WHEREAS, after being medically retired in 1998, Commander Riley earned a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Computer Science later starting his own computer systems business, serving as the chief information officer of the Coast Guard Aviation Association, and retiring as an analyst for Gulf Coast Technical Services; and

WHEREAS, Commander Riley's service to DAV began as a Life Member of DAV Chapter 7, Mobile, Alabama, named DAV's Outstanding Disabled Veteran in 2010, subsequently elected the Commander of the Department of Alabama in 2014, and continues to serve as the Chapter and Department Service Officer and volunteer at the local VA clinic; and

WHEREAS, the members of the DAV unanimously elected him as the first quadruple amputee and Coast Guard veteran to hold the post of National Commander during the 2016 National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, he has shown outstanding compassion and leadership during his year as National Commander, visiting disaster sites, participating in DAV 5K races and Winter Sports Clinics to give veterans hope and inspiration in overcoming their own life challenges; and

WHEREAS, Commander Riley worked tirelessly throughout his tenure to safeguard veterans' care and benefits, assist veterans in finding meaningful employment and seek fair treatment of women veterans; and

WHEREAS, Commander Riley has advocated passionately on behalf of family caregivers of veterans of all eras to ensure they are duly recognized and receive the support they need to continue in their role as caregivers, and spoken candidly about the challenges his wife of almost 30 years, Yvonne, has faced to enable him to lead and inspire millions of our nation's veterans, NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 29-August 1, 2017, expresses its members' heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude to Commander Riley for his sacrifices, selfless service, professionalism and dedication to his fellow wounded, ill and injured veterans, their families and the DAV during his year as DAV National Commander; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DAV also salutes and extends our sincere appreciation to Commander Riley's wife Yvonne and their family for their steadfast support and sacrifices during his year as DAV National Commander.

* * *

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Mike. You heard the motion. May I have a second?

MS. DEBORAH OLSON: Mic 3.

COMMANDER RILEY: Mic 3.

MS. OLSON: Department of Massachusetts, Deborah Olson, seconds those motions.

COMMANDER RILEY: 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 read? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

It is an honor and a pleasure to introduce the President of the DAV's 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 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 a service-connected disability in 1958.

While I might normally welcome him to the stage by saying “Give him a hand,” in this case I’ll say, “Give him a leg, which might be more appropriate.” (Laughter) Hey, I can get away with it. If you disagree, give me two hooks down. (Laughter) Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome to the stage Dick Marbes. (Applause) He may be having a problem getting up the stage. (Applause)

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RICHARD E. MARBES: Thank you, Commander Riley, for that kind introduction. (Laughter) And let me also extend the DAV Charitable Service Trust’s gratitude to National Adjutant 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: National Commander Dave Riley of Alabama, 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.

This past year has brought in a new presidential administration and Congress, often leaving veterans worrying about the future of their care and benefits with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Many veterans and families have struggled with uncertainty about the future of VA and with their confidence in the nation’s ability to provide them with the care they were promised when they were faced with illness or injuries.

This is why we exist. This is why the DAV Charitable Service Trust is so important and meaningful. The Trust helps fill in those gaps in local community care, programs and services where veterans and their families are in need.

As an injured veteran myself, I could not be where I am today without the support of people like you. The generosity is abundant among all our supporters.

We can’t forget the families of our veterans as well, as they carry a heavy load. When a veteran faces the challenges of creating a new normal, the families often selflessly accompany them on the long and tough journey toward healing. But without the support of the public and our partners, we could not do what we do.

We’ve expanded the opportunities to contribute to the Trust’s mission of service, like the Combined Federal Campaign, United Way and workplace giving. 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.

Corporate matching gift programs, bequests, and other forms of contributions from corporations, foundations and individual donors also enable the Trust to fulfill its mission.

In 2016 these gifts, along with income derived from investments, totaled nearly $8.4 million, allowing the Trust to devote nearly $5.3 million toward the critical health services, education, employment and transition assistance, and much more.

Twenty-sixteen was a tumultuous year for this country, but the Trust was able to continue to adapt in order to fulfill the specific needs of veterans, as well as the expectations of individuals and corporations that contribute toward the Trust’s mission.

More than 95 cents out of every dollar went directly to support programs that help veterans and their families regain a sense of normalcy and take back their lives. (Applause)

Notably—excuse me—the Trust also received the coveted Four Star Rating for “sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency” from Charity Navigator for the twelfth time since being first evaluated fourteen years ago.

As Charity Navigator is the nation’s largest independent charity evaluator—excuse me—this acknowledgement speaks volumes to the continued success of the Trust and its financial responsibility.

Men and women transitioning from military life to the civilian world often need assistance with adjusting to their new circumstances. Often, the physical, mental or emotional injuries acquired during their service carry unforeseen roadblocks that only make the changes more challenging.

The percentage of veterans seeking benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs continues to grow as men and women who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan steadily join the veteran community.

In order to ensure veterans and their families are able to obtain the services they need, the Trust continues to strive to provide thousands of opportunities for rehabilitation, recreation and wellbeing.

Rehabilitation has proven to be successful in advancing treatment for mental, physical, and emotional ailments. The Trust is proud to support innovative programs that strive to address all injuries veterans may face, whether visible or not. Ill and injured veterans can access a series of programs that promote physical, emotional and mental recovery.

Employment and education are major components for veterans as they work to return to normalcy after an unexpected injury. The Trust proudly supports numerous organizations dedicated to helping veterans achieve scholastic success and secure employment.

And while we all know how families play a pivotal role in a veteran's health and wellbeing, the Trust has placed an emphasis on assisting organizations dedicated to helping families heal together.

Trust grants support wellness, mentoring programs, and alternative therapies to improve the future of veterans and their families.

As you can tell, the Trust supports a vast array of programs to aid and assist veterans through a multitude of challenges. One of the most important areas where we can improve quality of life for our heroes—one that is often overlooked—is recreation. That's where one of our newest partnerships comes into play.

We're proud to highlight Veteran Tickets Foundation for the wonderful work they do to provide event tickets to currently-serving military, veterans, and family members of those killed in action, allowing them to attend sporting events, concerts, performing arts and family activities.

Since 2008, Vet Tix has provided more than 2.8 million free event tickets to our community, giving back to those who have given so much. As we know, veterans experience many difficult transitions as they reintegrate into their families, communities, and, eventually, into civilian life.

Attending events improves morale, strengthens family bonds through shared interests, and encourages service members to stay engaged with local communities and American life.

Let's take a quick look at how this program is helping to change the lives of some of our ill and injured service members.

(Whereupon, a video on Veteran Tickets Foundation 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 Vet Tix Chief Strategy Officer Steven Weintraub. Steve. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Weintraub joined Charitable Service Trust President and Past National Commander Marbes at the podium.)

MR. STEVEN WEINTRAUB: Thank you, Dick. Good morning, Commander, leadership. Good morning, out there.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. WEINTRAUB: How many of you are Vet Tixers? A show of hands, how many people belong to Vet Tix? Okay. Well, thank you, Dick, and thank you to the DAV and the DAV's Charitable Service Trust for recognizing Veteran Tickets Foundation this year.

On that video you may have noticed some—I say—noticeable pictures there and those are all pictorial testimonials of Vet Tixers at events that they have attended through Vet Tix. And some of those were some Vet Tixers attending the NCAA Championship basketball game in Glendale, Arizona; Hamilton on Broadway; and a veteran that was sitting three seats away courtside from former President Bill Clinton at a Nets game.

So those are just some of the events that Vet Tixers have attended over the years since we've been established since 2008. And June of this year, we have hit our milestone of our 3 millionth ticket distributed to our Vet Tixers.

And what we did this year with the generous donation that the Charitable Service Trust provided to Vet Tix was we decided to make a spend in STEM—science, technology, engineering and math. So what we did was, with that grant, we purchased tickets to venues that are STEM related to include science centers and museums. And some of those locations were in San Antonio, Texas; Seattle; Philadelphia; Los Angeles; San Diego; and Dallas, to name a few.

And what we decided to do was, we realized that going to venues like that is very expensive, so for Vet Tixers to bring their family to that and their children learning about STEM can be very expensive. So we decided to take all that grant money and purchase tickets to those types of STEM related venues.

And what I'd like to do is just read two testimonials from some Vet Tixers that attended these events.

"My family and I want to give many thanks to Vet Tix and DAV for the donated tickets to the New York Hall of Science event. To say the least we had a great time, plus it was very educational and the extra tickets for the children's playground, it was fantastic."

"Thank you very much. I only get my sons only in the summertime, so the time we get to spend together is very important. The Hall of Science was definitely a high point of the summer so far. I really want to say 'thank you' to Vet Tix and DAV."

So these are just some examples of the events and the return on investment that not only DAV but Vet Tix makes to help our veterans and those currently serving.

Through the generous donation from DAV's Charitable Service Trust this is just another way how we help improve the quality of life of our veterans and service members.

Just a couple of stats that I want to talk to you about. As Dick said, we have 2.8 million now. We've hit that 3 million milestone in distributing tickets out to Vet Tixers. And in the past 30 days, we've enrolled over 19,000 new verified Vet Tixers; and we've distributed, like I said, over 3 million tickets.

And during the past 12 months and the last calendar year, we've distributed over 1 million event tickets to our members. So if you have not joined Vet Tix, please do so. Learn more about us at VetTix.org.

And one of the other things that I want to talk about is caregivers, because we've talked a lot about caregivers, and they're definitely the unsung heroes. So if you have a caregiver, whether it's a family member or non-family member, and you're a Vet Tixer, using those tickets is a great way to say 'thank you' to your caregiver and provide them with some respite and a way to say thank you for supporting you and your family.

So thank you, once again, for having me. It's an honor and a pleasure to be here among so many great people. Thank you all for your service. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Weintraub withdrew from the podium.)

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MARBES: Thank you, Steve. Your work clearly shows how important recreational activities are to our ill and injured veterans and their families, and is a great example of the DAV Charitable Service Trust's commitment to improving veterans' quality of life.

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.

And I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Bridgette Sorrell, the administrator of the Trust and her awesome group back at National Headquarters for the day-to-day support they provide to the Board.

Thank you, Commander, for the opportunity to make this presentation and recognize the tremendous services and support provided by the Trust's grant recipients. This concludes my report. God bless each and every one of you. And God bless the U.S. of A. (Applause)

# Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust

Financial Statements as of and for the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, and Independent Auditors' Report

Deloitte.

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Charitable Service Trust:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust (the "Trust"), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, 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, 2016 and 2015, 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.

Deloitte & Touche LLP

April 7, 2017

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**
**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015**

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | | |
| CASH | $ 3,678,468 | $ 1,984,991 |
| INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE | 59,418 | 58,268 |
| ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE | 293,913 | 43,535 |
| CAMPAIGNS' PLEDGES RECEIVABLE—Net of allowance for uncollectible pledges of $369,474 in 2016 and $374,136 in 2015 | 292,668 | 275,616 |
| PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHER | 7,549 | 8,123 |
| INVESTMENTS—Includes charitable gift annuity reserve balances of $6,673,220 and $6,434,162 in 2016 and 2015, respectively | 22,969,290 | 21,919,842 |
| TOTAL | $27,301,306 | $24,290,375 |
| **LIABILITIES AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS** | | |
| LIABILITIES: | | |
| Accounts payable—Disabled American Veterans | $ 475,567 | $ 252,191 |
| Accounts payable—other | 23,609 | 16,546 |
| Annuity payment liability | 4,512,873 | 3,951,243 |
| Total liabilities | 5,012,049 | 4,219,980 |
| UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS | 22,289,257 | 20,070,395 |
| TOTAL | $27,301,306 | $24,290,375 |

See notes to financial statements.

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

**STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES**
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015**

| | Unrestricted | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| SUPPORT AND REVENUE: | | |
| Contributions—net of assessment fees and provision for uncollectible pledges of $416,428 in 2016 and $401,102 in 2015 | $ 6,289,575 | $ 5,307,609 |
| Contributions of charitable gift annuities | 335,117 | 406,299 |
| Bequests | 1,325,434 | 934,084 |
| Interest and dividend income—net | 397,480 | 384,146 |
| Gain (Loss) on sale of investment securities | 9,297 | (93,291) |
| Total support and revenue | 8,356,903 | 6,938,847 |
| EXPENSES: | | |
| Program services | 5,604,684 | 6,328,295 |
| Management and general | 200,582 | 145,375 |
| Fundraising | 94,492 | 89,532 |
| Total expenses | 5,899,758 | 6,563,202 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) OF INVESTMENTS | 2,457,145 | 375,645 |
| CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) OF INVESTMENTS | 610,472 | (359,750) |
| CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY VALUATION ADJUSTMENT | (848,755) | |
| CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS | 2,218,862 | 15,895 |
| UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS—Beginning of year | 20,070,395 | 20,054,500 |
| UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS—End of year | $ 22,289,257 | $ 20,070,395 |

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

## STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
## FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

| | 2016 | | | | 2015 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Program Services | Management and General | Fundraising | Total | Program Services | Management and General | Fundraising | Total |
| EXPENSES: | | | | | | | | |
| Allocations to charitable programs | $ 5,491,932 | $ - | $ - | $ 5,491,932 | $ 6,224,085 | $ - | $ - | $ 6,224,085 |
| Grant proposal processing | 63,280 | | | 63,280 | 60,094 | | | 60,094 |
| Administrative charges | | 42,186 | 74,436 | 116,622 | | 40,064 | 70,320 | 110,384 |
| Travel | 3,023 | 15,996 | | 19,019 | 1,476 | 17,895 | | 19,371 |
| Advertising | 24,083 | 1,605 | 6,422 | 32,110 | 22,513 | 1,501 | 6,003 | 30,017 |
| Printing, postage and supplies | 3,204 | 3,221 | 457 | 6,882 | 3,732 | 3,903 | 995 | 8,630 |
| Legal fees | | | 6,840 | 6,840 | | | 6,840 | 6,840 |
| Professional fees | 17,202 | 91,766 | | 108,968 | 14,539 | 48,457 | | 62,996 |
| Insurance | 1,960 | 1,960 | | 3,920 | 1,856 | 1,856 | | 3,712 |
| Banking fees | | 35,572 | | 35,572 | | 25,827 | | 25,827 |
| Other expenses | | 8,276 | 6,337 | 14,613 | | 5,872 | 5,374 | 11,246 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | $ 5,604,684 | $ 200,582 | $ 94,492 | $ 5,899,758 | $ 6,328,295 | $ 145,375 | $ 89,532 | $ 6,563,202 |

See notes to financial statements.

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015**

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|---|---|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Change in unrestricted net assets | $ 2,218,862 | $ 15,895 |
| Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted net assets to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities: | | |
| Noncash investment contributions | (147,958) | (215,677) |
| Change in net unrealized (appreciation) depreciation of investments | (610,472) | 359,750 |
| Charitable Gift Annuity Valuation Adjustment | 848,755 | |
| (Gain) Loss on sale of investment securities | (9,297) | 93,291 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | |
| Interest and dividends receivable | (1,150) | (11,090) |
| Accounts receivable | (250,378) | (43,085) |
| Campaigns' pledges receivable | (17,052) | (3,630) |
| Prepaid expenses and other | 574 | 21,823 |
| Accounts payable—DAV and other | 230,439 | 74,620 |
| Annuity payment liability | (335,117) | (406,299) |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | 1,927,206 | (114,402) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Purchase of investments | (13,740,462) | (16,049,878) |
| Proceeds from the sale of investments | 13,458,741 | 15,875,236 |
| Proceeds from sale of software development in process | | 45,362 |
| Net cash (used in) investing activities | (281,721) | (129,280) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Proceeds from gift annuity agreement contributions | 734,337 | 832,972 |
| Payments to annuitants | (686,345) | (767,358) |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 47,992 | 65,614 |
| NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | 1,693,477 | (178,068) |
| CASH—Beginning of year | 1,984,991 | 2,163,059 |
| CASH—End of year | $ 3,678,468 | $ 1,984,991 |

See notes to financial statements.

## 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, 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.

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-13, *Financial Instruments - Credit Losses*, which is included in ASC Topic 326, Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments. The new standard revises the accounting requirements related to the measurement of credit losses and will require organizations to measure all expected credit losses for financial assets based on historical experience, current conditions and reasonable and supportable forecasts about collectability. Assets must be presented in the financial statements at the net amount expected to be collected. This standard will be effective for the annual financial statements beginning January 1, 2021. A modified retrospective approach is to be used for certain parts of this standard while other parts are to be applied using a prospective approach. Management has not yet evaluated the impact of ASU 2016-13 on the financial statements.

In August 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-14, *Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities*. Adoption of FASB ASU 2016-14 will result in significant changes to financial reporting and disclosure for not-for-profit entities. FASB believes the update will improve not-for-profit entities' financial statements and provide more useful information to donors, grantors, creditors, and other financial statement users. The standard is effective for annual financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, with application applied retrospectively; early adoption is permitted. Management is in the process of evaluating the impact on the financial statements.

**Cash—**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 was $9,808 and $7,122 in 2016 and 2015, 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 $292,668 are expected to be received in 2017. Amounts received from accounts previously written off are recognized as contribution revenue when received.

As a member of MFVSOA during 2016 and 2015, 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 $177,843 and $146,370 in 2016 and 2015, respectively, included in contributions within the statements of activities, for excess income recognized by MFVSOA in 2015 and 2014.

**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 $147,958 in 2016 and $215,677 in 2015.

**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, 2016 and 2015, are summarized below:

| 2016 | Cost | Fair Value | Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 502,949 | $ 502,949 | $ - |
| Commercial Paper | 626,467 | 627,913 | 1,446 |
| U.S. government securities | 892,494 | 888,498 | (3,996) |
| Certificates of deposit | 1,714,193 | 1,743,322 | 29,129 |
| U.S. government agency notes | 4,355,220 | 4,300,301 | (54,919) |
| Municipal bonds | 402,568 | 402,132 | (436) |
| Corporate bonds | 2,797,584 | 2,666,447 | (131,137) |
| Common stocks | 3,090,090 | 3,419,832 | 329,742 |
| Mutual funds/ETFs | 7,146,792 | 8,417,896 | 1,271,104 |
| Total | $ 21,528,357 | $ 22,969,290 | $ 1,440,933 |
| **2015** | | | |
| 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 | 6,954,397 | 7,749,781 | 795,384 |
| Total | $ 21,089,381 | $ 21,919,842 | $ 830,461 |

Interest and dividend income—net is $397,480 and $384,146 for 2016 and 2015, respectively. The year 2016 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of $462,136 less $64,656 for investment management and custody fees. The year 2015 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of $450,236 less $66,090 for investment management and custody fees.

As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, 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 2016 or 2015.

The Trust's policy is to recognize transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no transfers during 2016 and 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 have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2016 and 2015.

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 and Commercial Paper 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, 2016 and 2015, are as follows:

| 2016 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 | $ 502,949 | $ - | $ 502,949 |
| Commercial Paper | | 627,913 | 627,913 |
| U.S. government securities | 888,498 | | 888,498 |
| Certificates of deposit | | 1,743,322 | 1,743,322 |
| U.S. government agency notes | | 4,300,301 | 4,300,301 |
| Municipal Bonds | | 402,132 | 402,132 |
| Corporate bonds | | 2,666,447 | 2,666,447 |
| Common stocks | 3,419,832 | | 3,419,832 |
| Mutual funds/ETFs: | | | |
| Domestic equity funds/ETFs | 5,550,890 | | 5,550,890 |
| International equity funds | 2,867,006 | | 2,867,006 |
| Total mutual funds/ETFs: | 8,417,896 | | 8,417,896 |
| Total assets | $ 13,229,175 | $ 9,740,115 | $ 22,969,290 |

| 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 | $ 12,229,974 | $ 9,689,868 | $ 21,919,842 |

Fair value of the annuity payment liability of $4,512,873 and $3,951,243 as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, 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 2016 and 2015, 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 $172,830 and $158,648 in 2016 and 2015, respectively. As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, the Trust owed DAV $475,567 and $252,191, respectively. DAV provides the Trust with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge.

In 2016 and 2015, the Trust distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services:

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|---|---|
| Transportation Network | $ 200,000 | $ 200,000 |
| National Service Officers' Case Management System | 900,000 | |
| Mobile Service Office Program | | 10,000 |
| National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic | 364,380 | 322,193 |
| Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program | 45,000 | 45,000 |
| National Service Officer Programs—Other | 15,000 | 10,000 |
| DAV 5K Program | 42,069 | 14,750 |
| DAV “Just B Kids” Scholarship | 300,000 | 100,000 |
| DAV Employment Initiative | | 1,173,000 |
| Assistance to disabled veterans and their families | 206,310 | 125,970 |

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 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 2016 and 2015, the Trust granted $800,000 and $801,000, respectively, to the DAV National Service Foundation—Columbia Trust Fund for the DAV Transportation Network Van Grant Program. In 2016 the Trust also provided $2,100 to the DAV National Service Foundation for general purpose use.

## 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 $335,117 for the year ended December 31, 2016, are the result of the portion of gift annuity contributions that exceed the annuity payment liability estimated at the date of the contribution.

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, 2016 and 2015.

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Dick. May I have a motion to accept that impressive report?

MR. AL LABELLE: Commander, Mic 4.

COMMANDER RILEY: Mic 4.

MR. LABELLE: Al Labelle of Wisconsin, home of the legendary Dick Marbes, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER RILEY: That was a first. Can I have a second? Can I have a second for that report?

MR. JOHNSON: Mic Number 3, Jack Johnson, Chapter 150, Florida, so seconds.

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you. You have heard a first and a second. All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

I believe I speak for all veterans when I say we are eternally grateful for DAV's pivotal 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 here today by a well-known DAV leader who has led the charge to establish this memorial. He has been a continuous presence and a tireless 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.

It was a great pleasure last month to join Denny and his wife Donna in kicking off DAV's Unsung Heroes Initiative on Capitol Hill. While there, he met with senators, representatives, and national media, ensuring that they were well aware of the dire need to expand caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras.

Without further adieu, please give a hand—oh, you thought I was going to say "a hand," didn't you? (Laughter) Please give a warm welcome to Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation President Dennis Joyner. (Applause)

DAV ANNOUNCER: Past National Commander Dennis Joyner served in the U.S. 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 has been a leader within DAV and the veterans' community at nearly every level. A past Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, during his term as National Commander in 1983 and 1984, President Regan named him the nation's Handicapped American of the Year.

DVLMF PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DENNIS JOYNER: Thank you, Commander Riley, for your kind introduction. Adjutant Burgess, National Officers, delegates and guests, it has been nearly three years since our dream of a memorial to disabled American veterans became a reality. And I want to thank you and all of my brothers and sisters at DAV and the Auxiliary for the hard work that made it happen.

The DAV was the leading donor, including hundreds of chapters and thousands of members. For those of you that have helped support the Memorial with donations at the individual, chapter and department levels, please stand if able. If not, raise your hand and be recognized.

(Whereupon, donors stood or raised their hands and were recognized with a round of applause.)

DVLMF PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOYNER: Thank you. Financial support was not the only contribution offered by DAV.

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, former DAV Executive Director and past Secretary for Veterans Affairs.

I would like to take a moment now and introduce the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation Board of Directors: Vice-President Marc Burgess from Kentucky; Secretary-Treasurer Gene Murphy from South Dakota; and Directors: National Commander Dave Riley of Alabama; Jim Sursely from Florida; Dave Gorman of South Carolina; Bobby Barrera from Texas; and our Ex-Officio member Art Wilson of Florida.

The Memorial and its upkeep would not be possible without these thoughtful veterans. Thank all of you.

A Chapter in Virginia deserves special recognition for their ongoing efforts in maintaining the Memorial's visual luster. Please turn your attention to the screens for a short video.

(Whereupon, the video of Chapter 10 cleaning the Memorial was viewed.)

DVLMF PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOYNER: I want to thank the chapter from Virginia for all that you do. (Applause) Thank you.

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. Since then, the Memorial has been the site for many veterans and families to reflect on and to honor our nation's heroes.

We have had requests from schools to not only tour the Memorial but have veterans meet with students so they can better grasp the true understanding of service and sacrifice.

Recently, disabled Army veteran Zach Herrick volunteered to meet with a group of eighth graders from Virginia and explain what a Purple Heart is and what the Memorial means to him. Zach was serving in Operation Enduring Freedom when he was shot in the face. He only narrowly made his way out of the mountains of Afghanistan with his life.

He explained that's only a part of what this Memorial represents to him. "It just isn't surviving following an invisible or physical injury; it's living," he said as the group of junior high students he was addressing grew silent.

That is what this Memorial and what it represents accomplishes. It amplifies the voice of disabled veterans and speaks for us at times when we cannot.

Through organized events, broadcasts, and by word-of-mouth from many of you who share in my awe of the Memorial, countless veterans and loved ones have witnessed the impact of its message first-hand.

For those of us who have not had the pleasure of visiting the Memorial site in-person, a virtual tour of the Memorial can be accessed at any time through the Memorial website by any person interested in touring its remarkable features.

The site has had thousands of visits like those students from Virginia. And it's particularly meaningful because it makes the Memorial accessible to veterans who have mobility barriers.

As the Foundation enters a new stage of its 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 message from construction and dedication to one of education and outreach.

In 2017, the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial was selected as the winner of the 2017 Vetty Veterans Community Service Award, which meant that Commander Riley and myself were blessed enough to receive the award at the Vettys Presidential Inaugural Ball on January 20, 2017.

This would not have happened without the help of a true friend to our cause. At this time, I would like to invite the Commander Riley to come over for a special award presentation.

(Whereupon, Commander Riley joined President Joyner on the stage.)

DVLMF PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOYNER: It is my absolute pleasure to introduce and invite our next guest up on the stage.

Ladies and gentlemen, in keeping with our theme, I now ask Mr. Rick Fenstermacher to join me on stage for a special presentation.

(Whereupon, Mr. Fenstermacher joined President Joyner and Commander Riley.)

DVLMF PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOYNER: Rick was originally involved in the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial as a consultant in 2006. But in 2007, he joined the Foundation staff as the chief operating officer.

Rick would go on to be promoted to the chief executive officer in 2013. And under his leadership, the Foundation completed the Capital Campaign, secured final approvals from federal and local agencies, selected the construction and artisan contractors and successfully executed its responsibilities under the U.S. Commemorative Works Act for construction of the Memorial and dedication on October 5, 2014.

The Memorial has a special place in my heart, as I'm sure it does for most of you here today. It is with this in mind that we would like to present Mr. Fenstermacher with this award for his significant contribution to the construction and preservation of the Memorial.

(Whereupon, Mr. Fenstermacher was presented with the award, followed by an official photograph and a round of applause.)

DVLMF PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOYNER: Rick, would you like to say a few words?

MR. RICK FENSTERMACHER: Thank you, DAV. And it was my honor to serve you in delivering your Memorial. Thank you very much. (Applause)

DVLMF PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOYNER: And I would just say—not here in my report—that working with Rick and the job that he has done, the Memorial wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for him and his outstanding efforts. Thank you, again, so much, Rick. It's a well-deserved award.

I would like 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, the Auxiliary, and all of our outstanding members for their support.

You, DAV's members, are the reason and the means by which this Memorial became a reality. I believe you deserve a huge round of applause. Thank you very much. (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.

It is our great pleasure to represent this Memorial landmark in recognizing all of your service and sacrifices.

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

COMMANDER RILEY: Very good. Thank you, Denny. May I have a motion to accept that report?

MR. ARMANDO ALBARRAN: Mic 2.

COMMANDER RILEY: Mic 2.

MR. ALBARRAN: Armando Albarran from Texas, Chapter 5, makes a motion to accept Dennis Joyner's report.

COMMANDER RILEY: Very good. Thank you.

MR. JOHN RABER: Mic 3.

COMMANDER RILEY: Mic 3.

MR. RABER: John Raber, Chapter 18, Florida, seconds.

COMMANDER RILEY: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

Now, will you please welcome Danny Oliver of Oklahoma, newly-elected President of the Commanders and Adjutants Association for 2017-2018. (Applause)

MR. DANIEL OLIVER: National Commander Riley, National Adjutant Burgess, National Officers, delegates and guests, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. OLIVER: I am very honored to have been elected President of the Commanders and Adjutants Association for 2017-2018.

And we pledge that we will continue to support the DAV through our sponsorship of the State Commanders and Adjutants Orientation, the Mid-Winter Conference and the Winter Sports Clinic. And we are prepared and stand behind for a very, another productive year in the DAV.

I would like to, however, read into record the officers and committeemen for the year. President Danny Oliver, Oklahoma; Vice-President Cynthia Madison of Virginia; Executive Committeemen Brian Wilner, of South Carolina; John Donovan, from Arkansas; Kirk Johnson, from California; William Robinson, of South Carolina; Brigitte Marker, from Oregon; and Craig Vance, from Oklahoma.

And our infamous Secretary and Treasurer Dave Tannenbaum, from Florida. (Applause) Thank you. Judge Advocate Floyd Watson, of Wyoming. Chaplain Robert Delgado, of Texas. (Cheers) Our Sergeant-at-Arms Penny Larson, from Utah. Our Assistant Secretary/Treasurer—and Dave's bodyguard—Rita Alberegg, of Virginia.

Our Audit Committeemen: Frank Brown, from Virginia; and Burl Jimmerson, of Georgia; Nancy Espinosa, of Utah; and Terry Sanders, from Indiana. Our Constitution and Bylaws Committeemen are: Robert Arens, of Illinois; Robert Saddoris, of Minnesota; Joanne Gavin, from Washington; and Richard Egan, of Arkansas.

Our Resolutions Committee: Wanda Janus, from Oregon; Mason Causey, of Louisiana; Michael Elmore, of Missouri; (Applause) Samuel Mantilla, of New York.

And, lastly, our Special Projects: Dr. Jeremy Rogers, of North Carolina; Dina Garcia, of Washington; Ed Kalk, of our hosts, Louisiana; and John Patterson, of Maryland.

If I could get the National Commander and National Adjutant to join me.

(Whereupon, Commander Riley and Adjutant Burgess joined Mr. Oliver at the podium.)

MR. OLIVER: And on behalf of the State Commanders and Adjutants Association, I would like to present you with three of our donations for the National Service Fund.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I present you our annual $1,500 check, this year in honor of Fred Bristol, a $100 donation in honor of our immediate past president Theresa Johniken of Texas; (Applause) and with heavy heart another $100 donation in memory of Past CNA President Bill Anton, who passed on June 15th. So, Commander. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Oliver presented Commander Riley and Adjutant Burgess with the checks, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. OLIVER: Thank you.

COMMANDER RILEY: Thanks, Danny.

DAV ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, at this time, all those who wish to support the National Service Foundation may stand and make their way to the back.

COMMANDER RILEY: The DAV National Service Foundation, which was incorporated in 1986, has played a special role in ensuring the long-term financial stability needed to support DAV services at the local, state and national levels. Using resources from the Foundation, DAV is able to continue caring for veterans of today and tomorrow.

One of the Foundation's core missions is to support DAV's daily work to meet the most significant and immediate needs of veterans. This includes providing free professional assistance with disability claims and benefits; no-cost transportation to and from medical appointments; and other vital services imperative to the quality of life of veterans and their families.

With service before self in mind, it is only fitting and an honor to introduce President of DAV's National Service Foundation and past National Adjutant of DAV, Arthur H. Wilson. (Applause)

DAV ANNOUNCER: A native of Massachusetts, Art Wilson enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in September of 1962. 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 in Atlanta.

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.

He was appointed as DAV's National Adjutant and CEO in 1994, a position he held until his retirement in June of 2013. Following his retirement, he was elected President of DAV's National Service Foundation and serves as an Ex-Officio member of the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation Board.

He is also closely involved in the oversight of The Columbia Trust, a restricted fund within the Foundation that provides grants to support a variety of service programs.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT ARTHUR H. WILSON: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: I can hear you. Can you hear me?

(Response of "Yes.")

