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2001 NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

TRANSMITTING

THE 2001 NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, PURSUANT TO 36 U.S.C. 90i AND 44 U.S.C. 1332

NOVEMBER 6, 2001.—Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed

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NATIONAL ENCAMPMENTS OF VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS;
PROCEEDINGS PRINTED ANNUALLY FOR CONGRESS

The proceedings of the national encampments of the United Spanish War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, The American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of World War I of the United States, Inc., the Disabled American Veterans, and the AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II), respectively, shall be printed annually with accompanying illustrations, as separate house documents of the session of the Congress to which they may be submitted.

[Approved October 2, 1968.]

LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,
October 22, 2001.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: As business manager of Disabled American Veterans, and as secretary of its National Convention, I hereby certify as to the authenticity of the reports and the proceedings of our National Convention, held in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28–August 2, 2001, and submit them to you through the office of this organization located in Washington, DC, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 186 of the 72d Congress, as amended, to be printed as a House document in accordance with the authorization of section 1332 of title 44, United States Code.

The enclosed National Convention proceedings include an independent audit report of all receipts and expenditures as of December 31, 2000, as required by the provisions of section 3 of the Public Law 88–504, approved August 30, 1964.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR H. WILSON,
National Adjutant.

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NATIONAL OFFICERS 2001-2002

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

National Commander
George H. Steese, 4186 W. Terrace Avenue, Fresno, CA 93277

Senior Junior Vice Commander
Edward R. Heath, Sr., P.O. Box 115, Mechanic Falls, ME 04256

First Junior Vice Commander
Alan W. Bowers, 21 Bolton Road, Royalston, MA 01368-8929

Second Junior Vice Commander
James E. Sursely, 517 Spring Hollow Blvd., Apopka, FL 32712

Third Junior Vice Commander
Paul W. Jackson, 2935 Avondale Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80917

Fourth Junior Vice Commander
Bradley S. Barton, 4765 S.W. Chunut Court, Tualatin, OR 97062

National Judge Advocate
Edward G. Galian, 200 Atlantic Avenue, #1, Lynbrook, NY 11563

National Chaplain
Rev. Gerald V. Stump, 817 Kensal Green Drive, Kernersville, NC 27284

Past National Commander
Armando C. Albarran, 10114 Ironside Drive, San Antonio, TX 78230

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

First district: Frank J. Drogo, 70 Marjorie Road, Braintree, MA 02184
Second district: Carmen A. Vitale, 828 West Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14213
Third district: Richard DeCoteau, P.O. Box 103, Bethel, VT 05032
Fourth district: Salvatore LoSauro, 128 Francisco Avenue, Rutherford, NJ 07070
Fifth district: James L. Brown, 919 Hilltop Road, Warminster, PA 18974
Sixth district: David L. Tannenbaum, 14830 Wood Home Road, Centreville, VA 20120
Seventh district: Robert A. Melcher, 8280 61st Street, Pinellas Park, FL 33781
Eighth district: Edward G. Roberson, P.O. Box 638, Pikeville, TN 37367
Ninth District: James O. Stewart, 1829 White Pines Drive, Hartsville, SC 29550
Tenth district: Joseph M. Connelly, 32148 Camborne Lane, Livonia, MI 48154
Eleventh district: Arthur L. Leach, P.O. Box 1006, Jackson, OH 45640
Twelfth district: Raymond E. Dempsey, 933 E. Forest Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60018
Thirteenth district: Lee S. Ewing, 3505 Middle Road, Jeffersonville, IN 47130
Fourteenth district: Henry H. Sadler, Route 1, Box 432, Madison Lake, MN 56063
Fifteenth district: Thomas D. Morrissey, 4510 South 49th Street, Lincoln, NE 68516-1222
Sixteenth district: Larry A. Polzin, 13336 Aldergrove Street, Sylmar, CA 91342
Seventeenth district: William B. Taylor, 21663 County Road P, Cortez, CO 81321
Eighteenth district: Bob C. Freitas, 547 Kauhane Street, Honolulu, HI 96813-1419
Nineteenth district: Laurence J. Koger, 1873 Falcon Circle East, Pocatello, ID 83204
Twentieth district: Mike Baker, Route 1, Box 129, Bonham, TX 75418
Twenty-first district: Robert Cohoon, 6104 N. Allison Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

George H. Steese, Jr.
National Commander
2001-2002
Disabled American Veterans

Armando C. Albarran
National Commander
2000-2001
Disabled American Veterans

NATIONAL OFFICERS 2000-2001

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Fourth Junior Vice Commander
Paul W. Jackson, 2935 Avondale Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80917

National Judge Advocate
Edward G. Galian, 200 Atlantic Avenue, #1, Lynbrook, NY 11563

National Chaplain
Clarence Brown, PhD, P.O. Box 5205, Somerset, NJ 08875-5205

Past National Commander
Michael E. Dobmeier, P.O. Box 6188, Grand Forks, ND 58206-6188

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

First district: John F. Gilpin, 485 Plain Street, Rockland, MA 02370
Second district: Carmen A. Vitale, 828 West Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14213
Third district: Richard DeCoteau, P.O. Box 103, Bethel, VT 05032
Fourth district: Salvatore LoSauro, 128 Francisco Avenue, Rutherford, NJ 07070
Fifth district: Vincent Darcangelo, 719 Patricia Drive, Hermitage, PA 16148
Sixth district: David L. Tannenbaum, 14830 Wood Home Road, Centreville, VA 20120
Seventh district: Frank C. Tracy, 33343 Somerset Drive, Leesburg, FL 34788
Eighth district: Edward G. Roberson, P.O. Box 638, Pikeville, TN 37367
Ninth District: Richard Williams, Sr., 3725 Fairington Drive, Hephzibah, GA 30815
Tenth district: Joseph M. Connelly, 32148 Camborne Lane, Livonia, MI 48154
Eleventh district: Samuel E. Lanza, 614 Meadowbrook SE, Warren, OH 44484
Twelfth district: Raymond E. Dempsey, 933 E. Forest Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60018
Thirteenth district: James S. Powers, 910 Buckcreek Road, Greenfield, IN 46140
Fourteenth district: Henry H. Sadler, Route 1, Box 432, Madison Lake, MN 56063
Fifteenth district: Mick Jones, 1019 Country Ridge, Jefferson City, MO 65109
Sixteenth district: Larry A. Polzin, 13336 Aldergrove Street, Sylmar, CA 91342
Seventeenth district: Robert E. Askew, 3183 Hillsdale Drive, West Valley, UT 84119
Eighteenth district: Bob C. Freitas, 547 Kauhane Street, Honolulu, HI 96813-1419
Nineteenth district: Bradley S. Barton, 4765 SW Chunut Court, Tualatin, OR 97062
Twentieth district: Mike Baker, Route 1, Box 129, Bonham, TX 75418
Twenty-first district: Wayne L. Douglass, Sr., 212 Charteroak, Hot Springs, AR 71901

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)
August 16, 1941-August 15, 1943: Lawrence R. Melton, Dallas, Texas (deceased 1978)
August 15, 1943-September 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
1951-52: Ewing W. Mays, Little Rock, Arkansas (deceased 1994)
1952-53: Floyd L. Ming, Bakersfield, California (deceased 1975)
1953-54: Howard W. Watts, Indianapolis, Indiana (deceased 1977)
1954-55: Alfred L. English, Shelbyville, Tennessee (deceased 1987)
1955-56: Melvin J. Maas, Chevy Chase, Maryland (deceased 1964)
1956-57: Joseph F. Burke, Bayonne, New Jersey (deceased 1970)
1957-58: Paul E. Frederick, Jr., Cincinnati, Ohio
1958-59: David B. Williams, Boston, Massachusetts (deceased 1994)
1959-60: Bill H. Fribley, Crestline, Kansas (deceased 1994)
1960-61: William O. Cooper, Dallas, Texas (deceased 1990)
1961-62: Francis R. Buono, Whitestone, New York (deceased 1977)
1962-63: Peter L. Dye, Denver, Colorado
1963-64: Douglas H. McGarrity, Allen Park, Michigan (deceased 1986)
1964-65: William G. Dwyer, San Diego, California (deceased 1982)
1965-66: Claude L. Callegary, Baltimore, Maryland
1966-67: John W. Unger, Sr., Danville, Illinois (deceased 1970)
1967-68: Francis J. Beaton, Fargo, North Dakota (deceased 1969)
1968-69: Wayne L. Sheirbon, Seattle, Washington (deceased 1999)
1969-70: Raymond P. Neal, Daly City, California
1970-71: Cecil W. Stevenson, Jonesboro, Arkansas
1971-72: Edward T. Conroy, Bowie, Maryland (deceased 1982)
1972-73: Jack O. Hicks, Larue, Ohio
1973-74: John T. Soave, Detroit, Michigan (deceased 1984)
1974-75: Walter T. Greaney, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts (deceased 1994)
1975-76: Lyle C. Pearson, North Mankato, Minnesota
1976-77: Frank J. Randazzo, East Meadow, New York
1977-78: Oliver E. Meadows, Godley, Texas
1978-79: Billy O. Hightower, Grand Junction, Colorado
1979-80: Paul L. Thompson, Baltimore, Maryland (deceased 1993)
1980-81: Stan Pealer, Holts Summit, Missouri
1981-82: Sherman E. Roodzant, Santa Ana, California