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thanks so much. Thank you, Commander Riley, for your very kind introduction. Adjutant Burgess, National Officers, delegates, friends and guests.

I'd like to begin this morning by introducing you to the DAV National Service Foundation's Board of Directors: Vice-President Marc Burgess; Secretary-Treasurer Alan Bowers; and our Directors are National Commander David Riley, Joseph Johnston, Daniel Contreras, Cleveland Bryant, and Ex-Officio member, the DAV Board Chair, Moses McIntosh.

I am extremely proud to present our report on the wonderful programs and services that the National Service Foundation is able to help support, because we know the end result is a better life for disabled veterans and their families.

But first, I want to take just a moment to reflect on the life of my good friend and close confidant, Fred Bristol.

An organization like DAV, which has stood the test of time for nearly a century, is peppered with men and women who have helped to chart its course. Fred was one of these individuals. He was influential and part of, not just my life, but in the life of DAV.

Each of us in this room, and no doubt many disabled veterans who will follow us into the future, will be forever tied to the contributions Fred made and this incredible legacy that he has left behind. We will miss him dearly and honor him by carrying forward DAV's mission of service to our nation's veterans.

In carrying out our mission, DAV recognizes that many need access to quality 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.

This is especially critical for the men and women who have come home ill or injured as a result of their military service. And it is our goal to ensure that no veteran has to walk that path alone. We have held steady in that objective over the past year.

And I'm thankful to everyone who, once again, helped us raise $1.8 million in donations and bequests for the Foundation in 2016. It's your tremendous generosity—(Applause) It's your tremendous

generosity that allowed the Foundation to remain strong, with net assets of almost $121 million at year-end. Thank you so much. (Applause)

Veterans can best be honored through the wise stewardship of each dollar entrusted in the Foundation. The Foundation's unwavering commitment to this model is clearly demonstrated through the nearly $2.3 million that was expended toward direct programs of services for veterans and their families last year. This represents 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 towards ensuring long-term financial stability of DAV's service program so we can continue offering these 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, and assisting with disability claims, and other services proudly provided by DAV.

Veterans also have free advocacy and representation at the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals of Claims because of your very generous support.

Throughout 2016, the Foundation expended $415,000 to help the National Organization provide necessary services to veterans and their families. Largely, this support aided our National Service program, which provides veterans with no-cost professional claims service throughout the nation.

Another way the Foundation is able to provide direct support is to help veterans and their families through The Columbia Trust, a restricted fund that assists DAV Departments and Chapters in providing services to veterans and their families at the state and local levels.

Notably, the DAV National Organization matches each dollar that you, your Chapter or your Department donates to this fund, effectively doubling the value of your gift.

In 2016, the Trust provided more than $1.8 million to DAV Chapters and Departments to support projects and programs the areas of service such as DAV's Transportation Network, Hospital Service Coordinators, Department Service Officers, and Homeless Veterans programs.

Looking through the Foundation's 2016 Annual Report, you will see that we have had another terrific year. We are incredibly fortunate to have such committed members, and organizations, and others dedicated to our cause who continue to express their devotion through contributions to the Foundation all throughout 2016.

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 have created a special place for them called the National Honor Roll of Exceptional Lifetime Donors.

One such donor is the Washington, D.C., law firm of Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner. The firm was the first law firm to partner with DAV in offering pro bono representation at the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals and still plays a key role in that program today.

In 2014, it received the DAV National Service Foundation Exceptional Donor Award for its remarkable contributions to both the Foundation and the veteran community. The firm, whose total lifetime contributions are now near the $1.8 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, which began in 1979. Since then the Chapter has contributed a combined lifetime total of over $582,000. Thank you, Chapter 2. (Applause)

Distinguished support of our veterans deserves special recognition. This year, 29 benefactors have earned a place or a higher position in our Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donors, located at our offices in Washington, D.C.

But now, I'd like to take a moment just to recognize the S.L. Brown Chapter 11 from the Department of Colorado, and the Bristol Chapter 39 from the Department of Tennessee for their outstanding contributions, which reached a thousand dollars or more in 2016, thereby earning them the DAV National Service Foundation Commendation Award.

In addition to the model efforts of these Chapters and Departments, I would like to express our gratitude to the individuals, couples, family foundations and companies and other organizations who have earned special recognition past year.

Eighty-nine benefactors took a place on the Honor Roll of Benefactors or attained a National Service Foundation Commendation this year. Additionally, there were 46 Departments and Chapters who earned Distinguished Donor Certificates for their generous giving in the past year.

To all of our donors, you inspire us with your dedication to our mission. Congratulations to you all. And, again, I offer to you my sincere gratitude. Thank you. (Applause)

Now I would like to take just 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—and I'm sure you are—extremely proud of the impact that you have 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 Pacesetting Performance Award recognizes the NSO in each division who has the largest cumulative total of contributions made in his or her name. I would like to ask Jim to help me now 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 $6,975. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 1 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Award was presented to Mr. Laverdiere, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Jim. Division 2, National Service Officer Miguel Cintron of Newington, Connecticut, who is credited with $6,751. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 2 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Award was presented to Mr. Cintron, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Division 3, National Service Officer James (sic) Braun of Saint Louis, Missouri, with a grand total of $39,630. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 3 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Award was presented to Mr. Braun, 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 $13,919. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 4 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting 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 Officer Mike Brady of Cleveland, Ohio, with a total of $12,104. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 5 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Award was presented to Mr. Brady, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Please join me in once again thanking all of these incredible National Service Officers. (Applause)

You know we all share in the same mission. And I hope you are as inspired as I am by the generosity of our fellow veterans and supporters. Now I want to call on you, your Chapters and Departments to be a part of that cause. This is a way to donate in honor of our friends, and brothers and sisters, to commemorate our fallen comrades and brothers and sisters.

One such fallen comrade, Fred Bristol, redefined how DAV raises funds through his efforts and with our direct mail campaign programs. National Commander Dave Riley, on behalf of the Department of Alabama, will be honoring Fred and his partner, Roger Gallagher, with a donation to the National Service Foundation. Commander.

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Art. Thank you. I'd like to lead this off with a donation to the Winter Sports Clinic for $500. This donation is from everybody that has kind of assisted me along the way. The Department of Alabama, I appreciate all the help that you've done, everybody there. And I want to thank you for a great year. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Commander. We extend our heartfelt thanks to you and your entire campaign committee for this gift in memory of Fred. Congratulations on a wonderful year. (Applause)

I'm also pleased to acknowledge two contributions that have already, we've already received from the New Jersey Ocean County Memorial Chapter 24: $200 for the National Service Foundation, and the second to The Columbia Trust in the amount of $200.

So here we are, able to show our commitment and support to our nation's finest through the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund or The Columbia Trust. The thermometer is now up. We are awaiting your generous donations.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Colorado Chapter 7 would like to start this off with a donation of $5,000 to the Columbia Trust, sir. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: On behalf of the Department of Arkansas, I'd like to donate to the Columbia Trust $2,500. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ouachita Chapter 46, Arkansas, would like to donate $250 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. LISA SLOAN: Lisa Sloan, Bennington, Vermont, on behalf of Chapter 4, we're making a $25 donation to Columbia Trust and the NSO. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. SEAN JERNIGAN: Sean Jernigan, Department of Maine, on behalf of Chapter 6 up home, in Bangor, I have a check for $600; on behalf of Chapter 1 in Augusta, another check for $500; and from the Department of Maine, a check for $1,000, for a grand total of $2,100. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. BRIAN WILNER: Art, Brian Wilner, Commander, South Carolina, it is my honor to donate $500 to the Columbia Trust, $500 to the Winter Sports Clinic, $1,500 to the National Service Foundation; and we turned in $500 yesterday for Camp Corral on behalf of South Carolina. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. CHRIS KNOWLTON: Chris Knowlton, Department of North Carolina, I'd like to donate $1,000 to the National Service Foundation on behalf of the Department of North Carolina. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning.

MS. BETTY BROWN: Good morning. Betty Brown, Department of Maryland. I'd like to donate $1,000 to the national trust fund in honor of our fallen comrade PDN Ernie Lyles, Chapter 22, Maryland. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: On behalf of my local chapter, Chapter 12, in Rhode Island, I'd like to make a $500 donation to the National Service Foundation and a $500 donation to the Columbia Trust.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR. ED HANKEY: Commander, Ed Hankey, Department of Pennsylvania. We donate $1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. CHESTER McLAUGHLIN: Treasurer McLaughlin with Chapter 32 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. On behalf of the Chapter, a donation, $250, to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. JOSE BAEZA: Good morning. I'm Joel Baeza from the great State of Arizona. We'd like to donate $2,500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

MR. MIKE STITH: Mike Stith, Chapter 35, Ohio, $1,250 to the National Service Foundation in honor of National Service Officer Jacob Drost. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

MR. JIM HADDOWAY: Jim Haddoway, State Department of Missouri, in honor of our NSOs in Saint Louis, has a donation of $25,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. PAM BEALE: Commander, Pam Beale, we have two donations, one from the Department of Alaska for $1,500 to the National Service Trust Fund and $1,500 from Chapter 7 for $1,500 for the National Service Trust Fund Foundation. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In honor of Fred Bristol—we didn't know him personally but we know, understand, and respect his legacy—West Allis Chapter 19, Wisconsin Department would like to donate $1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. DEAN TRAVIS: Dean Travis with Chapter 2 from Missouri. I'd like to donate $30,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. ROLLY LEE SR.: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. LEE: Rolly Lee, aka Big Dog, from the Pure Michigan State, also home of Jim Harbaugh and the Michigan Wolverines. (Cheers and Boos) I'd like to, in honor of our Past National Commander Tom McMasters, we have two checks, one for $2,500 for the National Service Foundation and one for $2,500 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. JAMES BAILEY: I'm James Bailey, State Commander, DAV Department of Ohio, the birthplace of the DAV. I'd like to donate $1,500 to the National Service Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. FRANK WILLIAMS: Frank Williams, State Adjutant for the Department of Ohio. On behalf of all the Department, I would like to donate $1,500 to the Charitable Service Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. GEORGE LINDSAY: Good afternoon. My name is George Lindsay, Chapter 17, Doylestown, Pennsylvania. And I would like to make a contribution in memory of Golon D. Vanderhoff, who left us in March, of $50 for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

MR. LENNY SHIRER: Commander, Lenny Shirer from the great State of Wisconsin, Department Commander. On behalf of the great State of Wisconsin, we are donating $2,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. BENJAMIN FLYNN: Benjamin Flynn, on behalf of the Department of Delaware, is submitting $200 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. BILL DOLAN: Bill Dolan, Commander, Department of Nevada. We have two donations to the National Service Foundation: Chapter 12 for $550 and another donation to the National Service Foundation for $800 from the Department and the Chapters in memory of the late William "Bill" Anton, Past Department Commander. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir.

MR. GREG CARTERELLI: Greg Carterelli, Chapter 15, Pahrump, Nevada, we would like to donate $500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir.

MR. JULIUS MARLEY: My name is Julius Marley, Chapter 1, Saint Louis. We'd like to donate $15,000 to the National Service Foundation in honor of the National Service Office in Saint Louis. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: What was that?

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Fifteen.

MR. CLARENCE MEYER: Clarence Meyer from Salina, Kansas, Chapter Number 11. We'd like to donate $500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir.

MR. CHARLES HICKS: Charles Hicks, Los Angeles Chapter 5, my personal donation, $100 to be split between the four programs. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. GLEN TURNER: Glen Turner, Chapter 117. I'd like to donate $100 for Roger Harwood, in memory of him, a two-time Vietnam combat medic. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. DAN FRANCIS: Dan Francis, Chapter 1 in South Dakota. I'd like to donate $500 to the National Foundation and or from Gene Murphy for Roger Andall, $200. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. EDWARD PETERS: I'm Edward Peters from the Department of Illinois. We'd like to donate $5,000 to the National Service Foundation in memory of Fred Bristol. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. FRANK WHITTIER: Frank Whittier, Department Commander of Massachusetts. In memory of Fred Bristol, we would like to donate $1,000 to the National Service Foundation and $1,000 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. RAY JOHNSON: Ray Johnson, Commander out of the State of Texas, Chapter 42, $1,000 to the National Service organization. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir.

MR. CLEVELAND BRYANT, JR.: Cleveland Bryant, Junior, representing the National Ninth District, comprising of Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. We are donating $1,000 to the National Service Foundation and $1,000 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. He's one of our Board members, you know.

MR. LEON BOOKER: Leon Booker, Commander, William E. Tate, Chapter 1 from the great State of Georgia. We would like to make a donation of $1,000 to the Columbia Trust and $1,000 to the National Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning, Chad.

MR. CHAD RICHMOND: Chad Richmond, Adjutant of Alabama. On behalf of the PDCs from Alabama, we'd like to donate $100 to the National Service Foundation in memory of Cecil Ray Morrison. And you know, one of our members just handed me his anonymous gift of $5. It's $5 but it is $5. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: It is. Thank you, Chad.

MS. DENISE WILLIAMS: Denise Williams, Commander, Department of Virginia. The members, the patriots and the volunteers of Virginia donate $20,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. PAUL DUBEY: Paul Dubey representing Chapter 46, Athol, Massachusetts. In memory of Paul Packadin and also because of Paul Packadin I have, for the fourth year in a row, to proudly present to the National Service Foundation a check for $10,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER ANDREW MARSHALL: Andy Marshall, Department of Florida. On behalf of Past National Commander Albert Linden, who is retiring after 30 years as our Department Adjutant, the Department of Florida would like to donate $4,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ALBERT LINDEN: Al Linden, Department Adjutant, great State of Florida, donating $2,500 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Stay here a minute. Hold on a minute. You know, PNC Linden has worked tirelessly on behalf of veterans. And in the last couple of years, I've been working a little bit with him in Florida and at this Convention I heard something about you were going to give $5,000. (Laughter) But I guess as Al's final act, as conservative as he might be, (Laughter) $2,500. Thank you, Al. (Applause)

MR. AL SORRENTINO: Hey, boss. (Boos) Excuse me. The National Order of Trench Rats this year is giving $5,000 to the ones that we're going to mention: service for kids, $2,000; Service Foundation, $2,000; and $1,000 to the Sports Clinic. (Applause)

And I'd like to introduce our incoming Imperial Golden Rodent Fred Powers. (Applause and Boos)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. RICHARD PATTERSON: Rick Patterson, Chapter 45, Alabama. I'd like to make a personal contribution of $100 in memory of Henry Servant, my childhood best friend killed in Vietnam in 1968, and another $100 contribution in honor of Fred Bristol. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Rick.

MR. LUIS BORGES-RIVERA: Good morning, Luis Borgez-Rivera from the Department of Puerto Rico. (Applause) We're giving two donations today, one for $300 for the National Service Foundation and $200 for the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. WILLIE ATKINSON: Good morning, Willie Atkinson from the Department of Georgia. I would like to donate $1,000 to the Columbia Trust and $1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir.

MR. FRANK CHICOLLA: Frank Chicolla, Commander for the great State and Department of Florida, would like to donate two to the national federation here, National Service Foundation. I'd like to donate $100 in honor of our past Commander Jack Johnson and also $1,000 in honor of Fred Bristol. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. RANDALL JAMES: Randall James, Commander, Chapter 7, Oakland, California. I'd like to donate $300 to the National Service Foundation on behalf of the Chapter. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. BOB HILL: Good morning. Bob Hill, Department of South Dakota. On behalf of the Auxiliary of South Dakota, we'd like to donate $150 to the Columbia Trust, and on behalf of the Department of South Dakota, in honor of Owen Richards, our National Service Officer, we donate $500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DENNIS JOYNER: I'm Dennis Joyner. I'd like to make a personal donation to the National Service Foundation in memory of a very good and dear friend who was very helpful, you know, to me, for a lot of years because it was a lot of years ago, whenever I would—became Commander of this organization. I'd like to make a personal donation in the amount of $1,000 in memory of Fred Bristol. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Denny.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ALAN BOWERS: Believing in the National Service Foundation's current work and also in the future of the National Service Foundation, Terry and I are donating $1,500. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. JOHN GROWER: John Grower, Department Commander for the great State of Mississippi. We donate $1,000 to the National Service Foundation in honor of our past, present and future NSOs. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. MICHAEL AGUIRRE: Mic Aguirre, PDC from the State of Minnesota. I'd like to donate, National Service Foundation, a donation of $15,000 in memory of Fred Bristol. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Wow. Thank you.

MR. DAVE VALTINSON: Dave Valtinson, DAV of Minnesota Foundation, we'd like to donate $15,000 in memory of Fred Bristol. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, again.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning. In memory of Fred Driscoll, (sic) the Department of Oklahoma Auxiliary Juniors would like to donate $5,000 to the Winter Sports Clinic. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The Department of Oklahoma would like to donate $1,000 to the National Service Foundation in memory of Fred Bristol. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Applause.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In honor of the late Gordon Caldwell, World War II veteran, Jill and I would like to contribute $1,000 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: On behalf of Chapter 11, the Department of Mississippi, we would like to donate $1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: On behalf of myself I'm making a personal donation to the Columbia Trust. And on behalf of our Chapter, Blue Bonnet 20, the great State of Texas, we wish to be a corporate sponsor to the San Antonio 5K in the donation of $2,500. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. DAN ANDERSON: Dan Anderson, Chapter 4, Florida, in memory of my dad, Bob, a National Service Foundation donation in the amount of $100. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Dan.

MR. GUY ANASTASIA: Guy Anastasia, Commander of the State of California and home of Ms. Delphine. (Applause) We'd like to donate $20,817.99 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause) And we also have a check from the National Order of Trench Rats Sector South of California for $1,000 to Camp Corral. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. MICHAEL KERR: Good morning. Michael Kerr. On behalf of DAV Charities of Central California and our President George "Sherbert" Steese, I have a check for $2,500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. JOHN CARVER: Johnnie Carver, Department of Tennessee. I'd like to donate $2,500 to the Columbia Trust, $2,500 to the Winter Sports in honor of Fred Bristol. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: On behalf of the greater Little Rock Chapter 7 in Arkansas, I donate $250 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning, Al.

MR. ALFRED REYNOLDS: Good morning. I'm Al Reynolds, Commander, Decatur, Macon County 17. We have a check for $10,000 for the Columbia—no, excuse me—the National Service Foundation in memory of Fred Bristol. Also got a check for $5,000 for the Winter Sports Clinic. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. STEVE MILLER: Good morning. I'm Steve Miller, the Commander of the Department of Colorado. And for the Department of Colorado we wish to donate $5,000 to the National Service Foundation. Thanks for this honor. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. MILLER: Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. WANDA JANUS: Good morning. I'm Wanda Janus from Chapter 1 in Portland, Oregon, and I'm making a personal donation to the National Service Foundation for $250. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning, N'Awlins. On behalf of a veteran who is too ill to make it down to N'Awlins himself, donating $2,500 to the National Service Foundation on behalf of NSO Chris Chaney. I'm the assistant supervisor for the Roanoke, Virginia, NSO office. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. VELTON BOWIE: Good morning. My name is Velton Bowie, Commander, Chapter, Decatur, Georgia, Chapter 91. I make this $200 donation on behalf of the Chapter for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. RAYMOND HINTHORN: Good morning. Ray Hinthorn, Department Commander for the great State of Idaho. I'd like to donate $400 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir.

MR. AL LABELLE: Good morning. Al Labelle of Wisconsin. I'd like to make a personal $500 donation to the National Service Foundation in memory of Fred Bristol, whose efforts, along with others, have helped make DAV a premier veterans' service organization. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. ISRAEL RIVERA: Good morning. I'm Israel Rivera, Commander, Department of New York. I'm making a donation in memory of Sidney Sailor, Edward Lamour, and George LaPorter, $300; in honor of Fred Bristol, $1,000; and the Charitable Service Trust, $5,000. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. DARLENE SPENCE: Good afternoon or good morning. My name is Darlene Spence and I'm from the—I'm the Adjutant for the Auxiliary from the Great State of Texas. (Applause)

Our junior members have worked tirelessly hard all year long, and I'm here to make a $5,000 donation toward the Winter Sports Clinic. (Applause) I would also like to introduce two of the individuals that have been responsible for helping these juniors get to that point.

This is the State Commander for the Auxiliary Charlene Parker. (Applause) And this is Maxine Nixon. She's the Junior Activities Chairman. (Applause) And now I'd like to have one of the juniors say a few words.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNIKEN: My name is Will Johniken, and I'm a junior member for the Auxiliary from Texas along with these four right here. And starting at State Convention two months ago, we had a goal of $2,500, and then we ended up doubling it, having $5,000. And since we made our own money, we decided to make our own check. (Applause)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Let's get a picture.

(Whereupon, the juniors presented their "check" to Adjutant Burgess, President Wilson and Commander Riley, at which time an official photograph was taken followed by a round of applause.)

MS. DIANE SMITH: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. SMITH: I'm Diane Smith. I am the Adjutant of Chapter 27 in the great Garden State of New Jersey. I would like to make a $200 donation in memory of Royce Ray, Chapter 27, and Walter Isaac, Chapter 42, may they rest in peace: $100 to the Columbia Trust, $100 to the Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. ROBERT CUDWORTH: As a proud member of Chapter 1, Scranton, Pennsylvania, the second-oldest Chapter in the nation, I make a personal donation of $500 to the National Service Foundation in memory of my brother, First Lieutenant Elmer Cudworth, U.S. Army/Air Force, KIA. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

COMMANDER RILEY: Here, let me fix your hat.

(Whereupon, Commander Riley reached for the hat, followed by laughter.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning, sir.

MICHAEL H. GOLDBERG: Good morning, sir. Good morning. I'm Michael H. Goldberg and I was lucky enough last September to be appointed by David Riley as a National Deputy Chief-of-Staff, but I

wanted to give in memory of Jane “Breeze” Baker $50. And she was a Vietnam nurse. And in honor of Kenneth Winget, $50, past State Commander ’93-’94. He’s still alive, but he could not be here today.

And to my favorite, $100 to the “mover and shaker” that makes California happen, Daniel Contreras. God bless you, Daniel. (Applause) Thank you for all you do. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. JAMES TANNER: Good morning.

(Response of “Good morning.”)

MR. TANNER: Jim Tanner, Past Department Commander of Massachusetts. I’d like to make a personal donation to the National Service Foundation in memory of Joseph R. Harold. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Wally.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WALLACE E. TYSON: Thanks. My name is Wally Tyson, Past National Commander. I’d like to make a personal donation, $100, in memory of Fred Bristol, to the DAV National Service Foundation. And on behalf of Clearwater, Florida, Chapter Number 11 also to the National Service Foundation in memory of Fred Bristol $200. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Wally. Well, thank you, all. Do I read that correctly? Can you see that—$432,000 collected today?

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Yes.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Fantastic. Thank you all so much. (Applause) I just—I didn’t want to do this in the beginning but I will do it now. I want to make a personal donation in memory of Fred Bristol to the National Service Foundation of $1,000. (Applause)

To you, all of our supporters of the Foundation, we offer our most sincere thanks. By generously aiding to the National Service Foundation you are truly empowering veterans to build successful and fulfilled lives. Your generosity goes a long way to ensuring DAV’s critical services and programs.

Thank you, Commander. That concludes the report of the National Service Foundation. God bless you all. (Applause)

# Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation

Financial Statements as of and for the
Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, and
Independent Auditors' Report

Deloitte.

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the Board of Directors of
Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation (the "Foundation"), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, 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, 2016 and 2015, 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.

Deloitte + Touche LLP

April 7, 2017

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**
**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015**

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | | |
| CASH | $ 2,646,703 | $ 2,954,176 |
| INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE | 64 | 36 |
| ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE | 463 | 26,172 |
| INVENTORY | 7,560 | 9,203 |
| PREPAID EXPENSES | 3,924 | 393,892 |
| INVESTMENTS | 118,502,274 | 112,914,789 |
| TOTAL | $ 121,160,988 | $ 116,298,268 |
| **LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** | | |
| LIABILITIES: | | |
| Due to Disabled American Veterans | $ 120,777 | $ 24,021 |
| Other liabilities | 161,139 | 275,089 |
| Total liabilities | 281,916 | 299,110 |
| NET ASSETS: | | |
| Unrestricted: | | |
| General | 21,326,664 | 21,171,251 |
| The Columbia Trust | 1,476,091 | 1,665,110 |
| Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund | 32,670,528 | 31,823,558 |
| Accumulated net unrealized appreciation of investments | 7,884,982 | 6,483,700 |
| Total unrestricted | 63,358,265 | 61,143,619 |
| Temporarily restricted | 57,293,313 | 54,632,045 |
| Permanently restricted | 227,494 | 223,494 |
| Total net assets | 120,879,072 | 115,999,158 |
| TOTAL | $ 121,160,988 | $ 116,298,268 |

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
## FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

| | 2016 | | | | 2015 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Permanently Restricted | Total | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Permanently Restricted | Total |
| SUPPORT AND REVENUES: | | | | | | | | |
| Support — contributions and bequests | $ 846,970 | $ 945,732 | $ 4,000 | $ 1,796,702 | $ 1,015,881 | $ 938,454 | $ 4,200 | $ 1,958,535 |
| Revenues: | | | | | | | | |
| Interest and dividend income — net | 1,528,985 | 1,467,952 | | 2,996,937 | 1,851,054 | 1,754,537 | | 3,605,591 |
| (Loss) Gain on sale of investment securities | (47,913) | 16,388 | | (31,525) | 591,444 | 317,036 | | 908,480 |
| Sales of fraternal items | | | | | 1,200,855 | | | 1,200,855 |
| Total revenues | 1,481,072 | 1,484,340 | - | 2,965,412 | 3,643,353 | 2,071,573 | - | 5,714,926 |
| Net assets released from restrictions | 953,020 | (953,020) | - | - | 942,261 | (942,261) | - | - |
| Total public support and revenues | 3,281,062 | 1,477,052 | 4,000 | 4,762,114 | 5,601,495 | 2,067,766 | 4,200 | 7,673,461 |
| EXPENSES: | | | | | | | | |
| Program expenses: | | | | | | | | |
| Grants and expenses in accordance with The Columbia Trust | 1,830,036 | | | 1,830,036 | 1,312,064 | | | 1,312,064 |
| Appropriations to DAV National Headquarters and other organizations | 422,022 | | | 422,022 | 122,574 | | | 122,574 |
| Costs of fraternal items sold | | | | | 905,722 | | | 905,722 |
| Other program expenses | | | | - | 160,403 | | | 160,403 |
| Total program expenses | 2,252,058 | - | - | 2,252,058 | 2,500,763 | - | - | 2,500,763 |
| Management and general expenses | 118,506 | | | 118,506 | 165,695 | | | 165,695 |
| Fundraising expenses | 97,134 | | | 97,134 | 93,237 | | | 93,237 |
| Total expenses | 2,467,698 | - | - | 2,467,698 | 2,759,695 | - | - | 2,759,695 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) OF INVESTMENTS | 813,364 | 1,477,052 | 4,000 | 2,294,416 | 2,841,800 | 2,067,766 | 4,200 | 4,913,766 |
| CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) OF INVESTMENTS | 1,401,282 | 1,184,216 | | 2,585,498 | (2,547,316) | (2,205,433) | | (4,752,749) |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | 2,214,646 | 2,661,268 | 4,000 | 4,879,914 | 294,484 | (137,667) | 4,200 | 161,017 |
| NET ASSETS — Beginning of year | 61,143,619 | 54,632,045 | 223,494 | 115,999,158 | 60,849,135 | 54,769,712 | 219,294 | 115,838,141 |
| NET ASSETS — End of year | $ 63,358,265 | $ 57,293,313 | $ 227,494 | $ 120,879,072 | $ 61,143,619 | $ 54,632,045 | $ 223,494 | $ 115,999,158 |

See notes to financial statements.

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

### STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
### FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

| | 2016 | | | | 2015 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Program | Management and General | Fundraising | Total | Program | Management and General | Fundraising | Total |
| EXPENSES: | | | | | | | | |
| Allocations to charitable programs | $ 2,210,303 | $ - | $ - | $ 2,210,303 | $ 1,390,198 | $ - | $ - | $ 1,390,198 |
| Costs of fraternal items sold | | | | | 905,722 | | | 905,722 |
| Grant proposal processing | 37,997 | | | 37,997 | 40,936 | | | 40,936 |
| Administrative charges | | 37,997 | 27,389 | 65,386 | | 40,936 | 25,968 | 66,904 |
| Travel | | 11,348 | | 11,348 | | 8,571 | | 8,571 |
| Postage and shipping | 35 | 5,011 | 34,853 | 39,899 | 100,270 | 5,332 | 32,466 | 138,068 |
| Printing, stationery and supplies | 540 | 3,923 | 23,105 | 27,568 | 58 | 14,433 | 24,525 | 39,016 |
| Advertising | | | | | 38,519 | | | 38,519 |
| Legal fees | | | 6,840 | 6,840 | | | 6,840 | 6,840 |
| Professional fees | | 33,372 | | 33,372 | | 28,328 | | 28,328 |
| Insurance | | 3,920 | | 3,920 | | 3,619 | | 3,619 |
| Registration fees | | 6,125 | 4,947 | 11,072 | | 5,877 | 3,438 | 9,315 |
| Awards | | 9,293 | | 9,293 | | 15,507 | | 15,507 |
| Banking & credit card fees | 3,183 | 7,457 | | 10,640 | 3,396 | 42,722 | | 46,118 |
| Miscellaneous | | 60 | | 60 | 21,664 | 370 | | 22,034 |
| TOTAL | $ 2,252,058 | $ 118,506 | $ 97,134 | $ 2,467,698 | $ 2,500,763 | $ 165,695 | $ 93,237 | $ 2,759,695 |

See notes to financial statements.

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015**

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|---|---|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets | $ 4,875,914 | $ 156,817 |
| Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Change in net unrealized (appreciation) depreciation of investments | (2,585,498) | 4,752,749 |
| Loss (Gain) on sale of investment securities | 31,525 | (908,480) |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | |
| Interest and dividends receivable | (28) | (30) |
| Accounts receivable | 25,709 | (19,644) |
| Inventory | 1,643 | 433,297 |
| Prepaid expenses | 389,968 | (368,490) |
| Due to Disabled American Veterans | 96,756 | (590,205) |
| Other liabilities | (113,950) | 75,280 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 2,722,039 | 3,531,294 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Purchases of investments | (24,454,115) | (32,889,165) |
| Proceeds from sale of investments | 21,420,603 | 29,937,184 |
| Proceeds from sale of software development in process | | 45,362 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (3,033,512) | (2,906,619) |
| CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITY: | | |
| Contributions of permanently restricted assets | 4,000 | 4,200 |
| NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | (307,473) | 628,875 |
| CASH — Beginning of year | 2,954,176 | 2,325,301 |
| CASH — End of year | $ 2,646,703 | $ 2,954,176 |

See notes to financial statements.

## 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.

In August 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-14, *Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities*. Adoption of FASB ASU 2016-14 will result in significant changes to financial reporting and disclosure for not-for-profit entities. FASB believes the update will improve not-for-profit entities' financial statements and provide more useful information to donors, grantors, creditors, and other financial statement users. The standard is effective for annual financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, with application applied retrospectively; early adoption is permitted. Management is in the process of evaluating the impact on the financial statements.

**Cash** — 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 $12,968 and $5,912 in 2016 and 2015, 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.