1982-83: Edward G. Galian, New York, New York
1983-84: Dennis A. Joyner, Apollo, Pennsyvlania
1984-85: Chad Colley, Barling, Arkansas
1985-86: Albert H. Linden, Jr., Camp Springs, Maryland
1986-87: Kenneth G. Musselmann, Huntington Beach, California
1987-88: Gene A. Murphy, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
1988-89: Billy E. Kirby, Clifton, Texas
1989-90: Vernon V. Cardosi, Saugus, Massachusetts
1990-91: Joseph E. Andry, Westerville, Ohio
1991-92: Cleveland Jordan, Washington, D.C.
1992-93: Joseph C. Zengerle, Washington, D.C.
1993-94: Richard E. Marbes, Green Bay, Wisconsin
1994-95: Donald A. Sioss, Miller Place, New York
1995-96: Thomas A. McMasters, III, Sterling Hts., Michigan
1996-97: Gregory C. Reed, Indianapolis, Indiana
1997-98: Harry R. McDonald, Jr., Crestview, Florida
1998-99: Andrew A. Kistler, Franklin, Pennsylvania
1999-00: Michael E. Dobmeier, Grand Forks, North Dakota
2000-01: Armando C. Albarran, San Antonio, Texas

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 80TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HELD AT MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

July 29-August 2, 2001

JOINT OPENING SESSION

July 29, 2001

The Joint Opening Session of the Disabled American Veterans and Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Fontainebleau Hilton Resort, Miami Beach, Florida, Sunday afternoon, July 29, 2001, and was called to order at 1:00 o'clock p.m. by National Commander Armando C. Albarran.

COMMANDER ARMANDO C. ALBARRAN: Ladies and gentlemen, we hope you enjoyed our military service medley. I now call to order the 80th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans. Arthur H. Wilson, National Adjutant, will read the Call to Convention.

ADJUTANT ARTHUR H. WILSON: The Constitution and Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans state that the supreme legislative powers of this organization shall be vested in an annual national convention composed of the national officers and representatives of state departments and chapters.

In accordance with these directives, I, Arthur H. Wilson, National Adjutant, declare the 80th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans to be convened at Miami Beach, Florida, at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, July 29, 2001.

Consideration and disposition of business brought before this convention shall be conducted in accordance with the national constitution and bylaws now in force.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Present colors.

(Presentation of Colors)

(National Anthem)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Color Guard, dismissed. I will now call on our National Chaplain, Dr. Clarence Brown, for the invocation.

CHAPLAIN CLARENCE BROWN: Let us stand and uncover, and let us bow our heads. Dear Heavenly Father, have mercy upon us, Oh, God, according to Your loving kindness, according to Your multitude of Your tender mercies.

Blot out our transgressions, wash us thoroughly from our inequities and cleanse us from our sins, for we acknowledge our transactions and our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.

Create in us cleansed hearts. Oh, God, renew our right spirit within us, Oh, Lord. Oh, Father, we ask that you bless our guests tonight, our opening session, the DAV and the DAVA organizations. Let us say Amen together. Amen.

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

Ladies and gentlemen, look around and you will see a successful convention underway. Let me assure you that a successful national convention requires countless men and women working together to assure that our annual gathering is the most fun-filled, exciting, and rewarding event of the year for all of us.

To successfully plan and operate a great national convention requires wise leadership, commitment, unlimited drive and enthusiasm.

Leading such a dynamic group of people is a tremendously rewarding challenge. Meeting that challenge this year is a National Convention Chairman whose leadership style leaves nothing to chance.

That kind of man is Ed Barnshaw. Ed served in the United States Army beginning in 1953. He was attached to Company C, 110th Harbor Craft as a Tugboat and Landing Craft Operator.

Ed is a life member of DAV Chapter 18 in Bradenton, Florida, and currently serves as Judge Advocate, as well as DAV Department

of Florida Senior Vice Commander.

Ed enjoyed a successful working career as a plant manager, plant engineer and operations manager for a large international salt company.

Ed and his wife, Marna, have five children, three sons and two daughters. Fellow members and guests, please join me in welcoming the man behind the convention, Ed Barnshaw. (Applause)

MR. EDWARD BARNSHAW: Thank you, Commander, for that warm introduction. National Commander Albarran, National Adjutant Wilson, department and chapter leaders, honored guests, friends and delegates to the 80th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

On behalf of the DAV Department of Florida and its 70,000 members, as well as the Department of Florida Auxiliary and its 13,000 members, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Miami Beach and the 80th National Convention.