Foundation's unrestricted Board-designated endowment for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 5, had the following activity:

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|---|---|
| ublic support — contributions and bequests | $ 846,970 | $ 1,015,881 |
| evenues: | | |
| Interest and dividend income — net | 1,528,985 | 1,851,054 |
| (Loss) Gain on sale of investment securities | (47,913) | 591,444 |
| Sale of fraternal items | | 1,200,855 |
| Total public support and revenues | 2,328,042 | 4,659,234 |
| xpenses: | | |
| Program: | | |
| Appropriations to DAV National Headquarters and other organizations | 422,022 | 122,574 |
| Internal appropriation to Columbia Trust | 650,000 | 650,000 |
| Cost of fraternal items sold | | 905,722 |
| Other program expenses | | 160,403 |
| Grant proposal processing | 37,997 | 40,936 |
| Total program expenses: | 1,110,019 | 1,879,635 |
| Management and general | 118,506 | 165,695 |
| Fundraising | 97,134 | 93,237 |
| Total expenses | 1,325,659 | 2,138,567 |
| hange in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments | 1,401,282 | (2,547,316) |
| otal change in unrestricted Board-designated endowment fund | $ 2,403,665 | $ (26,649) |

2016 and 2015, appropriations to the Columbia Trust of $650,000 each year, is excluded from the ement of activities due to the transaction being an internal appropriation.

2016 and 2015, the Board has designated $1,476,091 and $1,665,110, respectively, as total stricted net assets for The Columbia Trust and are not included in the Board-designated endowment l. The Columbia Trust recorded a decrease in unrestricted net assets of $189,019 in 2016 and an ease of unrestricted net assets of $321,133 in 2015. No unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of stments is designated to The Columbia Trust's net assets from the unrestricted general fund.

**porarily Restricted Net Assets** — Funds contributed to The Columbia Trust are matched 100% by V, up to a maximum of $3,000,000 per year. In 2016 and 2015, The Columbia Trust received ,866 and $68,727, respectively, in contributions, which were matched by DAV.

016 and 2015, The Columbia Trust received $800,000 and $801,000, respectively, from the DAV ritable Service Trust to be used for the DAV Transportation Network Van Grant Program.

f December 31, 2016 and 2015, The Columbia Trust held $225,825 and $225,046, respectively, in ey market funds.

**manently Restricted Net Assets** — Contributions by the National Order of Trench Rats for the V Legislative Program are permanently restricted. Investment income of $6,848 and $8,381 in 2016 2015, 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 $227,494 and $223,494 as of December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, 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, 2016 and 2015, are summarized below:

| 2016 | Cost | Fair Value | Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 873,732 | $ 873,732 | $ - |
| Common stock | 5,603,982 | 7,284,559 | 1,680,577 |
| Mutual funds: | | | |
| Fixed-income funds | 49,150,854 | 48,901,972 | (248,882) |
| Equity funds / ETFs | 47,511,284 | 61,442,011 | 13,930,727 |
| Total | $ 103,139,852 | $ 118,502,274 | $ 15,362,422 |
| **2015** | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 910,990 | $ 910,990 | $ - |
| Common stock | 5,295,940 | 6,558,577 | 1,262,637 |
| Mutual funds: | | | |
| Fixed-income funds | 44,440,237 | 43,675,147 | (765,090) |
| Equity funds / ETFs | 49,490,698 | 61,770,075 | 12,279,377 |
| Total | $ 100,137,865 | $ 112,914,789 | $ 12,776,924 |

Interest and dividend income — net is $2,996,937 and $3,605,591 for 2016 and 2015, respectively. The year 2016 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of $3,059,696 less $62,759 for investment management and custody fees. The year 2015 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of $3,660,989 less $55,398 for investment management and custody fees.

As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, 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 2016 or 2015.

The Foundation's policy is to recognize transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no transfers during 2016 or 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 have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2016 and 2015.

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, 2016 and 2015, are as follows:

| 2016 | Fair Value Measurements Using: Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Asset Category** | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 873,732 | $ - | $ 873,732 |
| Common stock | 7,284,559 | | 7,284,559 |
| Mutual funds: | | | |
| Domestic fixed-income funds | 48,901,972 | | 48,901,972 |
| Domestic equity funds / ETFs | 43,628,147 | | 43,628,147 |
| International equity funds | 15,005,000 | | 15,005,000 |
| Real estate equity funds | 2,808,864 | | 2,808,864 |
| Total mutual funds | 110,343,983 | - | 110,343,983 |
| Total assets | $ 118,502,274 | $ - | $ 118,502,274 |

| 2015 | Fair Value Measurements Using: Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| **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 |

## 5. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During 2016 and 2015, DAV personnel assisted the Foundation on a limited basis in administering its business operations and fundraising program. For these services, the Foundation reimbursed DAV $101,026 and $103,896 in 2016 and 2015, respectively. At December 31, 2016 and 2015, the Foundation owed DAV $120,777 and $24,021, 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 $72,866 and $68,727 to The Columbia Trust in 2016 and 2015, respectively.

In 2016 and 2015, the DAV Charitable Service Trust made contributions of $800,000 and $801,000, respectively, to The Columbia Trust for the DAV Transportation Network Van Grant Program. In 2016, The DAV Charitable Service Trust made contributions of $2,100 to the NSF to be used in assisting disabled veterans and their dependants.

In 2016 and 2015, the Foundation appropriated the following in support of DAV programs and services:

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|---|---|
| National Service Office Furniture and Equipment Fund | $ 10,000 | $ 50,000 |
| National Service Office Copier Fund | 20,174 | 16,610 |
| National Service Office Reference Manuals | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| National Service Office Scanners | | 127,583 |
| National Service Office Structured & Continuing Training Program | 360,000 | |

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 of Directors. In performing the duties of their positions as a Foundation 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, 2016 and 2015, the grants and expenses of The Columbia Trust are as follows:

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|---|---|
| Grants to DAV chapters and departments in accordance with The Columbia Trust: | | |
| Hospital Service Coordinator Program | $ 569,534 | $ 460,004 |
| Transportation Network Van Grant Program | 1,098,468 | 706,592 |
| Other grants to service programs | 120,280 | 101,027 |
| Miscellaneous expenses | 3,757 | 3,505 |
| Grant proposal processing | 37,997 | 40,936 |
| Total | $ 1,830,036 | $ 1,312,064 |

In 2016, temporarily restricted net assets of $953,020 and designated, unrestricted net assets of $877,016 were used. In 2015, temporarily restricted net assets of $942,261 and designated, unrestricted net assets of $369,803 were used. The temporarily restricted net assets used, of $953,020 and $942,261, are shown as "Net assets released from restrictions" in the accompanying statements of activities for 2016 and 2015, 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, 2016, but before April 7, 2017, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

* * * * * *

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Art, for your outstanding report and continued leadership. May I have a motion to accept the report from President Wilson from the National Service Foundation?

MR. SIDDORIS: Mic 2.

COMMANDER RILEY: Mic 2.

MR. SADDORIS: Saddoris, Commander of Minnesota, I would make the motion to approve the report as given.

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you. May I have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mic 3.

MR. RICHARD VALDEZ: Richard Valdez, past State Commander, California, second.

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

At this time I will ask Vince Darcangelo of the POW/MIA Interim Committee, for a presentation. (Applause)

MR. VINCENT DARCANGELO: National Commander Riley, National Adjutant Burgess, Line Officers, DAV and DAVA members and guests, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. DARCANGELO: I am Vincent Darcangelo, chairman of the Interim POW/MIA Committee. And I am proud to represent our organization, the DAV, at the Department of Defense Family and Veterans Service Organizations Group.

The issue of accounting for our missing is very important to all of us, and we had two major setbacks in the past year. For over one year, the DPAA, which is the responsible for the accounting mission has not had a director and no leadership at the top. And we hope to fix that soon.

And, also, their budget was cut, undercut $20 million this year, which resulted in a 35 percent reduction in the activity that had to be cancelled.

Now, a good thing that happened was the Department of Defense sent Principal Director Fern Sumpter Winbush to our POW seminar yesterday, and she has informed us that the budget for next year appears to be fine and into the future appears to be okay, and they shouldn't have any financial problems.

Another good thing, in spite of the—in the current year, in spite of being underfunded by $20 million, the DPAA was able to bring home 105 sets of remains to the families and be buried here in the United States. (Applause) The breakdown, there were 54 World War II; 46 Korean; and 5 Vietnam. And thankfully, those families' answers have, the questions have been answered.

Another thing I want to talk about real briefly, our Committee has been working for almost two years on a POW/MIA Strategic Guide which I have, I am holding in my hand. The DAV's taking the lead in POW/MIA awareness. And we are going to distribute these to every Department and every Chapter. It's also going to be downloadable, PDC (sic) format, on our DAV National website.

And this will help every Chapter and Department—which we found out some Departments don't even have a POW/MIA Committee, so hopefully this will help generate national awareness of the POW issue.

Before I go any further, can I ask, are there any POWs, former POWs in the audience today? If so, please stand and be recognized. Do we have any? I don't see. How about families of an MIA family? Any family member? I know there is at least one here. Yes.

(Whereupon, those present responded and were recognized with a round of applause.)

MR. DARCANGELO: I'd also like to introduce our Committee at this time. We have—our Committee advisor was Justin Hart—and, again, Committee members please stand and be recognized—from the Department of Pennsylvania, Wayne Stratus; from the Department of Oregon, Dick Lovegren; and from the Department of New Mexico, Eugene Webber. Please stand. And thank you, guys.

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

MR. DARCANGELO: And one thing I'd like to ask, again, if any family members are here the one message that Fern Sumpter Winbush brought from the Department of Defense is in order to achieve their goal of the fullest possible accounting they need DNA reference samples from families.

And so if you have not done that, please take the steps to donate your DNA reference sample. You can go on to the DAV website and DPAA website and they will show you who to get in contact to do that.

At the—the POW issue, we have a POW flag. And at the bottom of that flag are four words: You are not Forgotten. And, again, it is an undying DAV mission of the POW/MIA Committee that we will never give up on our unyielding determination to bring our POW/missing brothers and sisters home.

And so every time you fly that flag, a POW/MIA flag, you are giving that mission across. And I'd like to continue the tradition that we started quite a while ago of presenting to the outgoing National

Commander a POW flag as a thank you for his support of our Committee and the POW issue during the past year. Commander Riley, thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Commander Riley was presented with the POW/MIA flag, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. DARCANGELO: Thank you, sir.

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Vince. Marc, have you have any announcements?

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Would the—the Nominating Committee will meet 30 minutes right after the close of this session in the Churchill Room. So if you are on the Nominating Committee or the Committee on Nominations, meet 30 minutes after we're done here in the Churchill Room.

This afternoon's final business session will begin promptly at 1:30. We will start off with the important business of nominations and election of officers, so please be on time.

And we are again giving away three $50 gift cards to the DAV store, so if I call your name, come up front and see Doug Wells. And the lucky winners are John McGee, North Carolina; Ernest McAlister, Chapter 38; Dennis Hanneman, Ohio, Putnam Chapter Number 77; and John Adema, California Sacramento Chapter Number 6. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Marc. Chaplain Dover, will you lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Thank you, Commander. Ladies and gentlemen, let us pray. Heavenly Creator, may the matters discussed here this morning and the generosity of the contributions of our members serve as a catalyst to move us forward and cause us to advance and see growth in all areas of our organization. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER RILEY: The Convention stands in recess until 1:30 this afternoon.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 10:59 o'clock, a.m. on Tuesday, August 1, 2017.)

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## FINAL BUSINESS SESSION

### August 1, 2017

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The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 96th National Convention convened in the Grand Ballroom on the Lower Level of the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, Tuesday afternoon, August 1, 2017, and was called to order at 1:28 o'clock, p.m., by National Commander David W. Riley.

COMMANDER DAVID W. RILEY: The Convention will come to order. The Convention will come to order. As a reminder, once again we ask that everyone in attendance please turn off your cell phone and portable devices.

In opening this afternoon's business session, it is fitting and proper that we render the respect due to the flag. Hand salute.

(Whereupon, a hand salute was given to the flag.)

COMMANDER RILEY: Two. We will now be led in prayer by Chaplain Dover.

CHAPLAIN MICHAEL DOVER: Thank you, Commander. Ladies and gentlemen, let us pray. Heavenly Creator, as we gather to make decisions for our organization, we ask that You assist us in ensuring that the elections that take place this afternoon, that those quality of individuals that are elected and put in place will continue on with the fine traditions of this great organization. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER RILEY: As a reminder, in order for a delegate to be heard at this Convention—oh, sorry. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, Commander Riley gave a rap of the gavel to seat the membership.)

COMMANDER RILEY:—you must be recognized by the Chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. Upon being so recognized, the delegate must state their name, Chapter number, and the state they represent.

I would like to remind everyone that registration of delegates is now closed. I will call upon Chairman Warren Tobin for the final report of the Credentials Committee.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOBIN: Comrade Commander and delegates, this is the final report of the Credentials Committee and reflects the total registration as of 10:00 a.m., August 1st, 2017.

There are 1,286 delegates and 70 alternates registered which includes 32 Departments and 450 Chapters. There are 8 National Officers, 20 National Executive Committeemen and 9 Past National Commanders currently registered. The vote total is 8,865. At this time, I would like to extend my thanks to the Committee members and to our advisors.

Comrade Commander, that completes the final report of the Credentials Committee. On behalf of the Committee I move for its adoption.

COMMANDER RILEY: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MS. GERI MASSE: Mic 2.

COMMANDER RILEY: Mic 2.

MS. MASSE: Geri Masse, Chapter 36, Texas—

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you.

MS. MASSE: I accept the motion.

COMMANDER RILEY: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

Now I will call on Dan Stack, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, for his report.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DANIEL P. STACK: Well, it's always a thing—I've got to adjust this.

(Whereupon, Mr. Stack lowered the microphone.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STACK: Sorry about that. The Committee on Nominations of the National Officers met on Saturday, July 29th, at 4:15 p.m.; again on Sunday, July 30th, 1:00 p.m.; and the Committee met again today at 11:30 a.m. to review and interview more candidates.

We have elected the following individuals that we would recommended for National office.

For the office of National Commander, Delphine Metcalf-Foster from California; (Standing Ovation) for the office of National Senior Vice Commander Dennis Nixon from Texas; (Applause) for the office of First Junior Vice Commander, Stephen Whitehead from Minnesota; (Applause) for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander, Donald Day of New York; (Applause) for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander, Andrew Marshall, Florida; (Applause) for the office of National Fourth Junior

Vice Commander, Joseph Parsetich, Montana; (Applause) for the office of National Chaplain, Michael Dover, 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 RILEY: Thank you, Dan for your report. I will now call for a second that the report of the Committee on Nomination of National Officers be adopted and that the Committee be discharged.

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mic 1.

COMMANDER RILEY: Mic 1.

MR. STEINBAUGH: Michael Steinbaugh, Chapter 7 of the great State of California, seconds. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you. 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 Delphine Metcalf-Foster for National Commander. (Applause) Here to second the nomination is DAV Department of California Adjutant Dan Contreras. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Contreras advanced to the podium.)

MR. DANIEL CONTRERAS: Fellow veterans, I am honored to stand before this group of America's greatest, my fellow disabled American veterans, their families, our guests here at our 96th National Convention.

In addition to her role as DAV's National Senior Vice Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster currently serves on the First Data Military Advisory Council and is a member of the DAV Department of California Claims and Services Committee.

She has served as chairman for the DAV Department of California Resolutions Committee and completed a four-year appointment as a member of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Women Veterans in November of 2015.

A retired quality assurance work leader from the Alameda Naval Air Station in Alameda, California, Delphine's leadership has been sought at the local, state and national levels.

She served as chairman of the Hospital Volunteer Interim Committee, National Sixteenth District Executive Committee, and has served as a member of the Board of Directors as a Treasurer for DAV at the National level.

She has served as a state commander, a local Chapter commander, and all the offices within the Chapter and the Districts in the State of California.

But more than a 27-year member of our DAV, Delphine is an American warrior. And while it is my great honor—one I share with all the members of our state—to endorse Delphine, I do so on behalf of another soldier and a member of the DAV Department of California who could not be here today due to an emergency.

Command Sergeant Major Joseph Sweeney served with distinction and was a friend and mentor to the woman we put forward for DAV's highest post. A retired Oakland Police officer and civilian aid to the Secretary of the Army for Northern California, he served nearly 35 years before retiring at the rank of Command Sergeant Major.

He served tours of duty in Korea, Vietnam, the Berlin Brigade, and at Ford Ord, California. He also served as an advocate for the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program.

He impacted many soldiers in his three-and-a-half decades of service, including newly-elected Commander Metcalf-Foster. So it is in his words I will now read:

"Just prior to the outbreak of the first Gulf War—Desert Shield/Desert Storm—one of my battalion sergeant majors came to me asking if I could help him find the right soldier to serve as a first sergeant in a unique unit, a graves' registration unit."

He said, "I had met Sergeant First Class Metcalf during one of the senior NCO staff calls that I conducted quarterly. And, after speaking with Delphine for only about ten minutes, I knew that I had a leader standing in front of me who was destined for greater responsibility.

"Truly, I knew that this NCO was headed to the top of her profession. And nothing has changed. Delphine is headed to the top of whatever endeavors may lie in front of her.

"I referred Delphine to the battalion command sergeant major with a strong recommendation that he select her to be promoted and to serve as first sergeant.

"I also indicated to the sergeant major that I expected to see that particular improve its readiness, and with the selection of Delphine, I was confident that vast improvements were sure to come.

"Why? Because Delphine had her unit ready: ready to commit to whatever was needed; ready to fight; ready to sustain; and ready to win.

"I knew that under Delphine's leadership all would be well with the unit and, more importantly, with the soldiers and their families.

"Delphine, a California native—born and raised in Vallejo, California to a Buffalo Soldier of the Ninth United States Calvary and fighter in the Spanish-American War, learned early that service to nation and to veterans was and is second-to-none."

"Delphine carried this attitude of service not only into war, but she carries an amazing zest and zeal for our DAV. She'll serve our DAV with that committed passion and fortitude.

"We've seen or heard of Delphine's DAV record of service but please indulge me just a little bit more as I highlight some of her military accomplishments.

"If Delphine were in a uniform this evening, we would see her wearing more than eight ribbons and medals. Among them are the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, two awards of Army Achievement Medals and the Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Star.

"But more than ribbons, medals, civilian accomplishments and her DAV service of excellence what may have impressed me ever so much more was the day I was visiting Delphine at Letterman Army Hospital, at the Presidio of San Francisco, where then-First Sergeant Metcalf had been medevac'd from the theater.

"When asked what could I do for her, her immediate response was not directed to herself but to her brothers- and sisters-in-arms. She said to me in a humble plea, 'Sergeant Major, please let me get back to my soldiers and bring them home.' And she did.

"This is the type of leader the DAV has always had. And if we elect Delphine Metcalf-Foster as our National Commander, DAV's legacy of excellence, care, and service will continue as we fulfill our promises to the men and women who served with respect and dignity."

Delegates and guests, as I echo the words of her mentor and friend, it is a great honor to nominate DAV's first woman to our highest post for National Commander. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: Thanks, Dan. The Chair will now call for any further nominations for the office of National Commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations I close the nominations and declare Delphine Metcalf-Foster elected as National Commander and instruct the National Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for her election. (Standing Ovation)

ADJUTANT J. MARC BURGESS: I, Marc Burgess, National Adjutant of DAV, hereby cast one unanimous ballot for Delphine Metcalf-Foster, for the office of National Commander. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER RILEY: The Nominating Committee has nominated Dennis Nixon 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 Dennis Nixon elected as National Senior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Stephen Whitehead 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 Stephen Whitehead elected as National First Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Donald Day 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 Donald Day elected National Second Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Andrew Marshall 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 Andrew Marshall elected as National Third Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Joseph Parsetich for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations I will close the nominations and declare Joseph Parsetich elected as National Fourth Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Michael Dobmeier for the office of National Judge Advocate. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Michael Dobmeier elected as National Judge Advocate. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Michael Dover for the office of National Chaplain. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If

there are no further nominations, I close 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 offices.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I, Marc Burgess, National Adjutant of DAV, cast one unanimous ballot for Dennis Nixon of Texas as National Senior Vice Commander; Stephen Whitehead of Minnesota for National First Junior Vice Commander; Donald Day of New York for National Second Junior Vice Commander; Andy Marshall of Florida for National Third Junior Vice Commander; Joseph Parsetich of Montana for National Fourth Junior Vice Commander; Michael Dobmeier of North Dakota for National Judge Advocate; and Michael Dover of Georgia for National Chaplain. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Marc. I would like to ask that the newly-elected officers and their families be escorted to the stage, please.

(Whereupon, the newly-elected officers and their families were escorted to the stage.)

COMMANDER RILEY: Did anyone hear any glass falling from the ceiling?

(Whereupon, the sound effect of glass shattering was heard, followed by applause.)

COMMANDER RILEY: It is my great pleasure to now call on National Commander-Elect Delphine Metcalf-Foster for remarks. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER-ELECT DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER: Thank you, Commander. Thank you, Commander Riley. While I wish Sergeant Major Sweeney could be here today, it means so much to hear his words. As you heard Dan explain on his behalf, we have quite a history. Not only was he one of my mentors during my 20-year Army career, Sergeant Major Sweeney saw me off to my deployment to the Middle East.

More importantly, he was there when I was medevac'd back. The fear of uncertainty I felt that day is something many in this room know all too well. Worries about our military career, our families' reaction, on what the future holds with a new normal and what exactly that even means—it is a lot to take on.

But, fortunately, I didn't take it on alone; I had each one of you on my road to recovery. At my darkest hour, you were there. Your dedication, not only to me but the DAV mission, is what impressed me that this was an organization I knew I needed to invest in.

For my fellow Army veterans, you know the warrior's philosophy. We live it daily. "I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade."

The Army isn't the only organization where I have seen this mission in action. Here at DAV, we live by that credo every day. We put serving our veterans first. We will not accept defeat. We will not quit. And, most importantly, we will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am humbled to make history and, foremost, I want to thank God for my life. (Applause) Along my life's journey, I want to say that I never wanted to be treated differently because of my gender.

I was an older woman when I joined the Army. It wasn't easy. But I like to believe that I came through training with the same fighting spirit that my male counterparts did. And one of the great blessings from my experience was that my fellow soldiers looked out for me. They were there for me.

When we landed in theater, we spent our first night sleeping on body bags because we did not have blankets. And we hoped we wouldn't need them. But we knew they would not all come home empty.

In graves registration, we saw the worst of the war. We saw the full measure of sacrifice that our fellow veterans had made. It was heartbreaking at times, but we saw one another and helped each other at each level—and that was an important job. While at times gruesome, it was critical that we honor our soldiers and respect our warriors.

And when I became a casualty, the most difficult thing for me about being sent home was that it took me away from my soldiers.

I wanted to be there when they needed "top." I believed in my soldiers, and they believed in me. I cared for them and they cared for me. My gender, my color of my skin did not matter when there was a mission to be completed.

As a retired first sergeant, I believe strongly that all soldiers must be held at higher standards. And yet, being a woman wasn't a liability for me in the Army. I believe that our differences can often make us stronger. And when we put aside our egos and focus on the mission, it's amazing what we can accomplish.

At any time, I didn't join the military to be a minority. I joined the Army to be part of a team. That's what drew me to the DAV—the idea that I could be involved in something that is bigger than myself.

While it was an honor to continue my service as national commander, it is equally humbling. The position of trust our members have placed in me is a distinction I will never take for granted.

There are so many people I want to thank, but I need to start with someone who in the past year has demonstrated day-in and day-out what it means to be a leader of this organization we love so much.

Dave Riley, (Applause) yes, I want to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to you for your mentorship, friendship, and for an incredible year of hard work and service as our National Commander. You have set the bar to a standard I humbly try to match.

Serving with you on the National line has been an honor. I want you to know that I believe our organization is in a better place as a result of your leadership. Additionally, your unique perspective as both the first Coast Guard veteran and quadriplegic amputee to lead this organization has inspired many. And I hope my service as the first female National Commander will do the same.

I am proud to follow in the footsteps of patriots like Private Cathay Williams, who was born into slavery and later on concealed her identity as a female in order to enlist in the Army.

Another soldier who made it possible for me to stand here today is Colonel Ruby Bradley. Joining the Army in 1934, the surgical nurse was serving in the Philippines when she was taken captive by Japanese forces.

She continued to serve her fellow prisoners by treating the ill and injured, earning her and fellow captive nurses the nickname “angels in fatigues.” Colonel Bradley was held in captivity for 37 months. She went on to serve during the Korean War and dedicated three decades of her life to her country. She was only the third woman in the U.S. history to reach the rank of colonel.

Lastly, I want to highlight one more female soldier who has inspired me: Brigadier General Rhonda Cornum, fellow Gulf War veteran. Serving as a flight surgeon with the Famed 101st Airborne, during a rescue mission, her Black Hawk was shot down. Along with two other soldiers, she survived the 140-mile-per-hour crash, but with two broken arms, a bullet in the shoulder and knee damage, all before she, too, was taken captive.

General Cornum once said about the difficulties she experienced in life, to include the helo crash and period served as a prisoner of war, that “no matter how bad it gets, it will always get better.”

This resonated with me as I began my own road to recovery from Desert Storm. It has not always been a smooth path, but it is one that has led me here, and for that I am grateful.

That leads me to another important veteran I am humbled (sic) for: National Adjutant Marc Burgess, (Applause) for his leadership and the work he and his team have done alongside our members for crafting the opportunity we have to build upon our legacy.

A special recognition must be given to the DAV Chapter 21. I would also like to thank my Chief-of-Staff Kirk Johnson, California CEO Dan Contreras, past Department commanders as well as my committee members, and, of course, the entire Department of California. (Applause) I could not be here without you today. Will all my fellow Golden State Warriors—veterans—please stand and be recognized. Thank you.

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

COMMANDER-ELECT METCALF-FOSTER: Again, thank you. DAV, beyond any measure, is the absolute best veterans’ service organization in the world. That mission is accomplished through our service officers, chapters, mentors, and volunteers.

But I must thank the National Executive Committee, DAV Board of Directors, our professional staff, members and the partners in the Auxiliary for providing the strength needed to accomplish our mission. You each play a pivotal role in DAV’s success.

Finally, I want to recognize my family. There are four generations here today supporting me. And while I am so proud of my entire family and all those who have served, I need to take a moment to honor my father, a fellow Army veteran who served as a Buffalo Soldier. I know he is looking down at us from above and is proud of the work DAV is doing for our veterans.

As you have heard, I have a lot of inspiration that has led me here today. You have also seen that I am following a revered veteran in Past National Commander Dave Riley. I will honor his service this year by continuing to build upon his accomplishments.

I think it’s important to tell everyone about our goals in representing DAV and all of you. First, and most importantly, we will continue providing a lifetime of support to veterans and their families.

Our services, provided at not only no cost to veterans, is 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.

I speak from experience when I say that we will continue to be the leading voice of the unique issues concerning our sisters-in-arms and our returning women veterans. (Applause) Thank you.

We will march forward with new innovations surrounding the needs of returning veterans and their search for meaningful employment.

Building upon the great platform cemented by my predecessor, it is my intent to continue to fight on on behalf of a group of veterans currently being left behind.

Under current law our veterans who were injured prior to 9/11 are not entitled to the same caregiver benefits as those injured after. For spouses like Yvonne Riley, Donna Joyner, Jason Courneen, and the thousands of others who have shared a sacrifice with their veterans, we will not rest until that is changed. (Applause) Thank you.

In June, we rallied on Capitol Hill to spread the word about the Unsung Heroes. That campaign has just begun, and I look forward to expanding it until we have legislation that keeps the promise to veterans and caregivers of all eras.

During the coming year, we must remain a powerful force for advocacy for veterans. We'll make every effort to keep the promises made by our country to 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 million members to plainly tell lawmakers that we expect them to fully fund the VA so as to provide the health care and benefits earned by veterans.

When a man or a woman raises their hand and says, "Send me" when our nation calls, no one knows better than us that they are 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 that load. We ensure veterans do not get left behind.

I intend to continue addressing the 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.

There is so much to do, but I cannot do it alone. I have confidence in each one of you, and I will count on your support and expertise as we continue fighting for veterans and their families.

May we continue to succeed in our sacred mission, and may God bless the DAV and those who represent it. Thank you very much. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Commander Riley placed the National Commander's cap on the head of Commander-Elect Metcalf-Foster, at which time an official photograph was taken, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER RILEY: I'd now like National Senior Vice Commander-Elect Nixon to say a few words. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT DENNIS NIXON: Thank you, Commander Riley. Congratulations, Delphine.

COMMANDER-ELECT METCALF-FOSTER: Thank you.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT NIXON: I just don't have much to say. I want to thank the delegation for having the confidence in me to move me up the level. I want to especially thank District 20, Texas. Stand up.

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

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT NIXON: And I think I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the force behind the DAV: Adjutant Burgess, Directors Jesinoski and—your name is Augustine?—Augustine. (Laughter) I couldn't help that, Garry. (Laughter)

And I look forward to a year of carrying the platform that Commander Metcalf-Foster just laid out, too, and help her carry the torch and see that we get it done this year.

And thanks to my beautiful wife for being there. (Applause) Thank you. Oh, Semper Fi. (Applause)

(Response of "Semper Fi.")

COMMANDER RILEY: Now I will call on National First Junior Vice Commander Stephen Whitehead. (Applause)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT STEPHEN WHITEHEAD: Thank you, and I also want to congratulate the Commander on your appointment. It's going to be a great year underneath your leadership.

I want to thank the delegates, also, for giving me the opportunity to continue with this opportunity to represent you, the force that is truly getting the work done in helping our veterans accomplish everything we do. It is you out there in this audience, out in front of me, that's doing the hard work and helping our veterans each and every day, so thank you.

A special thank you to my Department of Minnesota but also a big thank you to District 14 for all the support you have given me. I am truly honored to be up here for you. (Applause)

A special thanks, also, as everybody else said, the leadership here in the DAV is what has got us where we're at—Adjutant Burgess, Jesinoski, Augustine, thank you for all the hard work you keep

putting us in and steering us in the direction we are. It is truly your hard work that is getting us to be the best organization that we are, so thank you.

A special thank you to my wife for always being there beside me and having my back and always being there for my support.

I look forward to a great year, and I'm actually excited for the direction that we're going for. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: I now call on National Second Junior Vice Commander Donald Day. (Applause)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT DONALD DAY: I'd like to thank District 2, New York. (Applause) I spent the year with Dave Riley as our Commander, and it was really a blast. I had he and Delphine in New York within two weeks of each other, and it was quite an experience.

I want to say to Marc and Barry and Garry, what a tremendous organization they are running here for us. And we, as the leaders of each of our Departments, are doing the job. They lead; we follow; we are great. So thank you all.

I just want to say one thing. I want to say a special thank you to my wife, because we've spent anniversary after anniversary at DAV conventions. (Laughter) So July 29th is our anniversary. We got married on the same day as Princess Charles (sic) and Diana back in 1981. We called it, "The Prince and the Pauper." (Laughter)

But thank you so much for giving me another year on the line, and you won't regret it. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: National Third Junior Vice Commander Andrew Marshall. (Applause)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT ANDREW H. MARSHALL: Thank you, Commander. Let me tell you what a phone call can do to change one's life. August 1975, I received a phone call from a man by the name of John Keller, who was our National Service Director. He offered me a job which turned into a career as a DAV National Service Officer, which I did for 41 years. (Applause)

Last year, I was honored by this convention body to be nominated and elected as DAV's National Fourth Junior Vice Commander. I wondered what could exceed that honor and, again, it happened this year. I am extremely honored to be elected as your DAV National Third Junior Vice Commander.

I'm fortunate to have a department like Florida behind me. (Applause) I'm also fortunate to have people I can count on for advice during the year since I was elected, and even before that, by having six Past National Commander's active in Florida: Mr. Sursely, Mr. Joyner, Mr. Linden, Mr. Tyson, Mr. Johnston and Mr. Reed. (Applauses)

I look forward to serving our Commander-Elect this year, and I have become friends with the current National Line Officers. We have a good bond and we get along well with each other, and I look forward to working with them.

Perhaps no one understands my commitment more to this organization than my wife, Susan, who allows me to do what I do and have done for, since I have known her, since we have been married. So, Susan, I love you and thank you for your commitment to the DAV, also. (Applause)

And, Commander, good luck. I will do everything I can to advance the issues of women veterans with you, as well as make sure all receive the benefits they should be entitled to for caregivers.

Thank you all. And, again, thank you for your confidence. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: I will now call on National Fourth Junior Vice Commander Joseph Parsetich. (Applause)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT JOSEPH PARSETICH: Thanks, Commander. And thank all of you. Thank you for the honor of entrusting me with representing all of you, not only amongst our fellow National Officers but amongst our legislators on Capitol Hill. It's an honor that I do not take lightly.

I want to thank my chief-of-staff for encouraging me to put my hat in the arena, Danny Oliver, for without his coaching and his encouragement, I probably wouldn't be standing here today.

This honor, like I said, this is your honor. This is all about you guys, not about me. And I just pray that I'll do, bring dignity and honor to our entire organization through my representation of you.

I want to thank my District and especially my Department. District 14, Montana, can you also stand up?

(Whereupon, the delegation from the 14th District stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT PARSETICH: And there have been so many supportive comments amongst all of you. You have no idea how much that really means to each and every—every comment I hold very, very dear to my heart.

But this is only possible because of the trust and support that I've gotten from one very, very special person and that's my lovely wife of 17 years. Meg, stand up.

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

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT PARSETICH: And, Commander, I thank you for an outstanding term. I look forward to serving under our new Commander and under the continued guidance of our National Adjutant Marc Burgess and our entire Executive Committee over on Capitol Hill.

Thank you all. God bless. And have a great day. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: National Judge Advocate Michael Dobmeier to the stage. (Applause)

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER: First of all, so I don't forget, my wife, Sandy. (Applause) She is a Past National Auxiliary Commander; and she doesn't stand behind me, she stands beside me. (Applause)

And, no, it's still not getting old. Know how much I appreciate your continued trust. Not anybody up here takes this for granted. And we'll do the best job we can. And, Delphine, you're going to have a tough task because this guy really took off running. (Laughter)

We're here for you. We're here to help you, Delphine. And it will be our honor. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: And last but not least, National Chaplain Michael Dover. (Applause)

CHAPLAIN-ELECT MICHAEL DOVER: Thank you, Commander. Prior to the elections, I was in the back and Marc pulled me to the side and he said, "Look here, Dover, if you are re-elected when you stand up here and do what I'm about to do," he says, "be brief, sit down; and I want you to put your best face forward." So, in lieu of the instructions I've been given. (Laughter)

Delphine, I have done all that I can do to make you successful (Laughter) so all I can tell you is try this Commander thing out for the next year and see where we'll go from there. Okay? (Laughter)

But to the members, thank you for this honor of allowing me to serve with our first female commander. And it's going to be an honor so much. (Applause) Thank you so much.

And for those of you who don't know, my daughter was born in Monroe, Louisiana. So, therefore—35 years ago—and my wife has never been to New Orleans, so yesterday she put on her 21-year old hat and we went to the French Quarter where she is slowly still recovering in the room. (Laughter) But she will be there at the banquet tonight, I assure you. But we had a great time yesterday, and I wanted her to enjoy herself while she was here.

And to the Line Officers, it is an honor and a pleasure to serve alongside of you. And to the members, thank you so much for your trust. I appreciate the love and encouragement. It seems like every year I'm your chaplain I can't walk in that hallway without someone giving me a hug. And I tell you, that means a whole lot to me—excuse me—because all I do is smile and represent you in this position.

So thank you so much for the opportunity, and you have a great Convention. Looking forward to seeing you at the banquet. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: At this time I will entertain a motion to discharge the Credentials Committee. Do I hear a motion?

MR. JACK JOHNSON: Mic 3.

COMMANDER RILEY: Mic 3.

MR. JOHNSON: Jack Johnson, 1250 Florida makes the motion.

COMMANDER RILEY: May I have a second?

MR. KEVIN GRANTIER: Mic 4.

COMMANDER RILEY: Mic 4.

MR. GRANTIER: Kevin Grantier, Chapter 3, Montana, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER RILEY: We have a motion and a second. All those in favor 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 2017-2019: District 1, Coleman Nee of Massachusetts; District 3, Robert Nicodemus of Vermont; District 5, Samuel Blow Junior of Pennsylvania; District 7, John Raber of Florida; District 9, Tincie Lynch of Georgia; District 11, David Uetterling of Ohio; District 13, George Hall of Kentucky; District 15, Jim Shuey of Nebraska; District 17, Paul Jackson of Colorado; District 19, Harvey Dixon of Idaho; and District 21, Danny Oliver of Oklahoma. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: Believe it or not, that concludes today's agenda. Marc, do you have any announcements?

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I do. As a reminder to all National Executive Committee persons, including those newly-elected, the National Executive Committee will meet immediately following adjournment of the Convention, in just a few minutes, in the Saint James Ballroom on the Third Floor. 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 Saint Charles Ballroom on the Third Floor.

The presentation of the National Officers will begin at 6:30 this evening here in the Grand Ballroom, followed by dinner, so come and enjoy an evening filled with ceremony, food, friends, music and entertainment and congratulate our newly-elected leaders. (Applause)

COMMANDER RILEY: 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 perpetuate itself, that we have to work at it, nurture it, protect it and pray for it. Let us ever be 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. And may you have safe travels to those who are leaving. Amen.

(Response of “Amen.”)

COMMANDER RILEY: Thank you, Chaplain. Retire the Colors.

(Whereupon, the Colors were retired by the United States Coast Guard Eighth District Color Guard.)

COMMANDER RILEY: Before we adjourn, I want to personally recognize my fellow shipmates from the Eighth Coast Guard District Color Guard for an outstanding job. (Applause) It has truly been an honor serving you.

Ladies and gentlemen, the 96th National Convention of Disabled American Veterans is now adjourned. We’ll see you next year in Reno. (Applause)

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned on Tuesday, August 1st, 2017, at 2:25 o’clock, p.m.)

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## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
## 95th NATIONAL CONVENTION

### Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel
### New Orleans, Louisiana

### July 29, 2017

### First Business Session

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The First Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Saint Charles Ballroom on the Third Level of the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, on Saturday afternoon, July 29, 2017, 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 present National Commander Frances Costa to the platform.

(Whereupon, Commander Frances Costa was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please see that National Chaplain Aura-Lee Nicodemus is escorted to the platform.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Aura-Lee Nicodemus was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please see that National Judge Advocate Donna Adams is presented to the platform.

(Whereupon, Judge Advocate Donna M. Adams was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please present National Fourth Junior Vice Commander Dorothy Reese. Where are your beads? Where are the beads?

(Whereupon, Fourth Junior Vice Commander Dorothy Reese was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please present National Third Junior Vice Commander Lynn Helms Prosser.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander Lynn Helms Prosser was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please present National Second Junior Vice Commander Diane Franz. There we go. They've got some beads.

(Whereupon, Second Junior Vice Commander Diane Franz was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please present National First Junior Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman. (Applause)

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please present National Senior Vice Commander Craig Johniken. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander William "Craig" Johniken was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please have National Convention Chairman Carolyn Sensat escorted forward. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Convention Committee Chairman Carolyn Sensat was escorted forward.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please present and post the State Colors of Louisiana.

(Whereupon, the Colors for the State of Louisiana 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 National Colors.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA D. FINCEL: Post Colors.

(Whereupon, the National Colors were posted.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please dismiss the Color Bearers.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS FINCEL: Color bearers, dismissed.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: I will now call on National Chaplain Aura-Lee Nicodemus for an opening prayer.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Aura-Lee Nicodemus advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN AURA-LEE NICODEMUS: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for bringing all of us safely together again. We thank You for the safe travels, for the great adventures, and all the memories that we will create this week.

We thank You for the great friendships that we have among our members. And we thank You for the support that binds us each together.

We pray for those in our audience today that are grieving in some way; that you will be beside them. We know many have had losses. And we ask that You give them, each of them, strength to carry on.

We thank You for our troops who serve in harm's way, and we ask Your blessings upon them. And we thank You for the organization that gives us a mission that binds us all together.

In Your name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," after which Chaplain Nicodemus withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by National Americanism Chairman Lynn Helms Prosser.

(Whereupon, the Third Junior Vice Commander and National Americanism Chairman advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN LYNN HELMS PROSSER: Please free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

(Whereupon, the Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman 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 95th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary to be convened in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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.

It is now my pleasure to introduce to you a woman who has worked on behalf of all disabled and active veterans and members in the DAV Auxiliary and has done a wonderful job representing the organization and promoting harmony. So I present to you National Commander Frances Costa. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, the Commander advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER FRANCES J. COSTA: Thank you all. Please be seated. I'd like to welcome you to the first business session of this Convention. I'd like to remind everyone about cell phones or other devices, please mute them or turn them off.

And I hope we have a great Convention. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to come and ask either Pat, Bunny, myself, especially if you're first-timers and you're not sure what is expected. We're always available to answer questions.

I'd like to ask Carolyn Sensat the come to the podium. She is our National Convention Chairman. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Convention Chairman advanced to the podium.)

CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAROLYN SENSAT: Thank, y'all. Are y'all excited to be in New Orleans?

(Response of "Yes.")

CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SENSAT: What?

(Response of "Yes.")

CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SENSAT: I didn't hear ya.

(Response of "Yes.")

CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SENSAT: All right. You've got to show excitement. You're in New Orleans. And see what happens when you drink the water in New Orleans? You get all blinky. (Laughter) So if you don't want to get blinky, don't drink the water. (Laughter)

Welcome to New Orleans. We hope you have a great time. Louisiana has had a wonderful time preparing and getting ready for the Convention for you, the Forget-me-Not Luncheon.

And we are excited for the door prizes. We can't wait to see your faces when you open your bags. We've got some really, really nice door prizes.

Southwest Louisiana and New Orleans area, Lafayette, New Iberia, they have been wonderful supporters of the veterans. And so—and a lot of that is they deal with people like you, just normal, average people. And they want to give back.

So go out there and thank your veterans for their service. And if it's a Vietnam veteran, you're going to welcome him home. Don't forget that.

And we just want you all to have a good time. And, okay, I guess that's it. We're just excited. We want you all to have a really great time. Don't drink the water. (Laughter)

Enjoy the city. We've got lots to see out there. And we love you, and we're glad you all are here. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Convention Committee Chairman withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, Carolyn. Now I have the distinct pleasure of introducing the Past National Commanders present: Past National Commander Betty Hall; (Applause) Past National Commander R. Renee Jones; (Applause) Past National Commander Linda Trulio; (Applause) Past National Commander Judy Steinhouse; (Applause) Past National Commander Donna Tanner; (Applause) Past National Commander Sandy Dobmeier; (Applause) Past National Commander Susan Henry; (Applause) Past National Commander Patti Rapisand; (Applause) Past National Commander Donna Adams; (Applause) Past National Commander Susan Miller; (Applause) and Past National Commander LeeAnn Karg. (Applause)

(Whereupon, as their names were called each Past National Commanders stood and acknowledged the audience.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Also present, I'd like to introduce Past National Adjutant Judy Hezlep. Are you here, Judy?

(Whereupon, Past National Adjutant Hezlep stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER COSTA: I would like to acknowledge the state delegates. Please stand and be recognized. Alabama is not here; Arizona—oops, Alabama is here? Tamara?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Tamara.

COMMANDER COSTA: Tamara Kirby, sorry, Tamara. (Applause) Are there any other state delegates here that have not checked in to let us know you are here?

Arizona, Robin Linton, Commander; (Applause) Arkansas, Margaret Scott, Commander; (Applause) California, Kimberly Stuhler, Commander; (Applause) Colorado, Leslie Sandoval, Commander; (Applause) Leslie, are you here?

(Response of "Yes.")

MS. LESLIE SANDOVAL: Here.

COMMANDER COSTA: You belong up here, please. (Laughter) Delaware, Mary Wischmann, Commander; (Applause) Florida, Betty Hess, Commander; (Applause) Georgia, Linda Jimmerson, Commander; (Applause) Hawaii, we have no one here; Idaho, Diane Mason, Commander; (Applause) Illinois, Evelyn Couture, Commander; (Applause) Indiana, Terri Young, Commander; (Applause) Iowa, Melissa Pierce, State Adjutant; Kansas, Kerin Brader, Commander; (Applause) Kentucky, Linda Noel, Commander; (Applause) Louisiana, Shirley Mercer, Commander; (Applause) Maine, Joan Clark-Fournier, Commander; (Applause) Maryland, Carol Lee Simmons, State Adjutant; (Applause) Massachusetts, Diane Sullivan, Commander; (Applause) Michigan, Carol Lee, Commander; (Applause) Minnesota, Linda Wenzel, Senior Vice Commander; (Applause) Mississippi—is Linda Wilburn here? No? (Applause) Missouri, Icilda Marley, Commander; (Applause) Montana, Julie Donohue, Commander; (Applause) Nebraska, Rebecca Bowman, State Adjutant, she's not here; (Applause) Nevada, Beverly Baker, Commander; (Applause) No one from New Hampshire, New Jersey; New Mexico, Brenda Moore; (Applause) New York, Marion Sawdey, Commander; (Applause) North Carolina, Rodger Nicely, Commander; (Applause) North Dakota, Bernadine Burke, Commander; (Applause) Ohio, Marlene Zwiebel, Commander; (Applause) Oklahoma, Jamie Pernell, Commander; (Applause) Oregon, Vickie Partridge, Commander; (Applause) Pennsylvania, Laurie Stopyra, State Adjutant/Treasurer; (Applause) Rhode Island, Debbie Burrows, Commander; (Applause) South Carolina, Janet DeSantis, Commander; (Applause) South Dakota, Verna Messerschmidt, Commander; (Applause) Tennessee, Donna Jane Cox, Commander; (Applause) Texas, Charlene Parker, Commander; (Applause) Utah, Beth Maughan, Commander; (Applause) Vermont, Patricia Garrett, Commander; (Applause) Virginia, Amy Bowser, Commander; (Applause) Washington, Carol Courreges, Commander; (Applause) Wisconsin, Jean Berna, Commander; (Applause) Wyoming, Nancy Coffey, Commander; (Applause) and last but not least, Puerto Rico, Ana Iris Pagan, Commander. (Applause)

(Whereupon, as the representatives' names were called, they advanced to their seats and were recognized.)

COMMANDER COSTA: At this time I would—yes—

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: You forgot New Jersey.

COMMANDER COSTA: No one is listed for New Jersey. Are you representing New Jersey?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indistinguishable) state commander. I'm the state adjutant.

COMMANDER COSTA: I'm sorry.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The state commander is here. I'm just the adjutant.

COMMANDER COSTA: The state commander is who, please? Please stand and introduce yourself.

MS. DIANE DAVIS: I'm Diane Davis.

COMMANDER COSTA: Diane Davis. Diane, would you join the other state commanders, please? (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Davis joined the other state commanders.)

COMMANDER COSTA: And seeing Past National Commander Donna Adams has returned, Past National Commander Donna Adams. (Applause)

I would like to, at this time, call on Past National Commander Donna Adams to bring the 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: See these ladies down here? Raise your hands.

(Whereupon, the Past National Commanders raised their hands.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: These are all past national commanders. They are here for no other reason but to serve you.

And so, if you have any questions, any issues that you don't need to go down to the National Headquarters Office for, please, please, please utilize them. They are a wealth of information. Stand up and turn around, and let's let everybody look at you.

(Whereupon, the Past National Commanders stood and turned to face the membership and were recognized with a round of applause.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: You know, all of us, it took more than several years to become national commander. And when you become national commander then nothing sounds better in the whole world than "national commander," until you're done. (Laughter) And then there is nothing that sounds better than "past national commander."

So, National Commander Fran—

COMMANDER COSTA: Yes.

JUDGE ADVOCATE AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: Almost—

COMMANDER COSTA: Almost.

JUDGE ADVOCAE AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS:—a past national commander.

COMMANDER COSTA: Yes.

JUDGE ADVOCAE AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: On behalf of the past national commanders, we would like to give you this small token—

COMMANDER COSTA: Why thank you.

JUDGE ADVOCATE AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS:—to thank you for a wonderful year, for carrying on the traditions of our organization, and for making us proud. And maybe at Fall Conference we'll talk about whether or not it's Past National Commander Costa. (Laughter) Thank you.

COMMANDER COSTA: And I was looking forward to two days from now being unemployed. (Laughter)

JUDGE ADVOCATE AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you.

COMMANDER COSTA: Oh, how lovely. Thank you.

JUDGE ADVOCATE AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: You're most welcome.

(Whereupon, Judge Advocate and Past National Commander Adams withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, ladies. (Applause) Thank you very much.

At this time, I would like to recognize any first-time attendees. I'd like to ask you to stand and remain standing while the first-time ribbons are passed out.

(Whereupon, first-time attendees stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER COSTA: That's an awful lot of first-time attendees. Wow. This is great. All first-time attendees. Wow.

(Whereupon, first-time attendees were handed ribbons.)

COMMANDER COSTA: We have some juniors back there who might assist if you give them some ribbons. Once you receive your ribbon, please be seated so they can see who you are that have not received them.

(Whereupon, first-time attendees were seated after they received their ribbons.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Could we have your attention, please? Could we keep it down a little bit? Is that everyone? Okay.

I would now recognize Past National Commander Outstanding Member of the Year Recipient Melissa Pierce of Iowa.

(Whereupon, Ms. Pierce stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, Melissa, for all that you do. Many of us that are passionate about this organization and about our veterans do what we do not for accolades, but because we have the passion for it. And, Melissa, you are the best epitome of that. Thank you.

At this time, I would like to excuse the Nominating Committee. And good luck.

(Whereupon, members of the Nominating Committee withdrew from the ballroom.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Anyone making or seconding a motion must go to the microphone in the center aisle, state your name, your unit and state department, or they may not be recognized since our reporter hears this information through his or her headphones. So, please, go to the microphone—don't shout out. And identify yourself.

Will the Credentials Chariman Marlene Comeaux please come forward to give a preliminary report of the Credentials Committee?

(Whereupon, the Convention Credentials Committee Chairman advanced to the podium.)

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARLENE COMEAUX: Commander, National Officers, delegates and guests, the Credentials report is as follows.

Total units registered, 174; total Departments registered, 37; National Officers registered, 6; Past National Commanders registered, 11; total guests registered, 226; total delegates, 357; total alternates, 35; total registered, 635; a total vote count of 1,205.

Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials report.

COMMANDER COSTA: We have a motion to accept the preliminary report of the Credentials Committee. Is there a second?

MS. MICHELLE V. BROWN: Michelle V. Brown, Unit 95, Tennessee, second that motion. (Applause)

COMMANDER COSTA: We have a motion and a second. All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

(Whereupon, the Convention Credentials Chairman withdrew from the podium.)

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. Do I hear a motion?

MS. LINDA BRATCHER: Linda Bratcher, Unit 27, Lafayette, Indiana, make a motion to accept the—yes.

COMMANDER COSTA: Do I hear a second?

MS. CAROL LEE: Carol Lee, Unit 130, Michigan, I second it.

COMMANDER COSTA: We have a motion and a second to adopt the rules of the Convention. All in favor; anyone opposed. Carol, are you registered as a state delegate or your unit? Carol Lee?

MS. LEE: State delegate.

COMMANDER COSTA: Okay. State of Michigan instead of 130. Thank you. No one was opposed. The motion carries.

May I have a motion to accept the agenda subject to changes?

MS. CHARLENE PARKER: Charlene Parker, great State of Texas, I make a motion to accept due to changes, the agenda—accept the agenda with the exception of changes. Right?

COMMANDER COSTA: Subject to change, correct. (Laughter) Do I hear a second?

MS. CAROL PARKER PARK: Carol Parker Park, Unit 35, Ohio, I second.

COMMANDER COSTA: I have a motion and a second to accept the agenda subject to change. All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

We will now call on the Finance Committee Chairman, representing will be Chris Easley, to present the report and the budget review.

(Whereupon, the Finance Committee Chairman advanced to the podium.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER EASLEY: National Commander Frances Costa, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates, family and friends, good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN EASLEY: The National Finance Committee meeting was held April 1st, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. at the Hilton Cincinnati Airport Hotel in Florence, Kentucky.

The voting members of the Committee present were Frances Costa, National Commander; Linda Applegate District 4 NEC, Breanna Chandler District 15; and Christopher Easley, District 20;

Sylvia Heath, District 3 NEC was present via Go-To-Meeting Online Video Conference due to a flight cancellation.

Those present without a vote were National Senior Vice Commander Craig Johniken, 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 2018 year.

At this time, I would like to thank the Committee and the staff for all of their help. The budget was included in your registration packet. And at this time I move for adoption of the budget.

COMMANDER COSTA: Chris Easley has motioned that we accept the budget presented. Do I hear a second?

MS. JANE COX: Tennessee Commander Jane Cox accept, makes a motion to accept—I second it.

COMMANDER COSTA: We've had a motion and a second. All in favor; anyone opposed. Is there any discussion? The budget was, or proposed budget, was in your packet. Are there any questions? Being none, the motion carries.

(Whereupon, the Finance Committee Chairman withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: At this point I'd like to ask Senior Vice Craig Johniken to come to the podium.

(Whereupon, the Senior Vice Commander advanced to the podium.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER WILLIAM "CRAIG" JOHNIKEN: I've been given the honor to present to you your National Commander for 2016-2017, Fran Costa, for the purpose of giving her report. Fran. (Applause)

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, Craig. Let me begin my report by noting that I'm very proud of the veterans in my family—some combat, others serving during wartime eras: my husband, a Purple Heart recipient of the Vietnam War; a brother, a Bronze Star recipient of Vietnam; another brother who served during the Vietnam-era; my father who was a World War II veteran, along with all six of his brothers and three uncles on my mother's side who served as well during World War II and Korean.

I am a proud mother of two veterans: the older of the first Gulf War and the youngest OIF/OEF; two nephews, OIF/OEF; and a niece. I am honored to have them all in my life.

This is why I do what I have been doing since the early 1980s that has led me to this extraordinary year in my life.

My year started out actually in July when, as Senior Vice Commander, I attended DAV's Commanders' and Adjutants' training, and then in August I was elected in Atlanta as National Commander, after stepping into the shoes of Linda Stake to preside over the convention.

Also in August, I assisted with my Chapter and Unit members in putting on a cookout at the Brocton VA Medical Center.

Then it was September, and the Fall Conference was upon us, and the year began in earnest.

I attended my Unit meeting and State Executive Committee meeting, as well as the VA Voluntary Service Advisory Board meetings at the Brocton and the Providence VA medical centers.

I was invited to be in Pennsylvania for the annual Riverboat event for veterans from the VA hospital but was not able to attend. I participated in our Chapter and Unit annual Forget-me-Not Drive and VA monthly social.

In October, after returning from Fall Conference, I attended our Unit meeting and monthly VA social, as well as assisted and greeted veterans with our Mobile Service Office.

Prior to Veterans' Day in November, I attended and participated in the Veterans' Day observances at Bourne National Cemetery, where it was an honor to be introduced as the National Commander of the DAV Auxiliary.

It was wonderful and emotional to hear our granddaughter, Adriana, sing the National Anthem the way it is supposed to be sung.

I was in Birmingham, Alabama, for the Veterans' Day observances, which was certainly done up right in honor of all veterans.

Following the events that led up to the November 11th parade in Birmingham, I, along with DAV Senior Vice Delphine Metcalf-Foster, rode atop a trailer transporting a cannon, which was at our backs.

Immediately following the parade, I was taken to the airport for a flight home so that I would be back in time to participate in my first DAV 5K experience in Boston.

I arrived home well after midnight and was out again by 6 a.m. to get into Boston. What a wonderful fall day—brisk is putting it mildly. But the atmosphere was warm and invigorating.

Also in November, I attended my Unit meeting, State Executive Committee meeting, and volunteered at the Brocton VA.

In December, I attended our Unit meeting and shopped for the Brocton VA Christmas Social and community veterans in need. The VA social was special because, again, our granddaughter Adriana asked if she could bring along friends and her guitar for caroling.

I am very proud of her for doing these things and including her friends, which spreads the passion for caring to others.

Following the singing and festivities in the dining room, the group walked through all the wards, singing carols at the request of the veterans. The result of music therapy is awesome.

Then the Providence VA Voluntary Service bake sale was upon us, and I baked and volunteered for that day.

In January, I was extremely proud to attend the Inaugural events in Washington, D.C. The Salute to Heroes Ball was beautiful and a thrilling event, despite the high security.

It was a wonderful evening being with Garry Augustine, Barry Jesinoski, Marc Burges and their spouses. Garry's lovely daughter is a whirlwind, and she sure knows her way around D.C.

We had to take the Metro—we walked, first, to the trolley. Took the trolley to the end. Took the Metro into D.C. And without her guidance, I don't think we would have found it, would we, Pat?

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Nope.

COMMANDER COSTA: We'd still be traipsing the streets. And then to walk from there to the venue. DAV Commander Dave Riley and Yvonne, along with other DAV PNCs, attended other balls.

We also attended the Congressional Medal of Honor Dinner, which was amazing. Also in January, I attended our Unit meeting and VA hospital socials.

In February, I lost my mother. And I want to thank all of you for all the kind thoughts, expressions of sympathy, and donations in her memory. The day following her funeral, I left for DAV Mid-Winter, where she would have wanted me to be.

And the following morning, I was honored to place the DAV Auxiliary wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier along with my husband, Joe, which was very moving and emotional.

In March, I attended the DAV Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass, Colorado. It was always a moving event. Unfortunately, I was not able to stay the full time, so I don't have any pictures, but I do have memories.

I left on Tuesday to be able to be back for the National Finance Committee meeting April 1st. Also in March, I attended my Unit meeting and our State Executive Committee meeting.

I can't see the words.

Following my return in April from the Finance Committee meeting, it was wrap-up time for my testimonial weekend events. I want to thank all of you who traveled so far to attend and participate in the wonderful reception hosted by Unit 29, Braintree, Mass., along with many of their DAV members.

It was an evening that brought back many memories. And I met the mayor, Senator Timilty and Representative Cusak. Also, the following day, the bus trip to the J.F.K Library was great and enjoyed by all.

We then continued on to Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall, where we lost Dorothy and Lynn, (Laughter) and I think Anne Hurley, as well. But we did reconnect when it was time to get back on the bus. It was a great time. Dave Riley sure is a history buff.

I would have liked to see the weather a little warmer for our guests, but at least it did not snow. I was happy that National Adjutant Burgess was able to arrive in time after flight cancellations.

In April, I attended the Rhode Island state convention and was happy to see new first-time attendees and members.

The following week again found me in Alabama for DAV Commander Riley's testimonial events. The trip to the Coast Guard Station in Mobile was very interesting. There is so much to see and such a short period of time. Also, with the luck that I have, the trip to the casino was uneventful. (Laughter)

It was an honor to be with David at this testimonial and to have Dave and Yvonne at mine earlier in the month. The weather was much warmer at his.

May started out with conventions in Nebraska, which, again, I had to cancel out on. I am truly sorry to the members of Nebraska. I certainly would have loved to be there with you. I thank Breanne Chandler for filling in for me.

Then it was off to Vermont, followed by Louisiana and then to Ocean City, Maryland. I thank you all for the courtesy shown to me and for all the friendships strengthened and new ones made.

Just one word of advice—never get a haircut when you are traveling. (Laughter) It is—when this was written, it was the beginning of July, and I still do not need a haircut.

And never, never tell the stylist you want a "trim." They don't understand the word "trim." (Laughter) When I started feeling a razor cut and I had that much hair on the back of my head, I totally panicked.

I attended my Unit meeting and installation as well as Unit 4 in Worcester. Due to travel date conflicts, I missed the May State Executive meeting as well as the Brockton VA Medical Center meeting, but I participated by conference call.

Memorial Day observances at Bourne National Cemetery, I was honored, again, to be introduced, and proud to hear Adriana sing. Each year, in each veterans' event, her voice gets stronger and more confident.

I attended our town Memorial Day events, which consisted of observances at two local cemeteries, one of which we also joined other veterans' groups at the gravesite of a veteran who had never had a proper funeral.

We then marched in the parade, followed by ceremonies at our Veterans' Park, positioned between the Vietnam and Korean Memorials. I recited a poem, The Eagle's Nest, which is very moving.

June found me in Honolulu for their state convention. It was the first time I have been to Hawaii. State Adjutant Heidi greeted us after almost 20 hours of travel time and got us to the hotel for a good night's rest.

Heidi met us the following day to show us some sights in her area. The National Cemetery is the most beautiful and moving I have ever seen. The beautiful mosaics along the walls and up the stairwells were just breathtaking.

Each ceiling-to-floor mosaic was of a different war or conflict. It was especially moving for Joe, because in one of the mosaics of Vietnam he found the towns in his unit patch where he served as a tunnel rat and other places he had been.

We also had a surprise visit at the hotel from Bob and Cynthia Sullivan, nephew of Past State Commanders Ed and Jean Shifflett from Massachusetts, who searched hotels to find us when they heard we were there.

We spent a wonderful last day with them visiting the DAV headquarters, Military Joint Base and Commissary. It was truly a beautiful day with visiting Pearl Harbor and touring the U.S.S. Arizona.

What a moving and whirlwind trip. It was a long trip to get there for just a few days, but I would love to go back again and be able to spend a couple of weeks.

After being home again for just two days, we were off to our own convention. The following week I was due to, again, be in Pennsylvania, which I was looking forward to but was not able to attend last minute.

Again, I do apologize to the members of Pennsylvania. Laurie Stopyra, thank you for your understanding.

I attended our Unit meeting and participated as a panelist on a televised local veterans' forum along with National Service Officer David Fitzgerald from the Boston Office as well as VA and state veterans' representatives. The forum was arranged by our town veterans' service officer.

During the year, I also participated in several mini-MAC meetings and town halls at the Providence VA medical center. As with anything, there are sometimes disappointments that arise.

We truly need to be more understanding of others in our Units and Departments and remember that we work as a team. Losing Units is not positive reinforcement for our organization. We need to be all-inclusive in respect to the veterans that this organization was founded on.

Although an Auxiliary caregiver program did not get off the ground this year, I look forward to seeing this type of program come to fruition.

As the deadline for this report to be into headquarters, I still have Iowa's convention to attend. I looked forward to it but on the day I was to leave, we buried my dad.

There is just so much to see and experience in this wonderful country of ours. It amazes me that so many of us feel the need to travel to foreign soil when ours is just so beautiful.

Thank you all for your support and friendships. It was great to get to know our members as individuals who have so much to offer our organization.

The passion in your hearts has made the work that we have accomplished extraordinary.

I am humbled and honored to have represented each and every one of you as your National Commander for the year 2016-2017.

And, Pat, I can't thank you enough for always being there for me this year. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Thank you, Fran, for that outstanding report. Sounds like you had a great year. I want to commend you on that. I will now entertain a motion to accept the National Commander's report as read.

MS. JANET PRATT: I would like to second that motion. Janet Pratt, Unit 29, Massachusetts. We're very proud of you.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: You're actually making the motion.