The 1st National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans was held in Detroit, Michigan, in 1921. That year Warren Harding was sworn in as the 29th President of the United States.

Life expectancy was 54 years. The average income was $2,134 and the Dow Jones average was 73. Wow! And I thought the first quarter of 2001 was bad. (Laughter)

It has been rumored that 1921 is also the year the award for signing up the most members went right down to the wire, ending in a tie between Coy Hennis and Prosper Sodano. (Laughter and applause)

As you can see from your convention schedule, organizers have given us a lot of work to do, highlighted by speeches, business sessions and informative seminars, culminating in the election of national officers.

The business sessions and the seminars are geared to provide us with valuable information which will help us more effectively keep our pledge to DAV's only mission, building better lives for our nation's disabled veterans and their families.

After taking care of business, it's time for a little fun and relaxation. Miami Beach really does have something for everyone.

Of course, the signature attraction is the majestic Atlantic Ocean and the world famous beach, but don't forget your sunscreen. Should you decide to visit other attractions, please consider public transportation. The hotel concierge can help with your plans.

Miami boasts some of the finest restaurants in the country. There are culinary delights of every ethnic persuasion. Perhaps you would prefer to visit one of the many museums or art galleries. One of the most visited attractions is the Holocaust Memorial.

You can span centuries in time to see uncaged wild animals, visit alligators, snakes, manatee and sharks in their natural environment or fast forward to the space planetarium.

Should you prefer a boat ride, there are airboats, glass bottom boats, charter boats, fishing boats and excursion boats.

You may want to try your luck on one of the gambling boats docked nearby. If you would rather try your luck on terra firma, there are horse tracks, dog tracks, Jai Alai and the Seminole Casino.

Perhaps, you would rather shop until you drop. Bargain basements, manufacturers' outlets, and the fashion parlors and authorities of the world are eager to serve you.

After dark, Miami Beach shines more brightly than ever. Dance clubs, jazz lounges and latin beats fill the tropical night air.

Just a few short blocks from here is the Jackie Gleason Theater for the Performing Arts. Perhaps Gleason summed up Miami better than anyone, "How sweet it is!"

I want to thank Commander Albarran for giving me the opportunity to serve as 80th National Convention Chairman. Never again, will I have the privilege of addressing a group that is this large or one that has my sincerest respect and my deepest thanks. Thank you, Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Ed, for those warm remarks.

MR. BARNSHAW: On behalf of the Department of Florida, I wish you a productive and informative convention.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Ed. Neison Kasdin received his Bachelor of Arts at Northwestern University and his Juris Doctor at the University of Florida.

He is an attorney at Gunster Yoakley and served as a Miami Beach Commissioner for six years. He was elected mayor in November of 1997.

In addition to his legal career, Mayor Kasdin served the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce, City of Miami Beach Planning Board, Miami Beach Community Development Corporation and the Miami Beach Kiwanis Club.

With conviction and passion, Mayor Kasdin has led the city in creating an infrastructure for a long-term future of the arts.

Mayor Kasdin has been an active leader in the creation of the Collins Park Culture Complex, the site of new or expanded buildings for the Bass Museum of Arts, Miami City Ballet, Rotunda Theater and the future regional library.

Through his continued efforts, Miami Beach has emerged as a Latin American capital of television, recording and internet industry, as well as a leading location for film, fashion, music and television productions.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in giving a very warm DAV welcome to Mayor Neisen Kasdin. (Applause)

MAYOR NEISEN KASDIN: Thank you, Commander. Welcome to Miami Beach. I had a much longer speech prepared, but your Convention Chair took all my remarks in describing what you can do down here.

But it is, first, truly a pleasure to welcome you. In the ten years that I have been in public office, I think I have made every veterans' and Memorial Day ceremony, almost every one that this city has had, because it is one time of the year when I get to thank and remember those who have served this country and made this country the greatest country in the world, the bastian of freedom and liberty and democracy. (Applause)

I hope that every one of my generation and our children's generation understands and appreciates all that you, and those who have gone before you, have done to make this country the great country it is.

So first, before welcoming you, I want to thank you for what you've done. (Applause)

I'm sure you will have a productive and successful convention here, and I wish you well in your endeavors, but I also do wish to invite you to partake in the pleasures that is the City of Miami Beach.

There are many things in our whole metropolitan region that are great and, if you have the time, you'll be able to maybe see them and appreciate them, but there's nothing like what we have here in Miami Beach.