MS. PRATT: Oh, I'm making? Oh, I'm sorry.
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Yes. That's fine.
MS. PRATT: I'm making the motion to accept Fran Costa—
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Yes.
MS. PRATT:—our National Commander—
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Correct.
MS. PRATT:—speech of her—
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: That's works.
MS. PRATT:—her report. That's okay.
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: That's works.
MS. PRATT:—of her report.
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Okay. (Laughter)
MS. PRATT: The great State of Massachusetts makes this motion to accept the report of Fran Costa.
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Okay. (Applause)
MR. JOHN OLINGER: John Olinger, Unit 2, Michigan, I second that report, that motion.
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: We have a motion and a second. (Applause) We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye; and I am certain there is no opposed. Thank you. The motion carries.
(Whereupon, the Senior Vice Commander returned to his seat.)
COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you all. Thank you, Craig. Donna, I didn't forget you but I just couldn't. Donna Tanner, I said I didn't forget about mentioning to you; I just couldn't get to that paragraph. (Laughter)
She has been my staunchest supporter and critic along with Nancy Mooney and everyone from Massachusetts. It's nice to have people be able to tell you what they think and you can disagree without being disagreeable.
I would now like to call on National Junior Activities Chairman Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh to come forward, at which time I will meet her down below with the hand-held mic. Is Julie in the room? Okay, she's in the back.
(Whereupon, the Convention Junior Activities Chairman advanced to the front of the podium.)
COMMANDER COSTA: Julie will have the juniors come forward, and they will introduce themselves.
JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN JULIE WEISSMAN-STEINBAUGH: National Commander Fran, it's been a great privilege to serve as your Juniors Activities Chairman this year. I'd like to invite all the juniors to step forward and say their names and what state they are from. Come on down. We don't bite. (Laughter)
(Whereupon, the juniors advanced to the front of the podium amid a round of applause.)
MR. WILL JOHNIKEN: I'm Will Johniken. I'm from Texas.
SHERIDAN HAMILTON: Sheridan Hamilton. I am from Texas, also.
MS. SAVANNAH CLARK: Savannah Clark, Texas.
(Response of "Can't hear her.")
COMMANDER COSTA: Up louder.
MS. CLARK: Savannah Clark, Texas.
COMMANDER COSTA: Can you hear her now?
(Response of "No.")
ADJUTANT KEMPER: We're not hearing them.
MS. CLARK: Savannah Clark, Texas. Savannah Clark, Texas.
COMMANDER COSTA: Savannah Clark, Texas.
SHERIDAN CLARK: Sheridan Clark, Texas.
MR. JOHNIKEN: Will Johniken, Texas.
MS. ANGEL BOLTON: Angel Bolton, Minnesota.
COMMANDER COSTA: Angel Bolton, Minnesota.
MR. MAXWELL ROBERTSON: Maxwell, Ohio.
MS. JESSICA STEINBAUGH: Jessica Steinbaugh
COMMANDER COSTA: Pretend you're yelling at your mom. (Laughter)
MS. STEINBAUGH: Jessica Steinbaugh, California.
COMMANDER COSTA: Jessica Steinbaugh, California.
MS. ASHTON JOHNIKEN: Ashton Johniken, Texas.
MS. EMMA JOHNIKEN: Emma Johniken, Texas.

MS. OLIVIA KASNHER-FORWOOD: Olivia Kashner-Forwood, Delaware.

MS. MAGDELENA AGUINAGA: Magdelena Aguinaga from Unit 42, Grand Prairie, Texas.

MS. OLIVIA SENSAT: Olivia Sensat, Louisiana.

COMMANDER COSTA: Olivia Sensat.

MS. SENSAT: Louisiana. Louisiana.

MR. ZION HAWKINS: Zion Hawkins from Maryland.

RILEY COMEAUX: Riley Comeaux, Louisiana.

MR. JEFFREY OLSON: Jeffrey Olson, Massachusetts.

MR. TREVOR KNOWLTON: Trevor Knowlton, North Carolina.

COMMANDER COSTA: Very good. Thank you, guys. (Applause) Beautiful job.

JUNIORS CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN-STEINBAUGH: Immediately after this meeting, we'd like to invite the juniors and their parents or guardians to come to the Auxiliary Office, which is in the Fulton Room, which is on this floor but on the other end, to get instructions for our very exciting scavenger hunt. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER COSTA: Yes. The juniors are going to be having a scavenger hunt, so if they come up to you, please be receptive and help them out. Okay.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: So as soon as the meeting is over, then the juniors will go to the office and you will get further instructions. But your parent or guardian needs to be with you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the juniors and Junior Activities Chairman Weissman-Steinbaugh withdrew and Commander Costa returned to the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Okay, at this time National Adjutant Kemper will make some announcements.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, the Memorial Service is at 7:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Business attire is appropriate for those who are participating.

National Convention Committee Chairmen are to pick up their respective Committee folders tomorrow morning in the Auxiliary Office on this floor in the Fulton Room.

Convention Committees meet tomorrow morning. They convene tomorrow morning. So if you are serving on a Committee check the program schedule—that we finally got—for the rooms and times.

There will be no Auxiliary business session tomorrow, due to the Convention Committee meetings in the morning and some that may last later in the afternoon.

However, I urge you to take advantage of the DAV seminars that are going on tomorrow. Auxiliary delegates, attendees, are welcome to attend those so please take advantage of that.

The Forget-me-Not Luncheon will not be at 11:30 p.m. Monday night. (Laughter) I will be in my jammies then so that's not going to happen. So there was a little booboo that we overlooked. So it will be at 12:30 on Monday. And we'd like you to show the tickets at the door.

And the Memorial Service is 7:30 not 7:00 a.m.—I'm glad we adopted that agenda subject to change—so, 7:30.

And there were two different times that were posted in there. We caught one of the times but didn't catch it in the book here. But we're good.

Okay, so back to the Forget-me-Not Luncheon. You just show your tickets when you come in. Unfortunately, we have to ask you to show the tickets because we have heard of some where people just, they kind of hang around and then they walk in and find a seat and then you get that free meal.

And we're really limited on the meals that we did order for this convention because those convention meals per plate are costing $59.60 per plate. So we are subsidizing the—the National Organization is subsidizing each plate.

So we did run out of tickets. The tickets are all sold. So I'm sorry for that. Maybe next year we can do some pre-sale tickets. We're going to look into that to get a better idea when we have to give this guarantee like six-months in advance.

The Ninth District members, you are to meet in this room—stay in this room when the meeting has ended—and you have to re-caucus. Shirley Hill, NEC, will fill you in on that.

Right now, there are no history books to be judged in the Judging Committee tomorrow. So does anyone know from your state departments here, do you know if a state history book has been or will be delivered?

I want to say, if there is no history book coming to this Convention to be judged, that there may be no reason or there is no reason for the History Committee to meet, unless you want to gather just for the purpose of discussing the future of that program.

So I will leave it—as the—Margaret Snelling, are you in the room?

(Whereupon, Mrs. Snelling indicated her presence.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Margaret, so you would prefer everyone still show up for the meeting? Correct?

MRS. MARGARET SNELLING: Yes.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, so please show up for that Committee meeting. Okay.

I just want to point out we do have a backdrop, and we're going to try to find a better area for that to put some light on it. So if you're—I mean hopefully your cameras have enough flash on them, but be sure and get a shot of yourself in front of that backdrop and, you know, get a group together.

We passed out these masks, so have some fun with those. And just enjoy yourself while you are here.

So I believe that is all the information I have. That's it, Commander.

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, Pat. I know firsthand how hard Pat tried to get the price of the luncheon, Forget-me-Not Luncheon, down. And it was a thorn in her side right up until just before we came to Convention that she finally got a confirmation from the hotel.

So hopefully everyone will purchase tickets to attend in support of the VAVS programs and support Pat in all her efforts and Bunny and the staff.

We will now have our closing prayer. Aura-Lee, please.

(Whereupon, the Chaplain advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN NICODEMUS: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for the dedication and commitment that Commander Fran showed this past year and all of her generous works of heart.

We thank You for our officers who traveled from coast-to-coast and met with our members and inspired us all to be growing, which has led to the greatest number of new people that I've seen since I've been here. And we're thankful for each and every person that came.

We pray for our members that are at home, that You will be with each and every one of them. We pray for our troops in harm's way.

And we ask that You guide us throughout this weekend, that You will help us to be kind to each other, loving, forgiving, courteous, and that You will guide our actions throughout the Convention that we will show the ideals of our organization wherever we may be. In Your name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," after which the Chaplain withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Immediately following—immediately following—immediately following the close of this meeting we will have door prizes, so please stay behind. If you haven't gotten a ticket when you came in the door, the pages will have them for you.

This Convention stands in recess. It will convened at 9:00 a.m. Monday morning.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 3:11 o'clock, p.m., on Saturday, July 29, 2017.)

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## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
## 95th NATIONAL CONVENTION

### Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel
### New Orleans, Louisiana

### July 31, 2017

### Second Business Session

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The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Saint Charles Ballroom on the Third Level of the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, on Monday morning, July 31, 2017, and was called to order at 9:04 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Frances J. Costa.

COMMANDER FRANCES J. COSTA: Those in the back of the room, would you please quiet down so we can get started. Thank you for your attention. We have guest speakers, and we would like to get started. Please keep it down.

A ring has been found, and I believe it belongs to one of our junior members. So if you lost a ring, could you please see myself or Adjutant Kemper? It definitely seems to be one of the junior rings.

I'd like to ask Aura-Lee Nicodemus, to please come and lead us in prayer.

(Whereupon, the Chaplain advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN AURA-LEE NICODEMUS: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us together for our meeting today. We ask for peace for amongst us and amongst the nation today at this pivotal time in our nation's history.

We pray for our members today. We pray for those that are at home and those that have asked for special prayers. We ask for a special blessing on the Lyons family. We ask a special blessing on Charlie O'Brien from Maine, on the former NSO from Tennessee who received his transplant and is asking for prayers.

We ask that You will bless each of us. Give us peace amongst us. Help us to be forgiving in spirit. Help us to continue to be charitable to each other, first, as well as all of those around us.

We ask Your blessings upon this meeting. And we ask that You will grant us the day that we will share our friendship and grow and that we will disagree with ideas at times, but we will not disagree with the mission.

We ask Your blessing in Your name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen" after which the Chaplain withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, Aura-Lee. We will now have Lynn Helms Prosser lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Third Junior Vice Commander and National Americanism Chairman advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN LYNN HELMS PROSSER: Please free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart or render the appropriate salute and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

(Whereupon, the Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which she withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Could I please have the Credentials Chairman, Marlene Comeaux, come forward? Please be seated, everyone.

(Whereupon, the Convention Credentials Committee Chairman advanced to the podium.)

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COMEAUX: Commander, National Officers, delegates and guests. The Credentials report is as follows:

Total Units registered, 175; total Departments registered, 38; National Officers registered, 6; Past National Commanders registered, 11; total guests registered, 241; total delegates, 362; total alternates, 37; total registered, 657; total vote count, 1,211.

Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials report.

COMMANDER COSTA: We have a motion to accept the Credentials report. Do I hear a second? Please go to the mic.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SUSAN HENRY: Susan Henry, Past National Commander, seconds.

COMMANDER COSTA: We have a motion and a second. All in favor; any opposed. The motion carries.

(Whereupon, the Convention Credentials Committee Chairman withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: We now have guests from the DAV Legislative Office to address us, Mr. Adrian Atizado and Joy—and Joy Ilem. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Atizado and Ms. Ilem were escorted to the podium.)

MS. JOY ILEM: Thanks, Commander, I appreciate just having a few moments within your schedule to be able to just, again, have this opportunity to tell you about our Caregiver Initiative.

I wanted to make sure before we left that we included you because you are such an important part of this initiative that we have going as one of our key legislative priorities.

We did a rollout just over a month ago of our Unsung Heroes Caregiver Initiative. It really was a kick-off following Mid-Winter when our National Commander spoke to a Joint Session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

And they were so moved by his personal story and his focus on his caregiver, his wife, Yvonne, and how important his caregiver was to him, personally. And really I've seen, you know, been in those hearings for over, you know, two decades, but he really mesmerized all of the House and Senate members on the Committees.

And we really wanted to take advantage of that and following that event, we worked with our Communications Department.

And Adrian Atizado, my Deputy Legislative Director, he really, this has been a passion of his. He's been working tirelessly on the issue from a policy perspective for a number of years. And he started to think about what we could do to really push this, this session of Congress.

So he pulled together a survey I know that many of you took. We pulled together a special report that he did—and it turned out it's a wonderful, wonderful report. He's going to talk a little bit about it just in a moment.

But so critical is, we had this event on Capitol Hill. We had over 100 staffers and stakeholders attend that event. We had our National Commander there, along with Yvonne and Dennis Joyner and his spouse, as well as Alexis Courneen and her husband and caregiver. And they did a panel discussion along with Tammy Duckworth that was just awesome, telling their personal stories.

And the videos that our Communications Department collected and did of their personal stories was so moving, so touching, we got a great response from people on The Hill that we need to do something about this inequity that exists that only the comprehensive caregiver services that are available to post-9/11 veterans.

And we know so many of you here have been caregivers for a disabled veteran, a loved one in your family. So we really wanted to make sure that you are a part of this initiative. This has really been about you.

Meetings that were done after with, you know, House leadership, Senate leadership, the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, very powerful but now we've got to push it to the next edge.

And we're going to need your help to do that. We need the DAV and the DAVA working together on this initiative to really bring it over the top.

So we hope you will—Adrian is going to give you some ideas about next steps, and how we're going to do that but we're going to keep you included altogether that we're working on this issue.

So, again, thank you for your efforts. I know that we—we really want to make it a regular thing to get in and have a couple of moments out of your schedule to talk to you, because you're an important part of our legislative priorities.

And we know that when we need something done, we go to you guys, too, so we've got to make sure we do that. But thank you. I'll turn it over to Adrian. (Applause)

MR. ADRIAN ATIZADO: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. ATIZADO: So as Joy mentioned, we are in the middle of a campaign. But before I get into that, I just wanted to, first of all, mention how the Auxiliary has already been engaged on this issue.

I noticed that back in June, in the Auxiliary newsletter, I think it was Diane that sent out in part of her section in the newsletter encouraging folks to take a survey.

Many of you here may know about the Rand Corporation Study on Caregivers. I can tell you that the number of participants in our survey outnumbered their participants in their survey. That's how big the survey was and the report that came from it.

So, I have no doubt in my mind that the Auxiliary letter back in June helped push the number of participants in that survey, and I'm so thankful to all of you that did take that survey.

Also, I've seen the July newsletter. Again, you are putting out information about the campaign and the new website that is housing the campaign.

In that website is an electronic version of the newsletter, as well as critical statistics from the survey that we pulled out that really drives home the need for caregiver supports for severely-injured veterans. I do hope you take the time to look at that information.

And, as Joy had mentioned, personal stories have a profound impact, especially when it comes to legislators. You know, folks on The Hill, senators and representatives, are driven by personal stories, driven by the people that they know they can help on the one-to-one level.

So one of the missions that we are going to ask our Benefit Protection Team leaders at this Convention, is to take the report and to hand-deliver it to their members of Congress.

And we are hoping that the Auxiliary will be there lock-step with them and have a caregiver or two or even three or however many would like to come with them to be able to give that personal story.

The campaign really is about taking this caricature of a family caregiver and putting somebody right in front of the person that can make the decisions and say, "Here is why this is needed." "I stand here before you as an example of the many others in your district or in your state."

And I am hoping that all of you in here will partner with the DAV again, as you always do, to try, as Joy had mentioned, to push this over the finish line so we can finally get resolution, because this is a seven-year struggle.

And all of you have been there with us every step of the way. And we just need a little bit more to try and get that, get some progress made, hopefully this year, with our Commander, who is such a compelling, provides a compelling example of why this should be addressed by Congress.

The other thing, the other part of the campaign is to have events at the state level, whether it is an Op Ed to the local newspaper or an actual event, like a stand-down event.

And what we're trying to do here is to let the American public know that there is this need, that we believe they're under the misimpression that family caregivers of veterans are actually being supported when really they're not.

So we're hoping that the campaign kick-off that we did in June on Capitol Hill will be replicated in some form or fashion at the most local of levels. All right?

You have your family caregivers, the Auxiliary for the most part. And we have the DAV, who has programs like the LVAP that can help family caregivers and severely-injured veterans who are living in their community just make their lives just a little bit easier.

So I think, with these two existing programs or services or assets in the community, we can use those to continue the drum beat where it matters most, which is at the local level where all of you are.

Again, so I want to thank the Commander and Adjutant for the opportunity to speak to all of you today. And I can tell you that we wouldn't be able to do what we do and accomplish the things that we do without all of you. Thank you.

(Whereupon, Ms. Ilem and Mr. Atizado were escorted from the room amid a round of applause.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, Joy and Adrian.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman will come forward for the first reading of the proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments. This is only a reading. Please hold all questions and comments for a second reading. Thank you, Judy. Donna Tanner

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman and Past National Commander advanced to the podium.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DONNA TANNER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Proposed Bylaw Amendments, 2017.

Page N-13, Article I, National Convention, Official Rules to the National Convention, Item B. Delete "History".

Rationale: There is a lack of participation for this judging committee at National Convention.

Page N-25, Article V, National Committees and Chairmen, Section 6, National Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Paragraph 2. Delete second paragraph and substitute the following:

"All proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments shall be sent to the National Adjutant no later than ten days prior to the National Convention. The amendment(s) shall be signed by the sponsor."

Rationale: The use of electronic mail is increasing and is the preferable method.

Page N-27, Article VII, Membership, Section 4, Replacing Membership Cards. Delete the paragraph and substitute the following:

"A membership card which is lost, stolen or destroyed will be replaced by National Headquarters upon request."

Rationale: Requests are often made via phone calls and electronic mail.

Page N-39, Article X, Local Units, Section 1, Paragraph 2. Delete paragraph and substitute the following:

"All applications for Charter shall be made directly to National Headquarters. Applications shall be accompanied with the national charter fee of twenty-five dollars, applicable IRS fee(s), and the entire amount of dues for each member."

Rationale: National Headquarters can make application for all units, ensuring compliance with the IRS.

Page N-40, Article X, Local Units, Section 3. Delete E and substitute new E as follows:

"E. Which files annually a financial report with State and National Headquarters no later than September 30th."

Rationale: To establish a uniform reporting process.

Page S-1, Article I, State Organization, New Section 2.

"Section 2. The fiscal year shall be the membership year commencing on July 1st, ending June 30th."

Rationale: To establish a uniform fiscal year for financial reporting purposes.

Page S-8, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 6. State Adjutant, Paragraph 3, Item A and B. Delete Items A and B.

Rationale: State financial report or Accountant's Statement and appropriate IRS Form 990 will not be prepared prior to the current convention.

If this is approved they will re-alphabetize accordingly.

Section S-8, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 6, State Adjutant, Paragraph 3, Items E and F. Delete the Number 3 and substitute with 2 so there is only two copies.

The rationale: The change in number of copies from three to two was approved at the 2016 National Convention, but this section was not addressed at that time.

And if approved, they will re-alphabetize accordingly.

Section S-9, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 6, State Adjutant. Add new Paragraph 5 which will read:

"A copy of the financial report for the previous fiscal year and a copy of the appropriate IRS Form 990 will be forwarded to National Headquarters no later than September 30th."

Rationale: To establish a uniform reporting process and Federal IRS requirements.

Page S-14, Article VI, State Committees and Chairmen, Section 6, State Audit Committee, Paragraph 3, last sentence. Delete the last sentence and substitute the following:

"The Financial Report Form provided by National Headquarters shall be completed by the State Treasurer or the Audit Committee and sent to National Headquarters no later than September 30th.

Rationale: To establish a uniform reporting process.

Page S-15, Article VI, State Committees and Chairmen, Section 6, State Audit Committee, Paragraph 4, last sentence. Delete the last sentence and substitute the following:

"The accountant's statement and a completed Financial Report Form prepared by the accountant shall be mailed to National Headquarters no later than September 30th."

Rationale: To establish a uniform reporting process.

Page S-15, Article VI, State Committees and Chairmen, Section 6, Paragraph 4, first sentence. Delete first sentence and substitute the following:

"If the total gross income of the State Department exceeds $300,000, the state financial records shall be reviewed and verified by an independent or Certified Public Accountant."

Rationale: To comply with DAV National Bylaws.

Page S-15, Article VI, State Committees and Chairmen, Section 6, State Audit Committee, Paragraph 6, last sentence. Delete Paragraph 6.

Rationale: Since the Annual Financial Report will not be completed until after the Convention, it cannot be adopted by the delegates.

Page S-20, Article XI, Jewelry and Caps, Section 1, Jewelry and Caps, Paragraph 2. Delete Paragraph 2 and substitute the following:

"All official jewelry shall be purchased through the DAV Store."

Rationale: The DAV Store now handles purchase of supplies.

Page U-2, Article VI, Election of Unit Officers, Section 1, last sentence. Delete the last sentence and substitute the following:

"The Adjutant shall notify all life members at least ten days prior to annual nominations and/or elections."

Rationale: Notification of election to fill a vacancy shall not require advance notice.

Page U-7, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 3, Adjutant 9—adjutant 9—Adjutant, Item 9—excuse me. Delete Item 9 and substitute the following:

"9. Notify all life members at least ten days prior to annual nominations and/or elections."

Rationale: To comply with Page U-2, Article VI, Section 1.

Page U-8, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 4, Treasurer, Item 7, third sentence. Delete the third sentence and substitute the following:

"If the gross income exceeds $300,000, the Unit financial records shall be reviewed and verified by an independent or Certified Public Accountant."

Rationale: To comply with DAV National Bylaws.

Page U-9, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 4, Treasurer, Note, Paragraph 2. Delete last sentence and substitute the following:

"The Unit Adjutant shall send the report to State and National Headquarters no later than September 30th."

Rationale: To establish a uniform reporting process.

Page U-13, Article XIV, Unit Committees, Section 2, Audit Committee, Paragraph 3. Delete the last sentence and substitute the following:

"The Unit Adjutant shall send the report to State and National Headquarters no later than September 30th."

Rationale: To establish a uniform reporting process.

Page U-13, Article XIV, Unit Committees, Section 2, Audit Committee, Paragraph 4. Delete Paragraph 4 and substitute the following:

"If the total gross income of the Unit exceeds $300,000, the Unit financial records shall be reviewed and verified by an Independent or Certified Public Accountant.

"The accountant's statement and a completed Financial Report form shall be mailed to the State and National Headquarters by the Unit Adjutant no later than September 30th."

Rationale: To comply with DAV National Bylaws.

Page U-16, Article XVI, Conventions, Section 1, Delegates, Paragraph 1. Delete Paragraph 1 and substitute the following:

"Section 1. Delegate(s)

"A life member in good standing to be selected as a delegate or alternate to a State or National Convention."

Rationale: To comply with N-6, Article I, Section 4.

Page U-17, Article XVII, Supplies, Section 1. Delete Section 1 and substitute the following:

"Section 1. All emblems, badges, standards and other supplies shall be ordered and/or purchased through the DAV Store.

"All jewelry displaying the official emblem of our organization shall also be purchased through the DAV Store."

Rationale: The DAV Store now handles the purchase of supplies.

Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Chairman and Past National Commander withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, Donna. And thank you to the Committee as you continue to work on this, these proposed amendments.

Someone has lost a phone. If you left it in the ladies' room would you please see us afterwards if it belongs to anyone in this room? It was found in the ladies' room.

Education Scholarship Report, LeeAnn Karg. Donations will be accepted upon the completion of LeeAnn's report.

(Whereupon, the Education Scholarship Convention Chairman and Past National Commander advanced to the podium.)

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LeeANN B. KARG: Good morning, everybody.

(Response of "Good morning.")

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: That's much better. (Laugher) National Commander Fran Costa, National

Adjutant Pat and Assistant Adjutant Bunny, National Officers, Past National Commanders, members, guests and delegates.

It has been my privilege to serve as your Scholarship Chairman this past year in place of Past National Commander Linda Stake. She will always be in our hearts.

The other members of the Committee are Commander Fran Costa, Senior Vice Commander Craig Johniken, and myself. And we were assisted by National Adjutant Pat Kemper and Assistant National Adjutant Bunny Clos. So thank you all for helping with that wonderful project. Scholarships are very important.

We had 31 applicants, and 25 of them were considered for a scholarship. Six applicants were denied due to failing to meet the acceptable application criteria.

So it's very important that you and the Unit level when you are having people fill out those applications make sure that they do it correctly, that they're following the eligibility rules and getting them in on time.

That's very critical for those people that are applying to get that application filled correctly so that they can receive the money they so dearly need.

We distributed $37,500. That meant all 25 applicants received a scholarship. Yay. (Applause) All the applicants are full-time students.

Some recommendations that the Committee had, were guidelines would be helpful for the Committee to use for judging from year-to-year.

We've never had anything written down, and every time we go through a question or a back-and-forth response in trying to figure out, well, should we do it this way; should we do it that way.

So we thought if we put some major or some simple guidelines together to help guide us through it, that would be really helpful.

A suggestion was also made regarding changing the due date. When a holiday falls in that area, that close area of when the application is due, sometime we need to figure out if it's cut in stone that it's by that date, or do you give them the grace because the holiday is in there.

I'd like to thank the Committee for their work, very hard work. Thank you, guys, very much. Thank you for all the assistance that these two gave us. It's wonderful. They give us all the information, send out all the reports and do all the hard work.

I'd like to thank, or I'd like to encourage the members in your Unit and your families to consider applying for the DAV scholarship. This year, we were down in the number that we received from last year, so let's get it back up.

We need to educate our young people. And those of you that are caregivers and you have the opportunity to go back to school again, this is a golden opportunity for you to take advantage of. That's why we have it. So encourage it in your Units.

And I thank you all very much. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Education Scholarship Convention Chairman and Past National Commander withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, LeeAnn. For those planning to present their donations—as you see, we do not have a ramp to the podium so—please step to the front center aisle microphone to announce your donation, then step to the table down to my right for your donation. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the delegates lined up to begin presenting their donations.)

COMMANDER COSTA: And for those of you making donations, please double-check that you have your second signature on your checks.

MS. CHARLENE PARKER: Good morning. Good morning. My name is Charlene Parker, State Commander of the great State of Texas. We'd like to give a donation this morning. Thank you. (Applause)

MS. VERNA MESSERSCHMIDT: Verna Messerschmidt, South Dakota State Commander. I have three donations: one for the National Service Fund, one for the Educational Scholarship and one for the Freedom Foundation.

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you so much. (Applause)

MS. LINDA APPLEGATE: Linda Applegate, District 4 NEC, member of Unit Ocean County Memorial 24, New Jersey, we donate $250 to Camp Corral. (Applause)

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you.

(Whereupon, a delegate called out "You need to speak up.")

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Okay.

MS. EVELYN COUTURE: My name is Evelyn Couture. I'm the State Commander for the State of Illinois. And I have two donations, one for the Relief Fund and one for the

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. (Applause) Did you hear that better?

(Response of "No.")

MS. ANNELIESE RAUBER: Anneliese Rauber, Unit 38, New Mexico, I have a donation of $1,200 for Camp Corral.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MS. CAROL COURREGES: I'm Carol Courreges from Burlington, Washington. And you can use this small donation for anything you like.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. (Applause) Good morning.

MS. ICILDA MARLEY: Good morning. My name is Icilda Marley from the great State of Missouri. I'm State Commander. I have a check for the Service Support.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. DIANE SULLIVAN: Good morning. My name is Diane Sullivan from the State of Massachusetts. And I'm the Department Commander. I'd like to give a—we're giving a check for the National Education and Scholarship Fund. Thank you.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. SULLIVAN: In the amount of $100. Thank you.

MS. BETTY HESS: Good morning. My name is Betty Hess from the State of Florida. And we'd like to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund of $100.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. LAURIE STOPYRA: Good morning. I'm Laurie Stopyra from Pennsylvania and I have three donations: one for National, for the Winter Sports Clinic; one for DAVA, the camp for kids; and one for Service Fund. They're all for $100 each.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. (Applause)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER ELLEN TIMMERMAN: I'm Ellen Timmerman. I'm the First National Junior Vice Commander. And from Tim and myself, we have $50 for the Service Support Fund and $50 for the Education Fund.

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you so much. (Applause)

MS. BONITA MITCHELL: I'm Bonita Mitchell from Unit 2 of Kansas City, Missouri, and we have a donation here for the Educational Scholarship Fund.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. MARGARET SCOTT: I'm Margaret Scott from the State of Arkansas. I'm Department Commander. And we have two checks, $100, to the Educational Scholarship Fund—$100, I meant; and $200 to the National Service Support Fund.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. PHYLLIS MASON: Hello. I'm Phyllis Mason, Department Commander, Idaho. We have two checks, one for the National Service Support for $100 and one for the National Scholarship for $100.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Thank you.

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. MARIAN SAWDEY: Good morning. I'm Marian Sawdey from the Department of New York and we have a check for the National Education Scholarship Fund for $500; and Camp Corral, $861.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. ANN MARIE HURLEY: I'm Anne Marie Hurley from another great State, Massachusetts, with a donation for the Service Fund. And I think the amount was $138, I'm not positive. (Laughter)

MS. LINDA JIMMERSON: Good morning. I'm Linda Jimmerson, Commander for Georgia. We have four checks to present: $100 for the National Education Scholarship, Hospitality, Veterans' Riding Program, National Department Service Fund, and National fall gift conference donation.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. BARBARA FISHER: Barbara Fisher, Indiana 23, would like to give a donation to the Service Fund.

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. MARLENE ZWIEBEL: I'm Marlene Zwiebel, great state of Ohio, Department Commander. We have two checks, one for the National Scholarship Fund for $300 and one for the Service Support donation, $300.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. LINDA NOEL: Linda Noel, Department Commander, Kentucky, the Bluegrass State, we have a check for the Scholarship Fund and one for the Service Fund. Thank you.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. (Applause) Good morning.

MS. LAURIE PEKARIK: Hi, I'm Laurie Pekarik. I'm from the great State of Minnesota, 14th District NEC. I have a personal donation here of $100 for Camp Corral.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Thank you.

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. (Applause)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SUSAN MILLER: I don't have a check. I have green stuff. (Laughter)

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: We'll take that.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MILLER: I'm Susan Miller. I'm Past National Commander. I'm donating this. My mother is donating this, Olive Tomlin, to the Scholarship Fund in the name of her grandson, (indistinguishable).

He started his journey to become a doctor with the Educational and Loan Fund, and then he started med school with the Scholarship Fund. And he graduates in May of '18 as a physician. (Applause)

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. (Applause)

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP CONVENTION CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KARG: Thank you, everybody, for your donations. Oh, one more. Good. (Laughter) We love it. We love it.

MS. PATRICIA GARRETT: I'm Patricia Garrett from the State of Vermont. We're at the end of the alphabet, so I came at the end, and we have a check for the National Service Fund and for the Educational Fund.

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. (Applause) Thank you all very much. And I don't know whose sweater this is, but thank you. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, the Education Scholarship Convention Chairman and Past National Commander withdrew from the podium; and Commander Costa withdrew from the podium to the table at the right of the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: 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 chairman will approach the podium and announce the winners. Since we do not have a ramp to the podium today, 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 you may need to form a line.

So, again, the Convention Committee chairmen will come up here to announce the winners and the recommendations and the advisors and National Program Chairmen will stand over here at the table with National Commander Costa.

I will first call on the Americanism Committee. Americanism Committee Chairman please step forward.

(Whereupon, the Americanism Convention Committee Chairman advanced to the podium.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LINDA KING: Good morning.

(Response of “Good morning.”)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KING: I have to put these on.

(Whereupon, the Americanism Convention Committee Chairman put on her glasses.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KING: National Commander Fran, National Adjutant Pat—gee, I don’t know your name. Nice to meet you again. (Laughter)—National Officers, members, delegates and guests.

I had the opportunity this year to chair the Committee for Americanism. And, believe me, it was an experience. We had some great reports. So I am proud to announce the winners.

But I would like to recognize the people that were on my Committee, if you could stand, please: District 1, Janet Pratt; District 2, Diane Wisnesky; District 3, Debbie Burrows; District 7, Amy Raber; District 8, Billie Jean Mull; District 9, Joan Pope; District 10, Carol Lee; District 11, Marlene Zwiebel;—and I knew I was going to do that again—District 14, Julie Donohue; District 15, Icilda Marley; District 17, Cheryl Edwards; District 18, Michael Rundell; District 19, Carol Courreges; District 20, Fannie Lowe; and District 21, Linda Oliver. And our advisor was Lynn Helms Prosser. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the members as their names were called and they were recognized with a round of applause.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KING: Okay, so for Group 1, 10 to 50 members, the award goes to Lafayette Unit 2, Lafayette, Louisiana.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award, followed by a round of applause.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KING: Congratulations. Group 2, 51 to 100 members, William J. Bonney Memorial, Unit 72, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award, followed by a round of applause.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KING: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Omaha Beach Unit 7, Bowie, Maryland.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award, followed by a round of applause.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KING: And Group Number 4, 201 members or over, Lieutenant Vibert O. Fryer Unit 88, Schenectady, New York.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KING: For the special Americanism awards: Group 1, 10 to 200 members: Millington Unit 116, Mumford, Tennessee.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KING: And Group 2, 201 members and over, Cactus Unit 2, Tucson, Arizona.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KING: The Committee submitted the following recommendations. The current forms—we need to make sure that we’re using the current forms that National provides. Some were sending in forms that were not, so it made it difficult to judge and to, you know, count up the points.