I have to start by saying that when your sessions are over and you have some time, you have to go visit the two main streets, really, of Miami Beach.

One is the world famous Ocean Drive, that street along the ocean, the image which is known around the world, and its cafes and its sidewalk excitement and activity along the beach; and, also, really what is the favorite street for everybody who lives in this area is Lincoln Road, the newly redone pedestrian mall, which is just a wonderful collection of cultural activities and shops and restaurants and life.

So enjoy our great streets and neighborhoods, and there are many others as well, Espanola Way and Washington Avenue. There's plenty to see in our city. Enjoy our cultural attractions.

We are the home of the New World Symphony, which is the national training orchestra conducted by Michael Tillson Thomas, although they're not in residence at this time. They're out of town.

The Miami City Ballet, one of the country's great dance companies and many, many of the finest new museums in this country, including the Wolfsonian of Florida International University, the city's vast Museum of Art, the Art Center of South Florida on Lincoln Road and many others.

Enjoy our city's cultural activities. We're one of the great cultural cities of the world today. Also, partake in the

excitement of our city. As was mentioned in the introductory remarks, Miami Beach has become the Hollywood of the Americas.

Every major recording company in the world, except for one, has their Latin American operations based here in Miami Beach. Many of the cable television providers from South and Central America base their operations here, and we are one of the world capitals of the photo fashion modeling industry.

These industries bring excitement and exciting people to our community, and see what it's all about when you're down here in our town and enjoy it as well.

Beyond that, of course, we have the beach, which for the third year in a row has been voted by Travel Channel one of the top ten beaches in the world, and that's South Beach.

And by the way, it's the same beach up here even though we're in Middle Beach, just a little quieter. Enjoy the beach. Enjoy the ocean. You can swim any time of year here.

And, of course, when the day is at its end, be sure to enjoy and indulge in our night life, our fabulous restaurants of every kind, our bars, our clubs and all that goes with that.

So, I hope and wish and trust you'll have a productive convention here, but I also hope that you take the time to enjoy our city.

You, the visitors to our city, are our lifeblood, and we appreciate you and we welcome you. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Mayor Kasdin, for that gracious welcome.

MR. THOM WILBORN: And now let's meet your DAV National Officers:

At the Past National Commander position, the pride of Grand Forks, North Dakota, let's welcome back Michael Dobmeier. (Applause)

From Somerset, New Jersey, your National Chaplain, a heavenly welcome for Dr. Clarence Brown. (Applause)

From Lynbrook, New York, the original Manhattan mauler, our National Judge Advocate Ed Galian. (Applause)

Your National 4th Jr. Vice Commander from beautiful Colorado Springs, Colorado, let's hear it for Paul Jackson. (Applause)

Your 3rd Jr. Vice Commander, from scenic Apopka, Florida, let's hear it for Jim Sursely. (Applause)

From Royalston, Massachusetts, a big hand for National 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Alan Bowers. (Applause)

The National 1st Junior Vice Commander, from beautiful Mechanic Falls, Maine, a rousing welcome for Ed Heath. (Applause)

And last, but certainly not least, your Senior Vice Commander from Fresno, California, please welcome George Steese. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander George Steese assumed the Chair.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER GEORGE STEESE: Each year, it is the pleasure of the National Senior Vice Commander to introduce the National Commander for the purpose of presenting his report to the convention delegates.

This honor falls on me this year, and I am proud to introduce a man who has continued the highest traditions of this great organization, a man whose dedication to the DAV stands as an inspiring example of leadership to us all.

A combat-disabled veteran of the United States Army during the Vietnam War, National Commander Albarran first came into contact with DAV at the Brooke Army Hospital at Fort Sam Houston, where he met DAV National Service Officer Harmon Bardwell.

He made a lifelong impression on Armando and instilled in him a desire to serve disabled veterans and their families.

In the more than 35 years since those dark days of rehabilitation at Fort Sam Houston, National Commander Albarran has dedicated his life to building better lives for disabled veterans and their families.

I have found National Commander Albarran to be a man of purpose, a man of commitment and someone who is completely dedicated to the service we offer to America's disabled veterans.

He has fulfilled the legacy of National Service Officer Bardwell, just as Harmon Bardwell paid his dues to the NSOs before

him, all the way back to Judge Marx.

It is my pleasure and a genuine honor to present to you Armando Albarran, National Commander for the Disabled American Veterans. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, George, for that kind introduction. It is great to appear before you today. It has been a great year.

Our National Service Officers have continued the great record of assistance to disabled veterans and their families. We have launched the DAV Mobile Service Office Program, and the Transition Service Program is achieving great things at military bases across the country.

This year we have become more viable and added new strength. Our aggressive program to add new members has recorded outstanding success. We are very near the goal of 1 million life members. Every DAV department not only met, but also exceeded its membership recruitment goals for the year. (Applause)

In the year since I was elected your National Commander, I have felt the warmth the support from every one of our million-plus members. Thank you for giving me your strength during my year of service to the DAV.

In that service I traveled to Paris to represent the DAV in the World Veterans Federation Meeting last December. I am proud to tell you that the DAV was one of only two veterans' service organizations selected to represent the United States at this conference.

Yes, the world recognizes and respects the DAV and our program of service to veterans. (Applause) During that trip, I went to Normandy and to the American cemetery above the beaches, which holds many of the 4,900 men who made the ultimate sacrifice on that cold June day in 1944.

I was touched by the hundreds of gleaming white markers that represent the lost hopes and dreams that vanished that terrible day.

I also visited Hawaii this year, the home of Pearl Harbor. It was 60 years ago this year that this island, home of so many of our armed forces, was so savagely attacked.

I, again, felt that swelling respect for those who fell and for those who were forever wounded in sacrificing for their country. It is fitting that this National Convention honor those who so heroically defended our nation 60 years ago. (Applause)

I was also honored to visit one of the last vestiges of World War II, the U.S.S. Intrepid Museum in New York. I was there on Memorial Day weekend as the museum dedicated a new, handicapped-accessible elevator, built with a donation from the DAV, was dedicated.

Now, disabled veterans and other disabled people will be able to visit throughout the mighty World War II aircraft carrier to learn more about the service and sacrifices of disabled veterans. (Applause)

I was also honored to represent the DAV to two presidents. I met with the President last year at Veterans Day breakfast at the White House. I returned to have a White House breakfast with President Bush on Memorial Day.

In my wide travels, I have received the finest support the DAV can provide. I cannot say enough about the guidance and the wisdom given by DAV National Adjutant Art Wilson. His knowledge and his expertise are the finest to be found anywhere. (Applause)

The additional support by DAV National Headquarters Executive Director Rick Patterson, DAV Washington Headquarters Executive Director Dave Gorman and their staffs have been superb. I want to extend my thanks for all they have done to help me to do my best for the DAV. (Applause)

Looking back at the memories of my term as National Commander, one thing becomes perfectly clear, that we have the finest men and women in the world serving as National Service Officers. (Applause)

To each DAV NSO, I want to extend my thanks not only for what you did to help me, but also for what you did to help each of us. As I watched each of our NSOs, I remembered Harmon Bardwell, the

DAV NSO who visited me at Brooke Army Hospital at Fort Sam Houston 35 years ago.

The DAV legacy of caring for veterans is always a part of me. In these young men and women who serve as our NSOs today, I can see Harmon's spirit and the spirit of the DAV.

I can report to you today that the spirit of the DAV is stronger and brighter than at any other time in our history. I must say -- and please pardon my language -- I am damned proud of them and all of you should be. (Applause)

Their record of unparalleled achievement stands as the hallmark of our DAV. All those who can, please stand and give these men and women a standing ovation for what they do for us. (Standing Ovation)

I hope that my legacy is one of achievement that brought success to the DAV. In no other forum have I sought achievement as much as my appearance before the joint meeting of the House and Senate Veteran's Affairs Committee last March.

I outlined to lawmakers the DAV's vast record of achievement in programs providing services to veterans, hope to homeless veterans, assistance through voluntary service programs and comfort to the families of disabled veterans.

To those who control the purse strings of our government, I said that our nation must honor its commitment to veterans. (Applause)

I believe that Congress heard our message when it voted to increase the President's budget request for veterans. Sadly, once the VA budget entered the House and Senate Conference Committee, the size of funding increase shrunk to less than agreed by both Houses.

Right now, House members are considering adding $600 million to VA's spending bill, increasing the VA spending to a total of $1.6 billion. We must give this proposal our full support. (Applause)

I urge each DAV member to do all that is possible to support adequate funding for our nation's disabled veterans and their families. One way that each of us can help is by joining the DAV CAN, the DAV Commander's Action Network.

This grassroots program is designed to help our members make a dramatic impression on members of Congress. Our voice must be heard in Congress because without your support for veterans programs, we will get much less than we need. (Applause)

I am deeply appreciative of the Congress and the Administration's role in helping the Disabled Veterans Memorial become a reality. Public Law 106-348 was signed late last year. It authorizes the memorial dedicated to all veterans be built on federal land in Washington, D.C.