They also suggested that we get more information to the Departments and the Units regarding the Freedom Foundation Award. There were several Units and Departments there that did not know what the Freedom Foundation was for.

And since there are points on whether or not you give money to that organization, a lot of them didn’t, because they don’t know what it is.

To, again, make sure you fill in every blank, either with a zero with a line drawn through it, a line, or N/A because you’re not given the points allowed if you leave it completely blank. You’re not disqualified but you do not get the points.

It was also brought up whether or not to separate the Special Americanism report from the Americanism category. And we voted unanimously to continue with the Special Americanism report as a separate report.

And that’s all I have. Thank you all very much. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you. Nice job.

(Whereupon, the Americanism Convention Committee Chairman withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, now it is time for the Community Service Awards. So, Joan Clark-Fournier, are you the chairman of that Committee? Please come forward.

(Whereupon, the Community Service Convention Committee Chairman advanced to the podium, where Adjutant Kemper gave her instructions.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOAN CLARK-FOURNIER: That’s what happens when you’re a first-timer. Good morning.

(Response of “Good morning.”)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLARK-FOURNIER: And I have to apologize prior to me reading my Committee’s names, because I was hoping that they would give me a copy so I could practice, but I think after last night’s entertainment I wouldn’t have remembered, anyway. (Laughter) So I’m good.

National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 95th Auxiliary Convention.

The National Community Service Convention Committee met in the Grand Salon, Section 6, at 9:05 on 7/30/2017. I had an advisor of myself, Joan, and our leader was Dorothy Reese. And our secretary was Janet DeSantis.

And we elected and appointed Committees and we reviewed the applications that came forth. And we came to the conclusion of the following. The following Units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Community Service Awards.

Group 1, which had 10 to 50 members, was chosen Unit 43 of Aiken, South Carolina. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLARK-FOURNIER: Group 2, Units 51 to 100 members was Unit 26, Saint Mary’s from California, Maryland. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLARK-FOURNIER: Group 3, 101 to 200 members Unit 30, Carroll E. Prosser from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLARK-FOURNIER: Group 4, 201 members and over, we chose Unit 1, Francis G.—J. Beaton from Fargo, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLARK-FOURNIER: Our Committee did not have any recommendations at this time. But I would like to recognize the Committee members. And, again, I apologize for not saying your name correctly.

We had Elizabeth Eldridge—please stand; Marian Sawdey; myself; Frances Moses-Knight; Erlinda Loubier;

MRS. ERLINDA LOUBIER: Loubier. (Laughter)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLARK-FOURNIER: I was hoping that maybe I could get you to stand and say your own names. (Laughter) Michelle Brown; Janet DeSanctis; Darlene Hanneman; Evelyn Courture—or Couture; Barbara Fisher; Verna Messerschmidt; Sharon Keyes; Leslie Sandoval; I murdered that one; (Laughter) Brenda Moore; Marilyn Dolan; Micki Kraft; Kathelee Staley; and Teresa Vance.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called and were recognized with a round of applause.

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLARK-FOURNIER: Thank you, all. I’ve had a wonderful time at your Convention. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Community Service Convention Committee Chairman withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you. I now call on the chairman of the Hospital Committee. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Hospital Convention Committee Chairman advanced to the podium.)

HOSPITAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BETTY HESS: Good morning.

(Response of “Good morning.”)

HOSPITAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HESS: Commander Fran, Adjutant Pat, National Officers. Okay. The Hospital—our advisor was Joyce Jefferson for the Hospital Committee. And Linda Bailey was our secretary.

The following winners from Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Unit 2 Lafayette, Louisiana. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

HOSPITAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HESS: Group 2, 51 to 100, Unit 95, McAllen, Texas.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

HOSPITAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HESS: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Unit 9, (Indistinguishable), Oklahoma. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

HOSPITAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HESS: Group 4, for 201 members and over, Unit 1, Fargo, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

HOSPITAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HESS: I'd like to thank the following Committee members: from District 1 is Anne Marie Hurley; if you will stand as I call your name if you're in the room; District 2, Matilda Brooks; District 3, Leanne—I knew I would mess this up—Fournier; District 6, Charlotte Roberts; District 7, myself, Betty Hess; District 8, Linda Bailey; District 9, Roger Nicely; District 10, Kim Olinger; District 11, Judy Uetterling; District 13, Lois Drake; District 14, Carol Holweger; District 15, Melissa Pierce; District 16, Melissa Valdez; District 18, Allan Schwartz; District 20, Gwendolyn Sewell; District 21, Margaret Scott. Thank you, again.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called and were recognized with a round of applause.)

HOSPITAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HESS: We'd like to recommend—I'm sorry. The following recommendations were made: eliminate Hospital program and combine it with Community Service.

The rationale was due to the HIPPA guidelines and approximately 90 percent of the definitions reported should have been under Community Service or VAVS.

We need to remember to sign reports and explain values of the projects performed. There were some missing signatures and explanations of details.

We would also like to remind the State Department judges not to write on the winning reports. It, in essence, eliminates state winners from competing at National level.

Thank you, again. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Hospital Convention Committee Chairman withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: And now for Junior Activities. Will the chairman of that Committee please step forward? This is Kathy Wenthe, chairman.

(Whereupon, the Junior Activities Convention Committee Chairman advanced to the podium.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KATHLEEN WENTHE: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: Commander Fran Costa, National Adjutant Miss Pat, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests.

We at the National Junior Activities Convention Committee met yesterday morning. Our advisor was Miss Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh. Did a great job. We named Miss Amber Linton, she was appointed as our secretary.

At this time, I'd go ahead and like to recognize all of the members and get that out of the way. They did an outstanding job choosing this. It was very difficult. Any time kids are involved, you know, you want to give everybody the medal and the honor. And so, it's difficult to choose just one.

So if I can go ahead and have my Committee stand up, I'll call your name, try not to—I went over them yesterday but I'll try not to butcher them today.

District 1, Dorothy Raymond; District 2, Sonia Figueroa; District 3, Patricia Garrett; District 6, Beulah Scales; is there no one in here: You all are not standing up? Please stand. Please.

District 7, Gloria Bouters; myself, District 8; District 9, Angela Joyner; District 10, Angela Morey; District 11, Vicki Johnston; District 13, Tana Penland; District 14, Kathy Vandrovec; did I get it right;

District 16, Adrienne Frazier-Mack; District 17, Sharon Bilodeau; District 18, Amber Linton; and District 20, Maxine Nixon. Thank you so very much. You all did an outstanding job yesterday.

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

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: The following Units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Junior Activities awards. Group 1, 1 to 25 members, Braintree Unit 29, Massachusetts. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: Group 2, 26 to 50 members, John Woodall, Unit 6, Georgia. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: Group 3, 51 to 100 members, Goshen Memorial, Unit 15, Indiana. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: Group 4, 101 and over, Murphy-Borelli-Klumker, Unit 7, Colorado. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: Unfortunately, we did not have any junior activities books to judge. I encourage you, if you are a Unit, please ask them to do an activities book so it can be judged. It's extremely important to see what our juniors are doing.

On the National Junior Awards we had Ages 15 to 17, winner for that age group is Miss Summer Frost from (Indistinguishable) Unit 58, Kentucky. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: National Junior Award, Ages 11 to 14: Miss Adriana Finney from Danny Bruce Unit 23, Indiana. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: National Junior Award, Ages 7 to 10, was Miss Lexi Nugent from Jo-Beth Henry Unit 8, Kentucky. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WENTHE: The Committee made some following recommendations.

First, be very specific and justify the hours that are listed. So you want to make sure that everything is justifiable. If you put down 500 hours, you want to make sure you have justified those 500 hours.

Second, please read and follow the directions. If you have a junior and they're trying to get in, please go over it and ensure that that junior has done just that. If you have a Junior Activities chairman as the adjutant of your Unit, please ensure that they have done just that—read and followed the directions.

Number 3, referencing the Junior Award question on the Junior Award questionnaire, Number 6, we would like to recommend that they eliminate "own handwriting" and replace with "legibly written by the junior or typed by the junior."

At this time, those are all of our recommendations, and we thank you so very much. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Junior Activities Convention Chairman withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: And now I call on the National Legislative Committee Chairman. Please come forward.

(Whereupon, the Legislative Convention Committee Chairman advanced to a microphone.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAROL PARKER-PARK: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER-PARK: I'm Carol Parker-Park. I was elected the Legislative Committee chairperson. And our advisor was Diane Franz. And Beth Maughan was the secretary. Hope I didn't mess that up.

As far as our Committee members, would you all stand as I call your name: District 1, Sharon Dufault; Sharon; District 2, Theresa Grabowski from New York; Sharon was from Massachusetts; District 3, Sally—oh boy—thank you, Campagnone from Rhode Island; District 4, Bennie Isaac from New Jersey; District 6, Estelle Baker from Virginia; District 7, Margaret Henderson from Florida; District 8, Cynthia Dodge from Mississippi; District 9, Athenia Rucker from Georgia; I represented District 11; District 13, Linda Peek from Indiana; District 14, Nancy Worth from South Dakota; District 15, Peggy Roberts from Missouri; District 16, John Knight—our one guy, all right—and he is from California; District 17, Beth Maughan from Utah; District 18, Robin Linton from Arizona; District 20, Linda Grant from Texas; and our alternate was August Roden from Arkansas.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called and were recognized with a round of applause.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER-PARK: Okay. I do apologize for not addressing the National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 95th National Auxiliary Convention.

Our Group 1, 10 to 50 members, was Scott Vetterling, Unit 33. (Applause) That's from Massachusetts.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER-PARK: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, from New York, Edward G. Galian Memorial Number 212. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER-PARK: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Massachusetts, Cape Cod Number 96. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER-PARK: Group 4, 201 members or over, Francis J. Beaton Number 1. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER-PARK: We have submitted the following recommendations. There should be a space for how many meetings they have per year. Some may only have four; others, 12. And that can decide how we vote, as well.

Try not to cross out. Check for discrepancies in tallies with your additions. And make sure bill numbers match from front to back.

Each group should be based on a weighted percentage and then the groups would be judged in the same manner.

That is all I have for my report. Thank you and many blessings. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Legislative Convention Committee Chairman withdrew.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: I now call on the National Convention Committee Chairman for VAVS. Please step forward.

(Whereupon, the VAVS Convention Committee Chairman advanced to the podium.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LINDA FOLCARELLI: Good morning, everybody. I'm Donna Folcarelli from the big State of Rhode Island. (Laughter)

National Commander Fran—oh, she's over there—National Adjutant Pat, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 95th National Auxiliary Convention.

The National VAVS Convention meeting was held in Section 7 at 9:00 o'clock on July 30th. Our advisor was Nancy Mooney. I was the secretary and the chairperson.

Okay, the following Units were judged to be the best in their category for the National VAVS Awards. Group 1, 10 to 50, Rowan County, Salisbury, North Carolina, Unit Number 96. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FOLCARELLI: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Raul F. Lopez, Texas, Number 95. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FOLCARELLI: Nope. I guess we got it backwards. Group Number 3, 101 to 200, was Marshfield Memorial in Massachusetts, Number 35. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FOLCARELLI: And Group Number 3, 101 to 200 members was Francis J. Beaton, North Dakota, Number 1. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FOLCARELLI: Okay, we had a few of the following recommendations. All information needs to be on the correct report. Some of this stuff was Community Service. Some stuff was Hospital.

Type or print clearly. Be sure to itemize. On the back when it says 1,000 over, make sure you itemize. Do not mark on your reports. Put notations on your form such as "See back page" or "attachments."

Make sure you have the correct special project listed. Check your adjutant for help in reporting your hours.

Now, if you would please stand when I call your name. These are the people that attended. I'll give you the names. District 3 was me; District 6, Maria Torres; District 7 was Juanita Slavinsky of Florida; District 8, Carolyn Harris; District 9 was Helen Crockett; District 11, Elizabeth Hamel; District 13 was April Roush; District 14 was Laurie Pekarik; District 15 was Alma—oops, I lost a page here—15, Velma Steinman; District 16 was Betty Dean; District 17, Kathryn Hanner—Kathleen Hanner; District 18, Carol Rundell; District 19 was Delores Knapp; District 20, Elaine Moreland; and District 21, Janet Vogel. Thank you for the people that came to the meeting. You did a good job. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Do you have recommendations?

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FOLCARELLI: I did the recommendations.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay.

(Whereupon, the VAVS Convention Committee Chairman withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Now it's time for the Mae Holmes Committee Award Chairman.

(Whereupon, the Mae Holmes Convention Committee Secretary advanced to the podium.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY ANITA INGRAM: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY INGRAM: Commander Fran, Adjutant Pat, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates, members and guests.

I was the secretary. Mary Rodin who is sitting over there was the chairperson. And we kind of swapped because she couldn't get up on the stage.

The National Mae Holmes Committee met in the Grand Salon, Room 4, at 9:00 o'clock, July 30th, 2017. Our advisor was Craig Johniken.

I'm going to read the name of the members who helped and these ladies are amazing. I think that Mae Holmes is one of the hardest reports to judge because there are so many parts to it. And they really poured their heart and soul into it, and I really want to thank them for it.

When I call your name please stand. District 1, Deborah Kendrick; I was District 2; District 3, Sonja Caswell; District 4, Mary Wischmann; District 6, Grace James; District 7, Marilyn Miller; District 8, Donna Cox; District 11, Denise Proffitt; District 12, Jean Berna; District 13, Terri Young; District 14, Bernadine Burke; District 15, Kerin Brader; District 16, David Kinzel; District 17—this is the only name that gave me trouble—Pamela Ingalsbe; okay, thank you; District 18, Beverly Baker; District 19, Phyllis Mason; District 20, Kathy Dunham; and District 21 was our chairperson, Mary Roden.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were read and were recognized with a round of applause.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY INGRAM: The following Units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Mae Holmes Awards. Group 1, 10 to 50, Lafayette Unit 2, Louisiana. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY INGRAM: Group 2, 51 to 100, Edward G. Galian Memorial Unit 212, New York. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY INGRAM: And Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Clarence Tom Lemley Unit 24, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY INGRAM: Group 4, 201 or over, Francis J. Beaton Unit Number 1, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY INGRAM: I have to say, judging these reports were a labor of love. There were so many good ones. They were just—it was really, really very difficult to choose this year.

Our recommendations, we found the explanation on grading the sheets for Units that made quota and the Units that didn't make quota but were filling out the form, it just needs to be a little bit clearer. We were very confused on that.

And we think the point system for the Units reaching quota should be re-evaluated. There is really a big difference there, and we thought it should maybe be a little closer together.

But I thank you very much, and I thank everybody for all their reports. They were really beautiful. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Mae Holmes Convention Committee Secretary withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Now we will have the State History Book Committee. Chairman, please step forward. (Whereupon, the State History Book Convention Committee Chairman advanced to the front.)

STATE HISTORY CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VIRGINIA FINNEY: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

STATE HISTORY CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FINNEY: Madame Commander, Adjutant, National Officers—

(Whereupon, members called out "Can't hear you.")

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Get a little closer to the microphone.

STATE HISTORY CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FINNEY: Sorry. Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

STATE HISTORY CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FINNEY: Madame Commander, Adjutant, Past Commanders, National Officers, delegates, and members.

My name is Virginia Finney. I am the chairman. We met in the Grand Salon Section. My advisor was Margaret Snelling. My secretary was Joyce E. Humes.

Unfortunately, we did not have a book to judge.

I would like for the following members to please stand up: District 1, Helen MacShane; District 2, Jorge Montes; District 3, Stephen Winkler; District 6, Barbara Forbes;

District 7, Joan Tyson; District 8, Donald Harris; District 9, Kimberly Knowlton; District 11, Judith Lenhart; District 13, myself, Virginia Finney; District 14, Nancy Berndt;

District 16—this is going to give me a little problem—Jacqueline Medvigy; District 17, Leslie Sandoval; District 19, Vickie Partridge; District 20, Joyce Humes; and District 21, Rhonda Bauer. Thank you all for your participation.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were read and were recognized with a round of applause.)

STATE HISTORY CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FINNEY: I would like to say it was a great honor to stand on this Committee. We just have the following recommendations.

We would like to eliminate purchasing the book from National because of the cost. And if we have to buy it from National, could we lower the cost because some small, some states don't have the funds for the book or pages.

We would continue with the following regular guidelines and everyone on the Committee get together and send suggestions to Carl. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the State History Convention Committee Chairman withdrew from the podium; at which time Commander Costa resumed the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Well, congratulations to all the winners. And thank you very much to all the Committees that took your time to judge these reports.

Seeing we have some time, we'd like to have the districts caucus and we will have the second reading of the—

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper spoke to Commander Costa.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Oops, we forgot one of the very most important.

(Whereupon, Commander Costa withdrew from and Adjutant Kemper assumed the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: You can step down. (Laughter) My bad. I apologize. Now we will have National Membership Chairman Ellen Timmerman step forward to announce the Membership Award winners. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the First Junior Vice Commander and National Membership Committee Chairman advanced to the podium.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ELLEN TIMMERMAN: And this is the most important thing. If we don't have our members, we don't have an organization. Right? (Laughter)

Madame Commander Costa, Adjutant Kemper, fellow Line Officers, Past National Commanders, members and guests.

The 2016-2017 Membership Awards are as follows: Group 1, 10 to 50, Billerica, Number 47, Massachusetts, a 19 member increase.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: Group 2, 51 to 100, Jack Redell, Number 20, Louisiana, 21 membership increase. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: We have us—this is a double winner here, because we have a—Tewksbury—is that correct—

(Response of "Tewksbury.")

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN:—all right, Massachusetts, 110, 21 member increase. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: Group 3, 101 to 200, Huntington Number 2, West Virginia, a 43-member increase. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: Group 4, 201 and over, Clark County Number 13, Ohio, 181-member increase. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: Group 5, new Unit, Most New Members, Patrick Henry Number 34, Virginia, 13 new members, with 13 new members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: Group 6, the Department with largest percentage increase over quota was the State Department of Louisiana, 104.55 percent increase over quota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: Group 7, Department with largest numerical increase over quota—State Department of Ohio, 130-member increase over quota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: Top member recruiter, Kimberly Taylor, Ohio Number 13, 78 new senior members. Unbelievable. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: And you know what? We made National quota this year. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the First Junior Vice Commander and National Membership Committee Chairman posed for photos.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, while they are still doing some photo ops down here and then Fran will come up and get some more exercise coming up and down the steps, I just want to let you know that—I don't know if you are familiar with the DAV Mobile Application where you can go out and you can save it to your mobile devices.

This is something we have been working on since January or February. So we look forward to having that application for the DAV Auxiliary. It was supposed to be a simple fix.

And I know I told some people we were going to have it by the end of February. But it didn't get to go into development until July.

So I'm hoping that by the time we get to Fall Conference next month, we'll be able to launch that and everybody can start downloading that on their mobile devices.

And then you can go out there, and you can sign people up and not fish through your purses, wallets, pockets or whatever, looking for a paper application. So we hope to have that. That's kind of exciting for us. So that's all I have. So, Commander, it's all yours.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper withdrew from the podium as Commander Costa advanced to resume the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Now?

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Sure.

COMMANDER COSTA: The most important. My goodness. I do have a note that was handed to me. If anyone wants the information on the Unsung Heroes Initiative email address, we can give it to you afterward.

Now, seeing we have time, we will have the second reading of the proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments. I'd like to call on—

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper and Commander Costa held a sidebar conversation.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Okay, would you caucus in your districts before Chairman Tanner comes to the podium. Ladies and gentlemen, ten minutes only, please so that we can move forward.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed to caucus; the meeting reconvened at 10:53 o'clock, a.m. July 31, 2017.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Could you please take your seats?

(Whereupon, the delegates returned to their seats.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you very much. Chairman Donna Tanner will now give the second reading of the proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments.

(Whereupon, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman and Past National Commander advanced to the podium.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Before I get into that I'm going to do the Committee, introduce the Committee and we'll go from there.

(Whereupon, members called out they couldn't hear.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Okay, how's that? Is that better?

(Response of "Yes.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Okay. National Commander Fran, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 95th National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Constitution and Bylaws Convention Committee met in Section 16 at 9:00 a.m. on July 30th, 2017. Our advisor was Donna Adams. Susan Henry was elected the secretary. And I was elected as the chairman. Excuse me. Okay.

So I'm going to read the names, the best that I can, and we'll go from there. District 1, Donna Tanner; District 2, Cheryl Connors—she was also on the Interim Committee; District 3, Sylvia Heath; District 4, Sarah Kashner; District 5, Laurie Stopyra; District 6, Amy Bowser; District 7, Delores Roussey—also on the Interim Committee; District 8, Shirley Mercer; District 9, Shirley Hill; District 10, John Olinger; District 11, Deborah Hall; District 12, Patricia Davis; District 13, Linda Noel; District 14, Judy Steinhouse; District 15, Linda Gerke; District 16, John—John—John M. (Laughter) Medvigy, if I'm close; District 17, Marilyn Hogue; District 18, Carolyn Walker; District 19, Jennie Clark; District 20, Christopher Easley; and District 21, Jamie Parnell. Thank you all. You worked very hard, and we appreciate your hard work on this Committee.

We had one recommendation that was legitimate. We had plenty of them, plenty of opinions. But the legitimate recommendation that I would like to put out there is that the Committee be given at least one copy of the DAV National Bylaws, Constitution and Bylaw book, to work with and refer back to in the Committee. Okay? So there we go.

Page N-13, Article I, National Convention, Official Rules of the National Convention. Item B, delete "History".

Rationale: There is a lack of participation for this judging committee at National Convention.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

MS. JENNIE CLARK: Jennie Clark, District—is it on?

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Yes.

MS. CLARK: Jennie Clark, District 19, Unit 1, I second the motion. Oregon.

COMMANDER COSTA: Okay, we have a motion and a second. All in favor—actually, I forgot discussion. (Laughter) Anyone have any discussion that they'd like to bring forward?

Okay, being none, all in favor; any opposed. The motion carries. Thank you.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page N-25, Article V, National Committees and Chairmen, Section 6, National Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Paragraph 2. Delete second paragraph and substitute the following:

"All proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments shall be sent to the National Adjutant no later than ten days prior to the National Convention. The amendment(s) shall be signed by the sponsor."

I move—Rationale, excuse me—The use of electronic mail is increasing and is the preferred method.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

MS. DEBORAH HALL: Deb Hall—oh, go ahead.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved. Do I hear a second?

MS. HALL: Debbie Hall, Unit 11, Ohio—Unit 11? District 11, Ohio.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Where are you a delegate from?

COMMANDER COSTA: Unit number, please, Debbie.

MS. HALL: Oh, Unit 50, Alliance, Ohio.

COMMANDER COSTA: Okay. The motion has been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion? All in favor; any opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page N-27, Article VII, Membership, Section 4, Replacing Membership Cards. Delete the paragraph and substitute the following:

"A membership card which is lost, stolen or destroyed will be replaced by National Headquarters upon request."

Rationale: Requests are often made via phone calls and electronic mail.

I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The amendment has been moved. Do I hear a second?

MS. LINDA NOEL: Linda Noel, Department of Kentucky, I second that.

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. Any discussion? The motion has been moved and seconded. All in favor; opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page N-39, Article X, Local Units, Section 1, Paragraph 2, delete paragraph and substitute the following:

"All applications for Charter shall be made directly to National Headquarters. Applications shall be accompanied with the national charter fee of twenty-five dollars, applicable IRS fee(s), and the entire amount of dues for each member."

Rationale: National Headquarters can make application for all units ensuring compliance with the IRS.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved. May I have a second?

MS. AMY BOWSER: Amy Bowser, District 6, Department of Virginia, I second it.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion?

MS. REGINA FORTNER: Regina Fortner, District 10, Unit 130, Michigan. Just clarification. When I'm reading this, the entire amount of dues for each member—are they stating that they need to pay their entire two-hundred-and-whatever?

COMMANDER COSTA: No.

MS. FORTNER: Okay.

COMMANDER COSTA: That is whatever is required for their initial payment.

MS. FORTNER: Okay. Just wanted to make that clarification.

COMMANDER COSTA: Right. Right. Thank you. The motion has been moved and seconded. Any other discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page N-40, Article X, Local Units, Section 3, delete E and substitute new E as follows:

"E. Which files annually a financial report with State and National Headquarters no later than September 30th."

Rationale: To establish a uniform reporting process.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved. Do I hear a second?

MS. IRIS BRZEZINSKI: Iris Brzezinski, District 18, Nevada, Sunrise Mountain Unit 13, I second that.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? Being none, all in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Okay. Page S-1, Article I, State Organization, New Section 2.

"Section 2. The fiscal year shall be the membership year commencing on July 1, ending June 30."

Rationale: To establish a uniform fiscal year for financial reporting purposes.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved. Do I hear a second?

MR. JOHN OLINGER: John Olinger, District 10, Unit 10, Michigan, I second.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page S-8, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 6. State Adjutant, Paragraph 3, Item A and B. Delete Items A and B.

Rationale: State financial report or Accountant's Statement and appropriate IRS Form 990 will not be prepared prior to the current convention. And if approved, re-alphabetize the other—they will be re-alphabetized accordingly, excuse me.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has moved. Do I hear a second?

DR. MICHELLE VERNADO BROWN: Dr. Michelle Vernado Brown, District 8, Unit 95, great State of Tennessee, I second that motion.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page S-8, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 6, State Adjutant, Paragraph 3, Items E and F. Delete the Number 3 and substitute with a 2.

The rationale: The change in number of copies from three to two was approved at the 2016 National Convention but this section was not addressed at that time.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has moved. Do I hear a second?

MR. JOHN A. MEDVIGY: John A. Medvigy, Unit 157, District 16, California, so seconds.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page S-9, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 6, State Adjutant. Add new Paragraph 5 which will read:

"A copy of the financial report for the previous fiscal year and a copy of the appropriate IRS Form 990 shall be forwarded to National Headquarters no later than September 30th."

Rationale: To establish a uniform reporting process and Federal IRS requirements.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has moved. Do I hear a second?

MS. JULIE DONOHUE: Yes, I second that motion. My name is Julie Donohue. I am with District 14. My Unit is Number 2. And I'm from Montana.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page S-14, Article VI, State Committees and Chairmen, Section 6, State Audit Committee, Paragraph 3, last sentence. Delete the last sentence and substitute the following:

"The Financial Report Form provided by National Headquarters shall be completed by the State Treasurer or the Audit Committee and sent to National Headquarters no later than September 30th.

Rationale: To establish a uniform reporting process.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved. Do I hear a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JUDITH STEINHOUSE: Judy Steinhouse, Past National Commander, I second that motion.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Okay. Page S-15, Article VI, State Committees and Chairmen, Section 6, State Audit Committee, Paragraph 4, last sentence. Delete last sentence and substitute the following:

"The accountant's statement and a completed Financial Report Form prepared by the accountant shall be mailed to National Headquarters no later than September 30th."

Rationale: To establish a uniform reporting process.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has moved. Do I hear a second?

MS. CAROL LEE: Carol Lee, Department of Michigan, I second that.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor; any opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page S-15, Article VI, State Committees and Chairmen, Section 6, Paragraph 4, first sentence. Delete first sentence and substitute the following:

"If the total gross income of the State Department exceeds $300,000, the state financial records shall be reviewed and verified by an independent or Certified Public Accountant."

Rationale: To comply with DAV National Bylaws.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved. Do I hear a second?

MS. ANN MARIE HURLEY: Ann Marie Hurley, Unit 3, Massachusetts, I second the motion.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page S-15, Article VI, State Committees and Chairmen, Section 6, State Audit Committee, Paragraph 6, last sentence. Delete Paragraph 6.

Rationale: Since the Annual Financial Report will not be completed until after the Convention, it cannot be adopted by the delegates.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved. Do I hear a second?

MS. PATRICIA DAVIS: Patty Davis, District 12, Unit 19, Wisconsin, I second that motion.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page S-20, Article XI, Jewelry and Caps, Section 1, Jewelry and Caps, Paragraph 2. Delete Paragraph 2 and substitute the following:

"All official jewelry shall be purchased through the DAV Store."

Rationale: The DAV Store now handles purchase of supplies.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved. Do I hear a second?

MS. NANCY WORTH: Nancy Worth, District 14, Unit 11, South Dakota, I second the motion.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page U-2, Article VI, Election of Unit Officers, Section 1, last sentence. Delete the last sentence and substitute the following:

"The Adjutant shall notify all life members at least ten (10) days prior to annual nominations and/or elections."

Rationale: Notification of election to fill a vacancy shall not require advance notice.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved. Do I hear a second?

MS. RUBY GATLING: Ruby Gatling, Unit Number 6, Commander, District 6, State of Virginia.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page U-7, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 3, Adjutant 9, Item 9. Delete Item 9 and substitute the following:

"9. Notify all life members at least ten (10) days prior to annual nominations and/or elections."

Rationale: To comply with Page U-2, Article VI, Section 1.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved. Do I hear a second?

MS. LYNN SWANSON: Lynn Swanson, District 13, Indiana, senior vice commander, I second the motion.

COMMANDER COSTA: Is that District 13 or Unit 13?

MS. SWANSON: What did I say, unit? It's District 13, Unit 23.

COMMANDER COSTA: What is your Unit Number?

MS. SWANSON: Twenty-three.

COMMANDER COSTA: Okay. Thank you. The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page U-8, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 4, Treasurer, Item 7, third sentence. Delete the third sentence and substitute the following:

"If the gross income exceeds $300,000, the Unit financial records shall be reviewed and verified by an independent or Certified Public Accountant."

Rationale: To comply with DAV National Bylaws.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved. Do I hear a second?

MR. JEFF JUNGKANS: Jeff Jungkans, Unit 116, District 8, Tennessee, seconds it.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page U-9, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 4, Treasurer, Note, Paragraph 2. Delete last sentence and substitute the following:

"The Unit Adjutant shall send the report to State and National Headquarters no later than September 30th."

Rationale: To establish a uniform reporting process.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved. Do I hear a second?

MR. CHRISTOPHER EASLEY: Chris Easley, District 20, Alamo Unit 5, I second.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page U-13, Article XIV, Unit Committees, Section 2, Audit Committee, Paragraph 3. Delete the last sentence and substitute the following:

"The Unit Adjutant shall send the report to State and National Headquarters no later than September 30th."

Rationale: To establish a uniform reporting process.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved. May I hear a second?

MS. JEAN BERNA: Jean Berna, Department of Wisconsin, I second it. Oh, Unit 55. Sorry about that.

COMMANDER COSTA: Okay. How are you registered, Jean? You're registered as a Unit delegate?

MS. BERNA: Yes.

COMMANDER COSTA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. BERNA: Oh, state commander, I'm sorry.

COMMANDER COSTA: Okay, that is Department of Wisconsin. Thank you, Jean. The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page U-13, Article XIV, Unit Committee, Section 2, Audit Committee, Paragraph 4. Delete Paragraph 4 and substitute the following:

"If the total gross income of the Unit exceeds $300,000, the Unit financial records shall be reviewed and verified by an Independent or Certified Public Accountant.

"The accountant's statement and a completed Financial Report Form shall be mailed to the State and National Headquarters by the Unit Adjutant no later than September 30th."

Rationale: To comply with DAV National Bylaws.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved. Do I hear a second?

MS. CHARLENE PARKER: Charlene Parker, state commander of the great State of Texas, District 20, Unit 3, Waco, I second.

COMMANDER COSTA: How are you registered, Charlene?

MS. PARKER: State commander.

COMMANDER COSTA: Okay. I didn't see your badge, that's why. Your badge. Your delegate badge. Okay. Okay, thank you. Department of Texas.

The motion has been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion? Discussion?

MS. KIMBERLY OLINGER: Kim Olinger, District 10, Unit Number 2, Grand Rapids, Michigan. I do have a question.

This says for the bylaws to be reviewed and verified. However, the financial forms that are filled out says it needs to be audited. Is there any way to get the wording on the forms that we have to send in changed to reviewed instead of audit?

COMMANDER COSTA: That's just a review.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: So as far as Units are concerned and the state Departments who do not have in excess of $300,000, they do have to do an audit of their records and—on the state level. But if you exceed the $300,000, then you must have an independent review conducted by a Certified Public Accountant.

MS. OLINGER: Okay. So if our gross income exceeds $300 we do not need—

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Three hundred thousand dollars.

MS. OLINGER: Right, $300,000, if it exceeds that we do not need an audit from a Certified Public Accountant audit.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Well, they still need to conduct an audit, but they're reviewing those records and reporting, providing a report. So as part of their review, they are conducting an audit.

MS. OLINGER: Okay. Thank you.

COMMANDER COSTA: Any other discussion? The motion has been moved and seconded. All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page U-16, Article XVI, Conventions, Section 1, Delegate(s), Paragraph 1. Delete Paragraph 1 and substitute the following:

"Section 1. Delegate(s)

"A life member must be in good standing to be selected as a delegate or alternate to a State or a National Convention."

Rationale: To comply with N-6, Article I, Section 4.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved. Do I hear a second?

MR. EASLEY: Chris Easley, District 20, Alamo Unit 5, I second, Texas.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Page U-17, Article XVII, Supplies, Section 1. Delete Section 1 and substitute the following:

"Section 1. All emblems, badges, standards and other supplies shall be ordered and/or purchased through the DAV Store.

"All jewelry displaying the official emblem of our organization shall also be purchased through the DAV Store."

Rationale: The DAV Store now handles the purchase of supplies.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved. Do I hear a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: Susan Henry, Past National Commander, seconds.

COMMANDER COSTA: The motion has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor; anyone opposed. The motion carries.

Thank you all very, very much. (Applause)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: I'd just like to thank the Committee for their hard work all year. I'd like to thank Commander Fran for the opportunity to serve on this Committee as the chairman.

Thank you, Susan, for keeping the line in control over there. (Laughter) And thank you very much for all your hard work. It was much appreciated. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Convention Constitution and Bylaws Chairman and Past National Commander withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you, Donna, for your hard work. And I also would like to thank the Committee.

If there is anyone here from Tennessee Unit 9, could you see me when we're through, please?

I'd like to now call on National Adjutant Kemper for announcements.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Special thanks to the Interim Constitution and Bylaw Committee. I know they worked very hard this year coordinating this. So I appreciate your efforts.

Okay, for announcements, there is a little pin, well, what's left of a pin that was found. It has a Puerto Rico insignia on it. So if you lost that—I think they said it was found in the women's restroom—so we have that up here.

We still have that small ring. So if someone knows of someone who has lost a ring, it's a very small size, so it's probably a child's ring or someone with a whole lot smaller finger than I've got, so we have that up here.

The movie this evening, The Unsung Heroes Documentary, the time for the showing has been changed, moved back to 8:30, not 8:00 o'clock. It will be at 8:30.

We have a few of the masks left that we handed out the other night at our opening session, or the other afternoon. And we have those available for $5 if anyone is interested in the Fulton Room on this floor. That's our Auxiliary office.

The Forget-me-Not Luncheon will be held at 12:30 in the Churchill Room B. And that is on the second floor. A reminder to show your ticket at the door.

We are also going to be doing the drawings for the junior gifts, the junior prizes. We have three really great prizes. And we will be drawing for those at the luncheon, but they do not have to be present to win. We will find the winners and give them their gifts.

On that vein, I would like to thank California Unit 7 for helping us with this junior endeavor this year. They donated $1,000 to help with this junior project this year. (Applause) And they made it special for the juniors. I hope the juniors had a great time.

And I believe that is all I have.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Being as there is no other business, we will now have our closing prayer. Please stand.

(Whereupon, the Chaplain Nicodemus advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN NICODEMUS: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You that we have completed all the business of this meeting, and we can go forward and enjoy some time together.

We ask Your blessings upon the members who are at home and our troops that are in harm's way. We also ask a special blessing upon those in Florida who are facing the storm. And we also ask a blessing upon those in North Carolina who are still without power, that you will be with each of them.

We thank You for blessing us and for helping us to work together. In Your name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen", after which Chaplain Nicodemus withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: We are not through, please. The Convention stands in recess and will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday morning. We will now have door prizes so please remain seated.

(Whereupon, the meeting was recessed at 11:31 o'clock, p.m., on Monday, July 31, 2017.)

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## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
## 95th NATIONAL CONVENTION

### Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel
### New Orleans, Louisiana

### August 1, 2017

### Final Business Session

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The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Saint Charles Ballroom on the Third Level of the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, on Tuesday morning, August 1, 2017, and was called to order at 9:04 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Frances J. Costa.

COMMANDER FRANCES J. COSTA: We have a lot of business to complete, so if you would please take your seats and give us the great undivided attention that you did yesterday, we'll get through all of our business early.

May I have the National Chaplain, Aura-Lee Nicodemus, offer our opening prayer.

(Whereupon, the Chaplain advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN AURA-LEE NICODEMUS: Dear Heavenly Father, we come before You on this very special day, the day that we shape our organization for the upcoming year. We ask Your special guidance as we select the new officers for the year. And we ask that You keep them safe and guide their travels wherever they may go.

Help us all to reflect the mission of our organization in helping veterans and for remembering that our job is also to care for each other. In Your name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," whereupon, the Chaplain withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you Aura-Lee. Lynn Helms Prosser, Americanism Chairman, will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Third Junior Vice Commander and National Americanism Chairman advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN LYNN HELMS PROSSER: Please free your hands. Stand at attention. Put your right hand over your heart or render the appropriate salute and join me in on the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

(Whereupon, the Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which she withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: You may all be seated. Thank you, Lynn.

I'd like to, at this time, give you the totals collected from all donations received so far: DAV Auxiliary for Kids, $2,761; (Applause) a Fall Conference donation for a prize $50; (Applause)

the Scholarship Fund, $2,925; (Applause) the Hospitalized Veterans Riding Project, $50; (Applause) Winter Sports Clinic, $100; (Applause) the Service Support Fund, $2,270; (Applause) and Freedom's Foundation, $150. (Applause)

Will the Credentials Chairman, Marlene Comeaux, please come forward to give the final Credentials report?

(Whereupon, the Credentials Committee Chairman advanced to the podium.)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COMEAUX: Commander, National Officers, delegates and guests. The Credentials report is as follows: total Units registered, 175; total Departments registered, 38; National Officers registered, 6; Past National Commanders registered, 11; total guests registered, 243; total delegates, 362; total alternates, 37; total registered, 659; total vote count, $1,211—oh! (Laughter) Whoo, it's been a long convention—1,211 votes. (Laughter)

This will be the final reading of the Credentials report. I move that we accept the Credentials report.

COMMANDER COSTA: A motion has been moved to accept the Credentials report. Do I hear a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: Susan Henry, Past National Commander, seconds.

COMMANDER COSTA: There has been a motion and a second. All in favor; any opposed. The ayes have it. The motion carries.

(Whereupon, the Credentials Committee Chairman withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Okay, 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, Elizabeth Eldridge NEC, Alternate Sharon Dufault; District 3, NEC Karen Rediker, Alternate Donna Folcarelli; District 5, NEC Loretta Nosko, no alternate was elected; District 7, Delores Roussey NEC, Alternate Irene Stevens; District 8, Alternate NEC Janett Reece; District 9, JoAnn Atkinson NEC, Alternate Byrdyne Bell; District 11, NEC Judy Hezlep, Alternate Debbie Hall; District 13, NEC Douglas Noel, Alternate April Rousch; District 15, NEC Velma Steinman, Alternate Melissa Pierce; District 17, NEC Marilyn Hogue, Alternate Victoria Salazar; District 19, Jennie Clark NEC, Alternate Jerry Royse; District 21, Linda Oliver NEC, Alternate Kim Stake.

So if we could have the NECs in the front row, please; alternates, behind. And then I am going to do another roll and call your name to make sure we have everyone present.

(Whereupon, the NECs and Alternates advanced to the front rows.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Elizabeth Eldridge. Sharon Dufault. Please say “present.” Karen Rediker, District 3.

MS. KAREN REDIKER: Present.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Donna Folcarelli.

MS. DONNA FOLCARELLI: Present.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 5, Loretta Nosko.

MS. LORETTA NOSKO: Present.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 7 Delores Roussey.

MS. DELORES ROUSSEY: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: Irene Stevens.

MS. IRENE STEVENS: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: District 8 Janett Reece, alternate.

MS. JANETTE REECE: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: District 9 JoAnn Atkinson.

MS. JOANN ATKINSON: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: Alternate Byrdyne Bell.

MS. BYRDYNE BELL: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: District 11 NEC Judy Hezlep.

MS. JUDITH HEZLEP: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: Alternate Debbie Hall.

MS. DEBORAH HALL: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: District 13 Douglas Noel.

MR. DOUGLAS NOEL: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: Alternate April Rousch.

MS. APRIL ROUSCH: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: District 15 Velma Steinman.

MS. VELMA STEINMAN: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: Melissa Pierce, alternate.

MS. MELISSA PIERCE: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: District 17 Marilyn Hogue.

MS. MARILYN HOGUE: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: Victoria Salazar.

MS. VICTORIA SALAZAR: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: District 19 Jennie Clark NEC.

MS. JENNIE CLARK: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: Alternate Jerry Royse.

MR. JERALD ROYSE: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: District 21 Linda Oliver.

MS. LINDA OLIVER: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: And Alternate Kim Stake.

MS. KIMBERLY STAKE: Present.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper withdrew from and Commander Costa returned to the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: You are requested to remain silent during the ceremony of installation.

As newly-elected National Executive Committee members and alternates, are you willing to assume the oath of your office?

(Response of "I am.")

COMMANDER COSTA: Place your right hand over your heart, pronounce your name and repeat after me the oath of 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 thereto to the best of my ability and means.

"When my successor has been duly selected and installed, I promise to surrender all the property of the organization in my possession, all of which I now affirm."

You may lower your hands. 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. Please about face. (Applause) Would the newly-installed National Executive Committee members and alternates please return to your seats? (Applause)

(Whereupon, the newly-elected NEC members assumed their appropriate seats.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Will the Chairman of the Nominating Committee please come forward to give the Committee report?

(Whereupon, the Nominating Committee Chairman advanced to the podium to give her report.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PATRICE RAPISAND: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RAPISAND: This year, we had several people that came before the Nominating Committee, and it was very nice to meet them all and to see how many people are qualified.

It just shows that you shouldn't be afraid to try. You may not make it this year but come again, maybe next year. So to those who did not make—well, who are not nominated by the Nominating Committee, please try again. It's worth it.

The first thing I'd like to do is have all the Committee members stand as I read their names. District 1, Diane Sullivan; District 2, Linda Trulio; District 3, Karen Rediker; and District 4, Linda Applegate; District 5, Loretta Nosko; District 6, Carol Simmons; District 7, Irene Stevens; District 8, Susan Henry?—no, that's not right—

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: Shirley Mercer. Shirley Mercer.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RAPISAND: Okay, wait. Hold on just a minute. Okay. District 8, Shirley Mercer; I'm sorry; is she in the room; District 9, Linda Jimmerson; District 10, Regina Fortner; District 11, Joyce Hutchinson; District 12, Carla—Carla Reynolds; District 13, Douglas Noel; District 14, Sandra Dobmeier; District 15, Edna Mitchell; District 16, Kimberly Stuhler; District 17, Susan Miller—no that's not right; yes, Susan Miller; I'm sorry, Susan; (Laughter) I'm sorry; District 18, Iris Brzezinski; okay, she's way back there; District 19, Jerald Royse; District 20, Patrice Rapisand; District 21, Kim Stake.

I'd like you all to give all of these members a round of applause.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called and were recognized with a round of applause.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RAPISAND: I've served on many Committees and this is, by far, the hardest, but also the most heartwarming, as well.

The Nominating Committee of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary held their first meeting on July 30th, 2017. We are proud to submit the following slate for your consideration to serve as the 2017-18 officers: Commander Craig Johniken; (Applause) Senior Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman; (Applause) First Junior Vice- Diane Franz; (Applause) Second Junior Vice- Lynn Helms Prosser; (Applause) Third Junior Vice- Carol Sensat; (Applause) I believe it's Carolyn Sensat, okay; Fourth Junior Vice- Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh; (Applause) Judge Advocate Donna Adams. (Applause)

Thank you for considering this slate of officers.

(Whereupon, as the Nominating Committee Chairman 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.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Before I dismiss the Nominating Committee, I would like to thank them profusely. They spent many, many long, hard hours deliberating.

I would just like to say to those who have addressed me and said that they will never serve again because they felt verbally attacked after the meeting, please reconsider.

The Nominating Committee is a very viable part of this organization and without the strength of each and every one of us, we will not do a good job for our organization. So please, for those of you who feel disenchanted, please serve again next year.

I wish to thank the members of the Nominating Committee. I'm sorry. I wish to thank the members of the Nominating Committee for their time and efforts. I am now discharging the Nominating Committee and all other Convention Committees.

I now ask all the officers to please leave the podium and go to your respective Districts for the purpose of nomination and elections. National Executive Committee, please join your Districts as well.

We need to appoint three tellers. Ann, would you do one? Carol Lee, Chris Easley, you both mentioned that you would be willing to do that. Would you please? Carol, are you still willing to serve as teller?

MS. LEE: Yes, ma'am.

COMMANDER COSTA: Okay, please come forward. Over here.

(Whereupon, the National Officers withdrew from the podium and, along with the National Executive Committee members, joined their respective Districts).

COMMANDER COSTA: Okay, we have our three tellers, thank you.

(Whereupon, the tellers advanced to the table at the front of the room.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Is everyone ready? Please quiet down. Everyone is in their districts?

You have heard the report of the Committee on Nominations. Craig Johniken has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Commander.

(Whereupon, Darlene Spence advanced to a microphone.)

MS. DARLENE SPENCE: Good morning.

COMMANDER COSTA: Please keep it down.

MS. SPENCE: National Commander Fran Costa, Adjutant Pat Kemper, Assistant Adjutant Bunny Clos, my name is Darlene Spence. I am the state adjutant for the great State of Texas. I would like to place the name of Craig Johniken for National Commander for 2017-2018.

Craig, or as we call him, "Hub," is eligible for membership through his wife, Theresa Johniken, a service-connected disabled veteran and DAV member since 1995, and his son, Tim, also a service-connected disabled veteran.

A native of Texas, Craig began his career at Texas Department of Transportation in 1979 and retired after 30 years in September 2009. He then began another career as a salesman for Thompson All-State Bingo Supply where he has been in contact with many DAV Chapters and Units, assisting them with opportunities to raise funds through Bingo.

Craig was interested and involved in the DAVA for many years before he was eligible to join the organization.

He volunteered to assist at all local DAV and DAVA functions by cooking, cleaning, and event setup in order to be involved with his wife and family. Isn't this the kind of man you guys would like to have—cooking and cleaning? (Laughter)

As the years went by, DAV and Auxiliary became like a second home to him, where he began to ask questions and learn about the mission of the organization. When membership opened up for men in 2005, Craig was ready to join and he did so.

Craig served as Unit commander for three years. He also worked his way through the chairs in the DAV Auxiliary State Department of Texas and served as 2001(sic)-2012 state commander.

On the national level, Craig was appointed as a member of the original Strategic Planning Core Committee, formed in 2009, chairing the Membership Subcommittee. He also served on the Standard Operating Policies Subcommittee.

He was elected to the office of Fourth Junior Vice Commander in 2012 and has worked his way through the chairs to his present position of Senior Vice Commander, where he has continued to represent the DAVA, supporting our veterans.

Craig and Theresa married in 1985. They have a daughter, Ashley Clark, and three grandchildren: Will, Emma, and Ashton Johniken. All are members of the DAV Auxiliary.

Craig and his wife reside in Lufkin, Texas. Thank you.

(Whereupon, Ms. Spence withdrew from the microphone.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. (Applause) Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nomination closed for the office of National Commander.

All those in favor of Craig Johniken for National Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed. They ayes have it and Craig Johniken has been elected to the office of National Commander. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER COSTA: Ellen Timmerman 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 Ellen Timmerman for the office of National Senior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed. The ayes have it and Ellen Timmerman has been elected. (Applause)

Diane Franz has been nominated by the Committee for the office of First Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander.

All those in favor of Diane Franz for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed. The ayes have it and Diane Franz has been elected to the office of National First Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

Lynn Helms Prosser 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 Lynn Helms Prosser for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; (Applause) we haven't finished yet. (Laughter)

The ayes have it and Lynn Helms Prosser has been elected to the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander. Now. (Applause)

Carolyn Sensat 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 Carolyn Sensat for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; any opposed. The ayes have it and Carolyn Sensat has been elected to the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh 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 Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed. They ayes have it and Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh 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 Donna Adams for the office of National Judge Advocate signify by saying aye; those opposed. The ayes have it and Donna Adams has been elected for the office of National Judge Advocate. (Applause)

At this point I would like to dismiss the three tellers. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the tellers returned to their seats.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Will the current National Officers please return to your seats at the head table.

(Whereupon, the National Officers resumed their stations.)

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 members who served as pages.

While we're waiting for that, I would like to acknowledge our National Color Bearers and State Color Bearers. (Applause) Thank you very much for Deborah and Linda Oliver for the National Colors. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Sergeant-at-Arms advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS FINCEL: Could I have all the NECs come to the front of the podium, and then the juniors.

(Whereupon, the members advanced to the front of the podium.)

NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS FINCEL: The juniors can line up in front. They didn't hear me. Donna, put the juniors in front of the NECs. Put the juniors in front of the NECs.

(Whereupon, the juniors lined up in front of the NECs.)

NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS FINCEL: National Commander Fran, National Adjutant Pat, it's been a pleasure working as Sergeant-at-Arms for this Convention. I had so much help. It was unbelievable. I'm glad they felt bad for me because of my bad knees. (Laughter)

I'd like to introduce the juniors first. We have Magdelena Aguinaga from Texas; (Applause) Angel Bolton from South Dakota; (Applause) Zion Hawkins from Maryland; (Applause) Ashton Johniken from Texas; (Applause) Emma Johniken from Texas; (Applause) Trevor Knowlton from North Carolina; (Applause) Olivia Kashner-Forwood from Delaware; (Applause) Jeffrey Olson from Massachusetts; (Applause) Maxwell Robertson from Ohio; (Applause) Olivia Sensat from Louisiana; (Applause) Jessica Steinbaugh from California; (Applause) Riley Comeaux; Shalyn Rislyn; Sheradin Hamilton; Savannah Clark; and Will Johniken. (Applause) Juniors, you did a great job. (Applause)

Now from District 1, Lillian Halpin; (Applause) District 2, Terri Grabowski; (Applause) District 3, Sylvia Heath; (Applause) District 4, Linda Applegate; (Applause) District 5, Loretta Nosko; (Applause) District 6, Grace James; (Applause) District 7, Delphia Bare; (Applause) District 8, Charlene Williams; (Applause) District 9, Shirley Hill; (Applause) District 10, Teresita Morey; (Applause) District 11, Denise Proffitt; (Applause) District 12, Carla Reynolds; (Applause) District 13, Laura Bratcher; (Applause) District 14, Laurie Pekarik; (Applause) District 16, Melissa Valdez; (Applause) District 17, Beth Maughan; (Applause) District 18, Carol Rundell; (Applause) District 19, Delores Knapp; (Applause) District 20, Christopher Easley; (Applause) District 21, Kimberly Stake; (Applause) and my right-hand lady, the Assistant National Sergeant-at-Arms, Donna Horton. (Applause)

Thank you all. (Applause)

COMMANDER COSTA: All pages are now dismissed. Thank you all. You did a wonderful job. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Sergeant-at-Arms withdrew from the podium and the pages returned to their seats.)

COMMANDER COSTA: I would also like to acknowledge Nancy Mooney and Sharon Dufault as my personal pages. And everyone from Massachusetts has been there to be a runner for me. Thank you all for all your support. (Applause)

Is there any further business to come before this Convention? Hearing none, I now declare the 95th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary hereby adjourned.

We will immediately go into the post-Convention National Executive Committee meeting which I will now call to order.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:32 o'clock, a.m., on Tuesday, August 1, 2017.)

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# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
# 95th NATIONAL CONVENTION

## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
## and
## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

### New Orleans, Louisiana

### August 1, 2017

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The Installation of Officers and Post-Convention Executive Committee Meeting of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Saint Charles Ballroom on the Third Level of the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, on Tuesday morning, August 1, 2017, and was called to order at 10:32 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Frances J. Costa.

COMMANDER FRANCES J. COSTA: We will immediately go into our National Executive Committee meeting, which I will now call to order. Will the newly-elected National Officers, retire to the back of the room.

(Whereupon, the National Officers withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER COSTA: I ask all NECs and alternates to take their seats in the designated area in the front of the room: NECs to the right, to my right; alternates to my left.

(Whereupon, the NECs and alternates assumed their proper positions.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Ladies and gentlemen, if we could do this as expeditiously as possible, we could get this done early. Thank you.

Will Craig Johniken's family members please take a seat near the front of the room, in the "reserved" seating area. Are you all there?

Sergeant-at-Arms, will you please see that the newly-elected officers are escorted to the front of the room.

COMMANDER COSTA: National Commander Craig Johniken. (Applause)

(Whereupon, National Commander William "Craig" Johniken was escorted into the room.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Senior Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman. (Applause)

(Whereupon, National Senior Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman was escorted into the room.)

COMMANDER COSTA: First Junior Vice Commander Diane Franz. (Applause)

(Whereupon, National First Junior Vice Commander Diane J. Franz was escorted into the room.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Second Junior Vice Commander Lynn Helms Proesser. (Applause)

(Whereupon, National Second Junior Vice Commander Lynn Helms Prosser was escorted into the room.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Third Junior Vice Commander Carolyn Sensat. (Applause)

(Whereupon, National Third Junior Vice Commander Carolyn Sensat was escorted into the room.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Fourth Junior Vice Commander Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh. (Applause)

(Whereupon, National Fourth Junior Vice Commander Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh was escorted into the room.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Judge Advocate Donna Adams. (Applause)

(Whereupon, National Judge Advocate Donna Adams was escorted into the room.)

COMMANDER COSTA: Everyone can please be seated. Not you. (Laughter) The first order of business will be the installation of the newly-elected National Officers. Craig Johniken, have you selected your installing officer?

COMMANDER-ELECT WILLIAM "CRAIG" JOHNIKEN: I have. Patti Rapisand.

COMMANDER COSTA: Past National Commander Patti Rapisand, would you please come to the podium.

(Whereupon, Past National Commander and Installing Officer Patrice Rapisand was escorted to the podium, at which time Commander Costa withdrew from the podium.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER AND INSTALLING OFFICER PATRICE RAPISAND: I'm so proud of all of you. You are requested to remain silent during the ceremony of installation.

As a newly-elected officer, are you willing to assume the office—as a newly-elected officer, you are willing to assume—are you willing to assume the oath of your office?

(Response of "I am.")

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER AND INSTALLING OFFICER RAPISAND: Place your right hand over your heart, pronounce your name and repeat after me the oath of office.

"I, Patti Rapisand, having been selected as a National Officer of this Auxiliary, do most solemnly pledge myself to faithfully and impartially perform in letter and spirit all duties of the office I am about to enter.

"I promise to obey the lawful orders of my superior officers and exact the obedience of others thereto to the best of my ability and means.

"When my successor has been duly selected and installed, I promise to surrender all the property of the organization in my possession, all of which I now affirm."

You may lower your hands. Members should have stood up but you may be seated. (Laughter) I'm sorry. Pat, don't kill me. Delegates, members and guests, I now present to you the National Officers of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. (Standing Ovation)

I trust you will aid them in the performance of their duties. With your help their term of office will be highly successful. About face.

(Whereupon, the newly-installed officers turned to face the membership, followed by a round of applause.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER AND INSTALLING OFFICER RAPISAND: Okay, take a few pictures. (Applause) Are we finished?

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the National Commander to the podium and all the other National Officers may assume their positions. Congratulations to all the newly-elected officers. (Applause)

(Whereupon, National Commander was escorted to the podium and the other National Officers assumed their stations while the Installing Officer withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER WILLIAM "CRAIG" JOHNIKEN: All right. Finally made it to this position. (Applause) Fran Costa, will you please join me at the podium, please?

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Costa advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: I have something for you. (Laughter)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER FRANCES J. COSTA: Where's my footstool? (Laughter)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: I can't get it undone. See if you can get it undone.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COSTA: His fingers are too big. I'm glad yours is going to be easier.

(Whereupon, Commander Johniken pinned Past National Commander Costa with thePast National Commander's pin.)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COSTA: Thank you. (Applause) I'm very proud to put this on you, Craig.

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Costa pinned Commander Johniken with the National Commander's pin.)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Thank you, Fran.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COSTA: Congratulations, and have a great year. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Thank you. In August of 2012, I was honored to be elected to the office of the DAV Auxiliary National Fourth Junior Vice Commander.

And today, I stand before you humbled and honored to be your DAV Auxiliary National Commander. (Applause) I want to thank this congregation for the trust that you have put in me to give me this office.

Also, I have a couple of people that are dear to my heart that are in my district, in my state; Patti Rapisand and Betty Hall have really done a lot for me in this process. And I want to give you guys a special thanks.

I want to thank the whole 20th District, which is Texas (Applause), for all the support that you all have given me. (Applause)

But, most of all, I want to thank my wife (Applause) and all of my family that have been involved with me through this the entire time. It's been a great ride. (Applause)

It's difficult to believe that five years have come and gone so quickly. The organization has grown and changed. And I believe changes were always for the better.

Assuming the National Organization approves of some ideas that we have, during my year I would like to see the addition of some new programs that will put us first and forefront in our communities.

When people get to know who we are and what we do in the community, the opportunity to grow will be endless.

Today I stand before you, and I pledge that I will do my best to represent each of you in the best light possible.

When I was trying to decide what my motto would be, should I be elected, I was struggling to find just the perfect one that would fit and be remembered. And I was driving home one day from work and a song came on and began to play; and it was a James Taylor song. It's called You've got a Friend. (Applause)

If you listen to the lyrics of this song, it's exactly what our Auxiliary members are all about. Not only do I not want us to be friends—or do I want us to be friends with the DAV—that's been the theme for all the years, so we need to continue that—but first we have to be friends with ourselves and everybody in the room, and everybody in your Unit.

And I want us to be friends with everybody in their communities. This will give us the opportunity to grow.

We hope to get some things going with our caregivers, volunteers in our hospitals, in clinics, and points beyond. So, You've got a Friend is my motto. Thank you all. (Applause)

At this time, I would like to invite all of my family up here on the podium with me so I'll see if they have something to say. I hope the stage holds them all. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, Commander Johniken's family advanced to the podium, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: First off, I want to introduce to you all my wife, Theresa Johniken. (Applause) She's been my wife forever. She's always helped me out. All the programs that I've done, I didn't do that by myself. She was there with me. (Laughter) Do you have something to say?

MRS. THERESA JOHNIKEN: I love you. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: This is my daughter, Ashley Clark. She's been great to us and given us a nice grandchild over here. (Laughter) We're very proud of that. Do you have something you want to say?

MRS. ASHLEY CLARK: I'm just very proud of you. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: This is Bobby Clark. This is Bobby Clark, Ashley's husband. (Applause) Appreciate you being here. This is Savannah. This would be my new grandchild. (Applause)

This is Ashton. I think everybody probably knows her at this point. (Applause)

MS. ASHTON JOHNIKEN: I'm beyond proud of you. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Emma Johniken, my granddaughter. (Applause) This is Will, my grandson. (Applause) Do you have something you want to say?

MR. WILL JOHNIKEN: Not really. (Laughter)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: My son, Tim. My right-hand man here. Thank you. Jennifer Hamilton. (Applause) And Charity. (Applause) Nobody wants to talk? (Applause)

MR. WILL JOHNIKEN: I'm just proud of him. (Applause)

MRS. CLARK: This has been my Mom and Dad's legacy. They've done this for so many years. This is what I've grown up on. And he's accomplished a great deal.

I've watched him go through state, and now he's made his way through the National line. And they've been doing this as long as I can remember. This is what they eat, sleep, live and breathe is DAV and DAV Auxiliary. And I'm very proud of my Dad. I'm honored that he is my Dad. Thank you all. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: All right, you all can go away. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, Commander Johniken's family withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Okay, it's time to introduce all of our other officers. First Junior Vice, Ellen Timmerman—

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER ELLEN TIMMERMAN: I'm senior now.

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Yes, senior—senior. I demoted her. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, the Senior Vice Commander advanced to the podium.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER TIMMERMAN: He's already throwing me back. (Laughter) You know we can't do this without the support of all of you and our families. In fact, we are a family, always have been, always will be. And I know we can always depend on you.

First of all, I'd like to say, I'd like to thank my district because they support me 110 percent. That's District 17. It consists of Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Utah. Would you guys stand up?

(Whereupon, the delegation from the 17th District stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER TIMMERMAN: It doesn't matter where we are, we usually know where one person is if they're on Facebook while I'm traveling here or I'm going there. And they're just such a great bunch of people.

I'd like to thank Pat Kemper. She's my sounding board a lot of times. And I hope we can continue to do that. You guys, thank you all. And you guys have a safe journey home. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Senior Vice Commander withdrew from and the Commander returned to the podium.)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Next up is Diane Franz. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the First Junior Vice Commander advanced to the podium.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER DIANE J. FRANZ: I, too, want to thank everybody for giving me the opportunity to serve this great organization that we have, both on the Auxiliary and the DAV side.

And I'd be remiss if I don't thank District 7, and especially Central Florida Chapter and Unit 16, for all their support and help and just being there when I needed them. So District 7, could you please stand up and be recognized?

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

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER FRANZ: Thank you. And, also, I'd be really never forgiving myself if I don't thank one lady from District 7 from Florida that's not here with us today, and that's Lucille McCarthy.

And I talked to her—yes, she needs applause. (Applause) And I talked to her for over two hours yesterday. And she sends her best, as Pat Kemper had read in our opening. And she wishes all the best for the future of this organization.

And, again, all the officers here for the support, too, for sounding boards, and especially Pat, because without her we would be lost. We need your guidance. (Applause) Thank you very much—and Bunny and Ann. Can't forget them.

So, again, I hope all the Units have a great year this year. I look forward to traveling and being with you, because I thoroughly cannot thank the states that I have already been at. You have been absolutely fantastic.

Your hospitality has been overwhelming. So I appreciate all your, again, support. And have a great year. Safe travels. And the storm has gone through Florida, so I will be able to get home tomorrow. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the First Junior Vice Commander withdrew from and the Commander returned to the podium.)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Lynn Prosser. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Second Junior Vice Commander advanced to the podium.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER LYNN HELMS PROSSER: I just want to say that it's been a wonderful year. I see so many faces out here that I've seen for over the past 20 years that's just grown with the organization and just been such a strength to me.

I would first—it's hard to call names because there has been so many of them and I wouldn't want to leave any of them out.

But I do want to acknowledge especially two of my very best friends that's been right here with me by my side through this whole thing, and that is my commander of my Unit, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Wanda Parker. Wanda, will you stand?

(Whereupon, Ms. Parker stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER PROSSER: And I also want to thank—thank you—and many of you know Linda Jimmerson from Georgia and her husband Burl. He's here today.