It will ensure that our nation will forever remember the dedication and sacrifice of disabled veterans for their country and for the freedom we all enjoy. (Applause)

I enjoyed the excitement this year when DAV launched the Mobile Service Office and Transition Service Program. The nationwide deployment of MSOs means that every small town and community in our nation will have access to the finest veteran's service program in the world. (Applause)

Our departments and chapter service officers joined our national service officers in staffing the MSOs to offer counseling and to assist veterans in completing applications for benefits from the VA and other government agencies.

The Transition Service Program for military personnel returning to civilian life will ensure that the DAV continues to be the number one provider of top-quality professional service and advocacy programs for our nation's veterans. (Applause)

One of the activities that I enjoyed most this year was participating in many of the homeless veterans' stand-downs held throughout our nation.

It was enjoyable because the DAV Homeless Veterans Initiative is growing in its response to help restore homeless veterans to productive lives.

I felt that warmth of that program last November as I joined the DAV Department of Indiana Thanksgiving Stand-down in

Indianapolis.

The holiday spirit was obvious as DAV volunteers and NSOs served the most needy of disabled veterans. I am very proud of this program and what it has accomplished in the last year.

A heartwarming experience was the 15th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Snow Mass, Colorado. It was an extraordinary event because it helped return our most severely disabled veterans to active and vibrant lives.

The more than 300 disabled veterans who participated in the clinic seized the opportunity to turn their disabilities into an opportunity and wiped out barriers to recreation.

It was gratifying to be joined by Actress Bo Derek and Florida Congressman Cliff Stearns in witnessing the miracles on the mountainside.

Perhaps the most touching moment took place March 13th at the 25th anniversary ceremonies at our Washington Headquarters. During the ceremonies, we dedicated a new entrance to the DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters, which included three new flag poles.

Crew members of the U.S.S. Cole raised the Stars and Stripes above our Washington Headquarters. Past National Commander Mike Dobmeier, Andy Kistler and I raised the DAV flag; and three former POW's, Past National Commander Lyle Pearson, National Executive Committeeman Frank Tracy and retired NSO Billy Taylor raised the POW/MIA flag.

It was a moment, very proud moment for all of us. (Applause) I was honored to present a DAV plaque to the officers and the crew of the U.S.S. Cole, to Lt. J.G. Dennis Gaines.

He thanked the DAV for our recognition by saying it was "an honor to be recognized by true American heroes". The spirit and humility of these men and women will be with me forever. The DAV plaque will be placed aboard the U.S.S. Cole so the world can see our appreciation for those true American heroes. (Applause)

As we face the future, I want to remind you to remain aware that we have a new Administration in Washington and a new Secretary of Veteran's Affairs.

Secretary Anthony J. Principi continues his wholehearted support of veterans' programs, as he has always done (applause), but we must be vigilant that the slow erosion of VA programs that occurred in the 1990's does not reemerge.

DAV must remain at the forefront in informing the VA and the Administration what veterans need and in support of adequate health care and benefit delivery system.

I will always remember the thrill of being elected to lead the DAV. A sea of a thousand faces smiled at me as they gave me their vote. It was a joyous time, but then reality set in.

I realized as never before the responsibility that faced me. I had a million members supporting me, but I was on point at the very forefront of what we do. It's a bit scary, but I can tell you that I was strengthened by the great support from every DAV and Auxiliary member. (Applause)

My year as National Commander has been filled with hope and satisfaction, tempered with concern and full of inspiration of my fellow disabled veterans and NSOs. I can tell you that service as the DAV National Commander is less about events and more about spirit.

Looking back, the DAV was there for me when I needed it the most. My fondest hope is that I helped make sure that the DAV is here today and tomorrow for those who may need it.

The pride I feel today stems not from personal accomplishment, but from humble service to my fellow disabled veterans.

God bless them, God bless you, and it's been a memorable experience, a dream of a lifetime, an experience in achievement. Thanks for watching my back. (Standing Ovation)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER STEESE: Commander Albarran, Armando, your leadership and devotion to the DAV will long be remembered. Thank you.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER STEESE: At this time, the Chair will entertain a motion to accept the National Commander's report.

NEC 12TH DISTRICT RAYMOND E. DEMPSEY: Ray Dempsey, 12th District NEC, makes a motion to accept the outstanding report from our National Commander.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER STEESE: I have a motion. Do I have a second?