(Whereupon, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmerson stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER PROSSER: Burl has been real supportive of me and everything since I lost Carroll. But I would be remiss if I didn't start with my District. I want to thank South Carolina. Will you all stand up, please, South Carolina.

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

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER PROSSER: And Georgia.

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

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER PROSSER: And North Carolina, District 9.

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

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER PROSSER: Thank you. Thank you so much for your support. They got a little bit excited a while ago and got a little bit ahead of Fran. But they made me get ahead of her, too, because I stood up, myself. (Laughter) Thank you, Fran, for calling us back in a little bit.

But I want to thank all the line officers. It's been a pleasure serving with all of you this year. I think we've had a wonderful year and, it's took all of us as a family to do that.

And I especially want to thank Pat and Bunny and all of the staff. The staff works so hard and we don't see all the things that they do and put up with.

And I want to give the staff a hand, a big hand, for thanking them. Thank you. (Applause) You all deserve it. They very much deserve it. Yes.

The Judge Advocate let me know that they would rather have the raise than the applause. (Laughter)

But, anyway, we do have to always keep them in mind and thank them and never be abusive toward them. If we have to call them and we're not happy, you know, still be nice.

But, anyway, I just want to thank all of you. And I hope that I see all of you at Fall Conference. It's going to be a great time of learning.

And I just want to say God bless all of you. God bless the U.S.A. And may we always stay America Strong. God bless. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Second Junior Vice Commander withdrew from and the Commander returned to the podium.)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Carolyn Sensat. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Third Junior Vice Commander advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER CAROLYN SENSAT: I just want to thank my family. Dave, will you stand up? Yes.

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

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER SENSAT: Dave is my best friend. I'd rather be with him than anybody else in the whole world. And he supported me through everything.

Tracey Sensat is my youngest daughter. Would you stand up? Stand up.

(Whereupon, Tracey Sensat stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER SENSAT: Olivia, will you please stand up?

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

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER SENSAT: This is my little granddaughter. And I love them very much. I want to thank District 8, and if you all will stand up. You all give them a hand.

(Whereupon, the delegation from District 8 stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER SENSAT: They're some of the greatest people in the whole world, and I'm glad I can call them family.

And I just want to thank you. I look forward to a great year. And I want to stay busy, so let's get ready. Thank you all. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Third Junior Vice Commander withdrew from and the Commander returned to the podium.)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Julie Steinbaugh. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Fourth Junior Vice Commander advanced to the podium.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER JULIE WEISMANN-STEINBAUGH: I would like to start by thanking my family, (Indistinguishable) Steinbaugh and Jessica Steinbaugh. Please stand if you're here. They deserted me. (Laughter) I'd like to thank my Unit, Oakland Unit 7, please stand.

(Whereupon, the members from Oakland Unit 7 stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER WEISMANN-STEINBAUGH: Yes. I'd like to thank my District. California, District 16, please stand.

(Whereupon, the delegation from District 16 stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER WEISMANN-STEINBAUGH: Yes. And I'd like to thank everybody. When I first walked in these rooms, I really wasn't sure I was going to be truly welcomed, and you guys have made me feel such a part of the family.

I just want to thank you all and thank you for your support. And everybody who offered hope. I've been keeping a list so you will be called. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Fourth Junior Vice Commander withdrew from and the Commander returned to the podium.)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Good job, Julie. Okay. I'd like to call Fran Costa back to the podium here one more time.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper had a sidebar conversation with Commander Johniken.)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Oh, I'm sorry. I forgot our Judge. (Laughter) Well, she only gets to talk when I need her, anyway. I didn't need her at that point. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, the Judge Advocate advanced to the podium.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE DONNA M. ADAMS: You know, I was just sitting here a little while ago thinking this is my 40th National Convention. And scary, isn't it. (Laughter)

No, it's not my 40th National Convention, it's 40 years since my first National Convention, actually. And you know the faces come and they go. Others of us just keep hanging around. (Laughter)

But through the last nine years, I've had the opportunity to visit so many states. And I think there is only like four or five that I have not had the opportunity to come to your conventions or visit with you.

And you know when Craig announced his theme of You've got a Friend and I'm thinking of the Golden Girls theme song, you know? (Laughter) I was always told to respect my elders, but now that I are one I don't have to do that anymore. (Laughter)

But I have met through the years so many, many wonderful, wonderful people. And, yes, we are friends. And the people that are here and the people that are at your state conventions who aren't able to come, they are the backbone of the organization.

And it's through our love and our caring and our true friendship that we can just accomplish so much. And thank you so very much for your confidence in me again. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Judge Advocate withdrew from and the Commander returned to the podium.)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Now we will have Fran up here.

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Costa returned to the podium.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COSTA: Hello. (Laughter) This is going to be tough. So many up here have said what I have felt. And I'm glad you picked that for your theme for this year, because we are all friends. We are all family.

Most of my family have not been able to come to Convention. I was hoping to bring my Dad to this Convention, but it wasn't meant to be. But he is here with me.

But I do have my Massachusetts family. They are, truly, my family. They have been my rock. They've always been there for me. They have supported me all the way up the chairs and anything I needed. My Unit, could you all please stand?

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Costa's Unit stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COSTA: I love you all. Thank you so much for everything you've done for me. I congratulate all of the newly-elected officers. I know you will have a successful year.

And what was said about Pat and the staff, you'll never know what they deal with every single day. And I really, truly appreciate them. They stay strong even though there are days that situations really get to them. But they find a way to resolve them.

And they're always there for every single one of us. Thank you, Pat. Thank you, Bunny. Ann, thank you. (Applause) Thank you all. I love you all. (Applause) You're all my family.

I have actually been to the South so much that I can now say y'all. (Laughter) Sort of. Thank you. Congratulations, Craig.

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Past National Commander withdrew from and the Commander returned to the podium.)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Will the National give the roll call of the National Executive Committee?

(Whereupon, Commander Johniken withdrew from and Adjutant Kemper advanced to the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Commander, Craig Johniken.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Senior Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National First Junior Vice Commander Diane Franz.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Second Junior Vice Commander Lynn Helms Prosser.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Third Junior Vice Commander Carolyn Sensat.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Fourth Junior Vice Commander Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Immediate Past National Commander Frances Costa.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.

ADJUTNT KEMPER: District 1 NEC Elizabeth Eldridge.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 2 NEC Terri Grabowski.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 3 NEC Karen Rediker.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 4 NEC Linda Applegate.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 5 NEC Loretta Nosko.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 6 NEC Grace James.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 7 NEC Delores Roussey.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 8 NEC Charlene Williams.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 9 NEC JoAnn Atkinson.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 10 NEC Teresita Morey.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 11 NEC Judy Hezlep.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 12 NEC Carla Reynolds.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 13 NEC Douglas Noel.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Here.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 14 NEC Laurie Pekarik.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 15 NEC Velma Steinman.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 16 NEC Melissa Valdez.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 17 NEC Marilyn Hogue.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 18 NEC Carol Rundell.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 19 NEC Jennie Clark.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 20 NEC Christopher Easley.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 21 NEC Linda Oliver.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: I will read the alternates by District. One, Sharon Dufault.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTNT KEMPER: Two, Cheryl Connors.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTNT KEMPER: Three, Donna Folcarelli.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: Four, Sarah Kashner.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: Six, Maria Torres.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: Seven, Irene Stevens.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Absent.
ADJUTNT KEMPER: Absent. Eight, Janett Reece.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: Nine, Byrdyne Bell.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: Ten, Regina Fortner.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: Eleven, Debbie Hall.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: Twelve, Sandra Black.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Absent.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: Sandra Black, absent. Thirteen, April Roush. April Roush.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Absent.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: Absent. Fourteen, LeeAnn Karg.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: Fifteen, Melissa Pierce.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: Sixteen, Adrienne Frazier-Mack.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: Seventeen, Victoria Salazar.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTNT KEMPER: Eighteen, Carolyn Walker.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: Nineteen, Jerry Royse.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: Twenty, Darlene Spence.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: She's in the back.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: She's in the back. She will be back. Okay. Right now she is absent. We'll mark her present when she returns. Kim Stake.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS SANDRA FINCEL: Present.
ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 21.
(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper withdrew from and Commander Johniken returned to the podium.)
COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: At this first National Executive Committee meeting for the year 2017-2018, we must nominate and elect two members from the odd-numbered Districts to the National Finance Committee. Do I hear any nominations?
DISTRICT 20 NEC CHRISTOPHER EASLEY: Commander Johniken, Chris Easley, (Indistinguishable) Delores Roussey.
COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Who?
DISTRICT 20 NEC EASLEY: Delores Roussey (Indistinguishable).
COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Are there any more nominations? We need one more. Can we do them both at the same time? I need one more, one more person to go on.
DISTRICT 20 NEC EASLEY: I'll also nominate Liz Eldridge.
COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Okay. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, nominations are closed. All in favor say aye; all opposed. Thank you.
(Whereupon, members said they couldn't hear who it was.)
COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: What?
(Whereupon, members said they couldn't hear who it was.)
COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Liz Eldridge—Liz Eldridge and Delores Roussey—Roussey. (Applause) Thank you.
Thank you. A chairman to the Finance Committee will be selected at a brief meeting immediately following the National Officer and Chairman meeting.
Since the members of the National Executive Committee and National Finance Committee are in a position to influence the actions of the DAV Auxiliary with respect to matters decided by the Committees, a Conflict of Interest Policy has been established and must be acknowledged by the members of the National Executive Committee.
This document is being passed around for the review and signature of each member of the National Executive Committee. Please see that it is given to Pat or a member of her staff when all the signatures have been affixed. Please do not leave this meeting until you have signed this document.
Okay, I want to get to my appointments for the year: National Adjutant Pat Kemper; Assistant National Adjutant Bunny Clos; (Applause) National Chaplain—it took a little work but Aura-Lee has agreed to do it again; she does a fantastic job. (Applause)
The history, my history person will be Ashley Johniken, my daughter; (Applause) Hospital, Linda Bailey; (Applause) Junior Activities, Kim Stake; (Applause) VAVS, Melissa Pierce; (Applause)

Deputy VAVS, there's two of them, will be Terri Grabowski and Ann Glende; (Applause) Sergeant-at-Arms is Charlene Parker; (Applause) Education and Scholarship Committee will be Fran Costa and myself, Craig Johniken and Ellen Timmerman; (Applause)

Interim Constitution and Bylaws Chairman, Judy Steinhouse will be the chairman, (Applause) Darlene Spence will be on this committee as well, and Ann Marie Hurley. (Applause)

And, of course, Community Service will be Julie Steinbaugh. (Applause) Americanism will be Carolyn Sensat. Am I saying that right? (Applause) Legislation will be Lynn Prosser. (Applause) Membership will be Diane Franz. (Applause) Mae Holmes will be Ellen Timmerman. (Applause)

And with the NEC's approval, I would like to appoint a committee to review and re-evaluate the organization's Strategic Plan. It's been five years since we've done that, and it's time to do it again. And my appointments are: Sandy Dobmeier to chair this, Donna Tanner and Sylvia Heath to be on this Committee. (Applause)

And I would also like permission to, for another committee for a caregivers to see what we can do as an organization to help caregivers. And this Committee will probably spawn another committee if we come up with plenty of things that we can do to be helpful to them to create a program.

But at this particular time, we haven't contacted everybody that needs to be on this committee so we'll be setting that committee here before Fall Conference. But we just need permission for that.

In an effort to promote awareness and participation in Local Veterans Assistance Program, I would like to appoint Linda Bailey to chair an endeavor to, for a project, an LVAP project, for our Auxiliary.

This is going to—Linda will talk more about it at our Fall Conference. But I do want to appoint her to this.

I will now ask the National Executive Committee for approval for my appointments for 2017-2018. I need a motion and a second, please.

DISTRICT 20 NEC EASLEY: Commander Johniken, I make a motion to accept your appointments.

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Do we have a second?

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

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye; anybody opposed. Thank you.

Is there any—oh, at this time I would also like to ask for the approval of the National Executive Committee that should there be a problem within a Unit or a State Department that results in a National intervention I would like to have a motion that I will be allowed to appoint special committees, like if we had to go in somewhere and check things out.

DISTRICT 19 NEC JENNIE CLARK: Jennie Clark, District 19 NEC, I so move.

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Do I have a second?

DISTRICT 1 NEC ELIZABETH ELDRIDGE: Elizabeth Eldridge, District 1, I second.

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: I have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye; anybody opposed.

Is there anything to be brought before the Committee before we close for announcements? I call on National Adjutant Kemper for announcements.

(Whereupon, Commander Johniken withdrew from and Adjutant Kemper advanced to the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, I ask the National Officers and the newly-appointed National Chairmen to fill out the information sheets that were given to you. They've all been distributed. Also, if you have signed that Conflict of Interest Policy, it is now up at the head table, so we're good to go. Thank you, Ann.

For those of you who have not previously filled out a W-9, you must complete that form. It was in the envelopes that were given to you.

For the National Officers and Chairmen, we will have a brief meeting immediately following this meeting, so please stay in the room.

The Finance Committee meeting will meet immediately following the National Officers and Chairmen meeting. So the officers and NECs, the newly-elected Officers and NECs, all NECs, are to meet in the Grand Salon and the sections—it's broken into sections but it's—4, 7 and 10.

So they will probably have the air walls down, but that's the information given to me. So Grand Salon Section 4, 7 and 10. It is on the First Floor. You meet in there at 5:30 p.m. this evening.

Then we will have the introduction of National Officers and dinner in the Grand Ballroom on the First Floor, also, at 6:30 p.m.

The Fall Conference and the 2017 and '18 Fall Conference information, as well as the 2018 National Convention, those were in your packets so I don't need to stand here and read them to you.

But I would like to call attention to this year's Fall Conference. We did send some information out, but since then we have made some changes. And we are trying to get that information out to all the Units and Departments.

So please, if you would spread the word, if you know people who are going to attend, the registration will be $50 per person. The other difference this year is we will not have a banquet. But, on the Friday evening in place of the banquet, we will have a reception.

And there will be some light food there, some light meal food for you. But you know we just are finding these banquets are too costly for our attendees and we're just going to try this out.

And if you plan on coming to the conference, we are going to, on that Friday night, have some comedians. Some local comedians are going to come in and then provide some entertainment.

And they have promised that it will—they have promised Ann it will be PG or PG-13. (Laughter) So I'll have to borrow somebody's cane with a hook, I think, and stand on the sideline in case they get a little raunchy.

So we'll see how this works for us. We will have a photo booth that night with the props and the backdrop and so people can go and have some fun and take their photos.

So that's that with that. We are hoping it works out. We think it's going to be a great time.

E-mail, we are trying our best to use email communication as best we can. So those of you who do not have email, of course it will be indicated on your form, if there is no email address then we won't be sending you emails; we will know to send you the hard copy.

But not only is it a savings in postage, it's more efficient timewise. So when we send ballots out, we are going to use the ballot, the email process. Now, if you only occasionally look at your email, then you might want to let us know and we can send a hard copy.

But assuming the positions you have serving this organization on the National Executive Committee, I would appreciate it if you could make a daily check of your email.

And if you end up, during the year—throughout the year and you have computer issues and you cannot receive or send emails, please let us know in our office so that you don't miss out on any communications. So we'll be happy to send hard copies then. So we just have to communicate with each other as best we can.

Throughout the year the Halo company that handles our sales—I know a lot of people have expressed some discontent over the items that they have in the store—but they say that they will work with us, and on a quarterly basis, do a flash sale.

Now, for those of you who do not have internet, that is going to be an issue. So, maybe, if you don't have internet you can have your family log in and on Facebook they can go and like the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Page, because that's about our only resource as far as posting these flash sales. So please make a random check.

Then you have to go online and you have to do the order. It's not a matter of they're going to order 1,000 shirts and then they will see who wants them. They're going to wait until they get those orders in.

And if they sell a thousand shirts, then they will order a thousand shirts. But they're not going to over-order. They say that our inventory doesn't move as well as they would like.

So we're going to see how well these flash sales work out. So, again, if you don't have Facebook access, have a family member log in and like our page.

And we also make some—we're trying to do more and more postings. So those postings are a really quick and efficient way to reach out to our membership.

Looking ahead, next year's National Convention will be in Reno, Nevada. And the juniors have had fun these past couple of years with the scavenger hunt. But everything gets old. When it's repetitive, it gets old, so you have to come up with new things.

So what we intend to do next year, it's going to be a more family-friendly environment—except minus the casino. But this hotel has a lot of family activities. They have—and things for the children.

So they have a bowling alley. They have a movie theater. There are some video game places. So Bunny and I will be reaching out to those entities to see if they could maybe donate some passes to these events.

So that is still to come, and we will work with our National Junior Activities Chairperson. But we are limited as far as what we can do as an organized event for juniors. We just really cannot do much in the way of an organized event.

But one thing we want to do next year, we won't have a scavenger hunt, but we don't want them to go home empty-handed. We will order t-shirts for the juniors.

But we will be posting something, November-December timeframe, and we are—for those who know their juniors will be here, be at the National Convention next year, we will be asking for their sizes and, of course, if they want to serve as a junior page.

We cannot order an excess of t-shirts because then you're putting money out and you may be stuck with these shirts.

So we are going to ask for the cooperation of all the Units, all the State Departments, to get the word out when we start sending information out to get us the names and sizes of these juniors for t-shirts.

What I would hate to have happen is for a junior to show up, a child to show up and not have a t-shirt when all the others do. So it's going to take everyone's cooperation to make this happen.

So I believe that is all I have. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper withdrew from and Commander Johniken returned to the podium, at which time Kimberly Stake asked a question.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN KIMBERLY STAKE: Commander, Kim Stake, I'm the Junior Activities Chair. The Department of Arkansas is going to jump onboard with our program. What we would like to do is have every month something (indistinguishable).

What I was saying—Kim Stake. I'm going to chair the juniors again this year. And the Department of Arkansas is going to jump onboard with this this year.

What we'd like to do starting August 1, when you guys go back to your states and your Units and your Districts and stuff, each junior fills out a form of what they've done for the month.

They send it to myself or to Craig and every month we will be giving away a $50 gift card to Walmart. (Applause) So that's going to be the first thing.

And we will have lots of things in the newsletters for you guys to do and some different challenges that we're going to ask for.

And, hey, I'm ready to get this back where we need to be getting going with it. Okay? (Applause)

(Whereupon, someone spoke away from a microphone.)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Certainly. Actually, you're not an NEC are you?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, sir, but I'd like to (Indistinguishable). I want to say something.

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Well, this is an Executive Committee meeting. You can't talk just yet. Okay? Is there any more business to come before this?

We will now have our closing prayer by Aura-Lee Nicodemus.

(Whereupon, the Chaplain advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN AURA-LEE NICODEMUS: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your guidance throughout this week. We pray that You will guide and care for each of us over the upcoming year. We pray for our officers at all levels and our members, wherever they may be.

We pray for our troops in harm's way. And we pray for those that are leading our nation, that we will lead to a nation of peace over the coming year.

We ask that You will guide us as we return to our homes and help us to put our love into action, loving each other as well as our veterans and our communities as we go through the coming year. In Your name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," after which the Chaplain withdrew from and the Commander returned to the podium.)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: If there is no further business to come before us, we would like to have a motion for adjournment.

(Whereupon, several members called out motions but none were near a microphone to be able to be identified.)

COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye; anybody opposed. You all have fun and thank you so much.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on Tuesday, August 1, 2017, at 10:54 o'clock, a.m.)

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# Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters

Financial Statements as of and for the
Year Ended December 31, 2016, and
Independent Auditors' Report

Deloitte.

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the National Finance Committee of
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters (the "Auxiliary"), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2016, 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 Auxiliary'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 Auxiliary's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Auxiliary as of December 31, 2016, 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.

Deloitte + Touche LLP

April 7, 2017

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
# AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
## AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

| ASSETS | | LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | |
|---|---|---|---|
| GENERAL ASSETS: | | LIABILITIES: | |
| Cash | $ 820,753 | Accounts payable and other liabilities | $ 2,509,333 |
| Accounts receivable | 23,337 | Contributions distributable to state departments | 383,265 |
| Inventory | 14,778 | Deferred membership fees | 232,396 |
| Investments | 7,720,646 | | |
| Accrued interest receivable | 6,774 | Total liabilities | 3,124,994 |
| Prepaid expenses | 5,846 | | |
| Office equipment - net | 5,022 | | |
| SERVICE PROGRAM ASSETS: | | LIFE MEMBERSHIP—Reserve for future | |
| Cash | 27,054 | distribution of life membership dues | 6,461,047 |
| Investments | 329,367 | | |
| Receivable from General fund | 18,558 | | |
| | | NET ASSETS: | |
| | | Unrestricted | 5,472,162 |
| DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM ASSETS—Cash | 4,018 | Temporarily restricted: | |
| | | Service Program | 374,979 |
| EDUCATION LOAN/SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM | | Disaster Relief Program | 4,018 |
| ASSETS: | | Education Loan/Scholarship Program | 1,170,489 |
| Cash | 232,725 | | |
| Investments | 509,797 | Total net assets | 7,021,648 |
| Loans receivable (less reserve of $19,185) | 56,583 | | |
| Receivable from General fund | 371,384 | | |
| LIFE MEMBERSHIP ASSETS: | | | |
| Investments | 4,661,221 | | |
| Accrued interest receivable | 4,159 | | |
| Receivable from General fund | 1,795,667 | | |
| TOTAL | $ 16,607,689 | TOTAL | $ 16,607,689 |

See notes to the financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
# AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

| | Unrestricted General | Temporarily Restricted: Service Program | Temporarily Restricted: Disaster Relief Program | Temporarily Restricted: Education Loan/ Scholarship Program | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SUPPORT AND REVENUE: | | | | | |
| Membership fees and mandates | $ | $ 805 | $ | $ 524 | $ 1,329 |
| Life membership distributions | 490,068 | | | | 490,068 |
| Contributions | 228,698 | 8,120 | | 8,775 | 245,593 |
| Contributed facilities | 9,154 | | | | 9,154 |
| Conference and meetings | 22,407 | | | | 22,407 |
| National convention | 23,194 | | | | 23,194 |
| Interest and dividends | 225,533 | 9,241 | | 17,473 | 252,247 |
| Realized investment gains (losses) | (28,657) | 14,527 | | (5,424) | (19,554) |
| Net assets released from restrictions | 41,733 | (5,733) | | (36,000) | |
| Other | 12,709 | | | | 12,709 |
| Total support and revenue | 1,024,839 | 26,960 | | (14,652) | 1,037,147 |
| EXPENSES: | | | | | |
| Program services | 703,780 | 2,751 | | 2,742 | 709,273 |
| Fundraising costs | 173,344 | | | | 173,344 |
| General and administrative | 303,286 | | | | 303,286 |
| Total expenses | 1,180,410 | 2,751 | | 2,742 | 1,185,903 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) OF INVESTMENTS | (155,571) | 24,209 | | (17,394) | (148,756) |
| CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) OF INVESTMENTS | 157,704 | (10,654) | | 6,537 | 153,587 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | 2,133 | 13,555 | | (10,857) | 4,831 |
| NET ASSETS—Beginning of year | 5,470,029 | 361,424 | 4,018 | 1,181,346 | 7,016,817 |
| NET ASSETS—End of year | $ 5,472,162 | $ 374,979 | $ 4,018 | $ 1,170,489 | $ 7,021,648 |

See notes to the financial statements.

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
## AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

### STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
### FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

| | Program Services | Fund Raising Costs | General and Administrative | Total Expenses |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Salaries and wages | $ 236,213 | $ 27,806 | $ 82,528 | $ 346,547 |
| Employee benefits | 116,492 | 7,961 | 14,255 | 138,708 |
| Distributions to state departments | 55,740 | | | 55,740 |
| Fundraising expenses | | 134,515 | | 134,515 |
| Payroll taxes | 18,685 | 1,300 | 6,496 | 26,481 |
| Conferences and meetings | 70,200 | | | 70,200 |
| Expenses of national convention | 92,472 | | | 92,472 |
| Printing, stationery and office supplies | 10,293 | | 88,426 | 98,719 |
| Expenses of national commander and officers | 47,088 | | | 47,088 |
| Contributed facilities | 6,426 | 460 | 2,268 | 9,154 |
| Postage | 24 | | 16,178 | 16,202 |
| Travel | 133 | | 1,855 | 1,988 |
| Professional fees | 2,189 | 1,094 | 47,610 | 50,893 |
| Service program benefits | 5,733 | | | 5,733 |
| Scholarship program benefits | 36,000 | | | 36,000 |
| Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services, memberships, and other awards | 1,305 | | | 1,305 |
| Other | 10,280 | 208 | 43,670 | 54,158 |
| Total | $ 709,273 | $ 173,344 | $ 303,286 | $ 1,185,903 |

See notes to the financial statements.

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
## AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
### FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

| | |
|---|---|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | |
| Change in net assets | $ 4,831 |
| Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in operating activities: | |
| Change in unrealized (appreciation)depreciation in investments | (251,916) |
| Realized investment losses | 29,082 |
| Depreciation | 1,945 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | |
| Accrued interest receivable | 1,731 |
| Inventory | (669) |
| Accounts receivable | 12,251 |
| Prepaid expenses | (887) |
| Receivable from General Fund | (579,072) |
| Accounts payable and other liabilities | 648,035 |
| Contributions distributable to state departments | 37,609 |
| Deferred membership fees | (7,372) |
| Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues | 218,719 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 114,287 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | |
| Purchases of investments | (2,636,135) |
| Proceeds from sale of investments | 2,837,102 |
| Collections from repayment of education loans | 20,142 |
| Net cash provided by investing activities | 221,109 |
| NET INCREASE IN CASH | 335,396 |
| CASH: | |
| Beginning of year | 749,154 |
| End of year | $ 1,084,550 |

See notes to the financial statements.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
**AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**

## 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.

In August 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-14, *Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities*. Adoption of FASB ASU 2016-14 will result in significant changes to financial reporting and disclosure for not-for-profit entities. FASB believes the update will improve not-for-profit entities' financial statements and provide more useful information to donors, grantors, creditors, and other financial statement users. The standard is effective for annual financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, with application applied retrospectively; early adoption is permitted. Management is in the process of evaluating the impact 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.

**Contributions**—Contributions received are recorded at their fair value and are classified as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted support. All contributions are considered available for unrestricted use, unless specifically restricted by the donor. Support that is restricted by the donor is reported as an increase in unrestricted net assets if the restriction expires in the reporting period in which the support is recognized.

**Deferred Membership Fees**—DAVA accounts for membership fees by deferring fees received in advance of the membership year (July 1 to June 30) and amortizing them to revenue ratably during the membership year for which they apply.

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

**Use of Estimates**—The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with 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 2016 in the reserve for future distribution of life membership dues are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Balance—January 1, 2016 | $ 6,242,328 |
| Additions: | |
| Membership dues received | 564,287 |
| Earnings on invested assets | 139,549 |
| Loss on sale of investments | (9,528) |
| Total additions | 694,308 |
| Deductions: | |
| Dues to National Headquarters | 482,697 |
| Dues to local units | 24,728 |
| Dues to State Departments | 55,962 |
| Investment fee | 10,531 |
| Total deductions | 573,918 |
| Change in unrealized appreciation of investments | 98,329 |
| Balance—December 31, 2016 | $ 6,461,047 |

**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, 2016, are summarized below:

| 2016 | Cost | Fair Value | Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) |
|---|---|---|---|
| General fund: | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 162,593 | $ 162,593 | $ |
| Mutual funds/ETFs: | | | |
| Domestic fixed income funds | 5,759,750 | 5,694,002 | (65,748) |
| International fixed income funds | 476,300 | 412,718 | (63,582) |
| Domestic equity funds | 856,509 | 1,089,414 | 232,905 |
| International equity funds | 389,105 | 361,919 | (27,186) |
| Total | $ 7,644,257 | $ 7,720,646 | $ 76,389 |
| Service program: | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 8,997 | $ 8,997 | $ |
| Mutual funds/ETFs: | | | |
| Domestic fixed income funds | 169,227 | 166,695 | (2,532) |
| International fixed income funds | 40,039 | 39,319 | (720) |
| Domestic equity funds | 94,829 | 92,135 | (2,694) |
| International equity funds | 23,450 | 22,221 | (1,229) |
| Total | $ 336,542 | $ 329,367 | $ (7,175) |
| Education Loan/Scholarship program: | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 14,170 | $ 14,170 | $ |
| Common stocks | 76,768 | 79,419 | 2,651 |
| Mutual funds/ETFs: | | | |
| Domestic fixed income funds | 262,212 | 257,123 | (5,089) |
| International fixed income funds | 64,355 | 63,198 | (1,157) |
| Domestic equity funds | 64,828 | 62,449 | (2,379) |
| International equity funds | 35,037 | 33,438 | (1,599) |
| Total | $ 517,370 | $ 509,797 | $ (7,573) |
| Life membership: | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 100,513 | $ 100,513 | $ |
| Mutual funds/ETFs: | | | |
| Domestic fixed income funds | 3,477,043 | 3,434,891 | (42,152) |
| International fixed income funds | 286,397 | 249,298 | (37,099) |
| Domestic equity funds | 501,793 | 649,597 | 147,804 |
| International equity funds | 266,067 | 226,922 | (39,145) |
| Total | $ 4,631,813 | $ 4,661,221 | $ 29,408 |

As of December 31, 2016, 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 2016.

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 and Level 3 during 2016.

**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, 2016.

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.

Common stocks, categorized as Level 1, 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, 2016, are as follows:

| | Fair Value Measurements Using | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Asset Category** | **Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)** | **Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)** | **Total** |
| General fund: | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 162,593 | $ | $ 162,593 |
| Mutual funds/ETFs: | | | |
| Domestic fixed income funds | 5,694,002 | | 5,694,002 |
| International fixed income funds | 412,718 | | 412,718 |
| Domestic equity funds | 1,089,414 | | 1,089,414 |
| International equity funds | 361,919 | | 361,919 |
| Total mutual funds | 7,558,053 | | 7,558,053 |
| Total | $ 7,720,646 | $ | $ 7,720,646 |
| Service program: | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 8,997 | $ | $ 8,997 |
| Mutual funds/ETFs: | | | |
| Domestic fixed income funds | 166,695 | | 166,695 |
| International fixed income funds | 39,319 | | 39,319 |
| Domestic equity funds | 92,135 | | 92,135 |
| International equity funds | 22,221 | | 22,221 |
| Total mutual funds | 320,370 | | 320,370 |
| Total | $ 329,367 | $ | $ 329,367 |
| Education Loan/Scholarship program: | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 14,170 | $ | $ 14,170 |
| Common stocks | 79,419 | | 79,419 |
| Mutual funds/ETFs: | | | |
| Domestic fixed income funds | 257,123 | | 257,123 |
| International fixed income funds | 63,198 | | 63,198 |
| Domestic equity funds | 62,449 | | 62,449 |
| International equity funds | 33,438 | | 33,438 |
| Total mutual funds | 416,208 | | 416,208 |
| Total | $ 509,797 | $ | $ 509,797 |
| Life membership: | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $ 100,513 | $ | $ 100,513 |
| Mutual funds/ETFs: | | | |
| Domestic fixed income funds | 3,434,891 | | 3,434,891 |
| International fixed-income funds | 249,297 | | 249,297 |
| Domestic equity funds | 649,597 | | 649,597 |
| International equity funds | 226,923 | | 226,923 |
| Total mutual funds | 4,560,708 | | 4,560,708 |
| Total | $ 4,661,221 | $ | $ 4,661,221 |

## 6. FREEDOMS FOUNDATION

DAVA has designated $7,261 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**—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 2016, there were 28 scholarships in amounts ranging from $750 to $1,500 issued to selected Auxiliary member applicants for a total of $36,000. 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, 2016, the total amount of loans outstanding was $56,583, 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 2016, DAV charged DAVA $138,708 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 2016, DAV did not charge DAVA for these benefits. Such amounts are immaterial.