(Whereupon, the motion was seconded from the floor.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER STEESE: I have a second. On the question, all in favor, please say aye; opposed. Thank you, the motion is carried. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Commander Albarran resumed the Chair.)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, George. At this time, I would like to introduce your National Executive Committee. Please hold your applause until I have introduced all members:

District 1, John F. Gilpin of Massachusetts; District 2, Carmen A. Vitale of New York; District 3, Richard DeCoteau of Vermont; District 4, Salvatore LoSauro of New Jersey; District 5, Vincent Darcangelo of Pennsylvania; District 6, David L. Tannenbaum of Virginia; District 7, Frank C. Tracy of Florida; District 8, Edward Roberson of Tennessee; District 9, Richard Williams, Sr. of Georgia; District 10, Joseph F. Connelly of Michigan; District 11, Samuel E. Lanza of Ohio; District 12, Raymond E. Dempsey of Illinois; District 13, James S. Powers of Indiana; District 14, Henry H. Sadler of Minnesota; District 15, Mick Jones of Missouri; District 16, Larry L. Polzin of California; District 17, Robert E. Askew of Utah; District 18, Bob Frietas of Hawaii; District 19, Bradley S. Barton of Oregon; District 20, Mike Baker of Texas; and District 21, Wayne L. Douglass of Arkansas. (Applause)

And also of great assistance to me this year was my National Chief of Staff Jose T. Garcia and Officer of the Day Mario Melchor, both of San Antonio, Texas, and Sergeant-At-Arms Vincent Morrison of Houston, Texas. Thank you, guys. (Applause)

Sixty years ago this December, the world underwent an abrupt change. On a Sunday morning in the distant U.S. territory of Hawaii, the Japanese navy attacked Pearl Harbor. During the two hours of that attack, nearly 2,500 men and women died and more than 1,100 were injured.

After December 7, 1941, the U.S. was in a fight to the finish. The result was that our nation produced the greatest generation and helped make America into a world power.

To honor those men and women who participated in the defense of our nation during that surprise attack, the DAV, in partnership with New Voyage Communications, a film production company in Washington, D.C., produced a brief historical video to tell their stories, perhaps for the last time.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in the presentation, "On the Day of Infamy."

(Video Presentation)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Many of those American GIs who fought in World War II also battled in Korea, and this year we are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Korean War.

The men and women of World War II and Korea were united not only by a common purpose, but also by common values, duty, honor, courage, service and love of family and country; and above all, responsibility for oneself.

May I ask all those in the audience who served during World War II and the Korean War to please stand and be acknowledged. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in a round of applause in appreciation of the sacrifice made more than a half a century ago. (Applause)

Thank you. I want to take a moment to introduce a very special friend of the DAV. Lois Pope is the sponsor of the LIFE's Presidential Unsung Hero Award.

She is also Chairman of the Lois Pope LIFE Foundation and Chairman of the Disabled Veterans LIFE Memorial Foundation which, in partnership with the DAV, is dedicated to building a permanent monument in Washington, D.C., to honor all disabled veterans. Ms. Pope, thank you for being here with us. (Applause)

The DAV was pleased when President Bush decided the VA needed a Secretary with a firm hand, considerable experience and intimate knowledge of veterans' affairs.

There are few individuals who can fill that bill, but Secretary Principi does and we welcome his leadership at the VA. A life member of DAV Chapter 2 in San Diego, Secretary Principi has served in many positions to help veterans.

He was the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs from 1989 to 1992. He then was named Acting Secretary and held that post until January 1993.

From 1984 to 1988 Mr. Principi was the chief counsel and staff director of the Senate Veterans Committee on Veterans Affairs. Before that, he was VA's Assistant Deputy Administrator for Congressional and Public Affairs.

Secretary Principi's military record is a credit to his service to our country. He is a 1967 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. Following graduation and service aboard the destroyer U.S.S. Joseph P. Kennedy, he commanded a river patrol unit in the Mekong River Delta in Vietnam.

He is a combat-decorated veteran of the Vietnam War. Ladies and gentlemen, I am very happy to introduce a friend and an advocate for all veterans, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Anthony J. Principi. Mr. Secretary. (Standing Ovation)

SECRETARY ANTHONY J. PRINCIPI: Thank you very, very much. National Commander Albarran, thank you for your very, very warm, kind introduction.

Auxiliary National Commander Gray, National Adjutant Wilson, Executive Director Gorman, my fellow members of the Disabled American Veterans, my fellow veterans, and my fellow VA employees here today, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

I am honored to be with you. I'm honored to serve as Secretary, and I'm very honored to follow in the footsteps of DAV's favorite son, Jesse Brown. (Applause) My thoughts and prayers are with Jesse.

Since its founding 80 years ago, the Disabled American Veterans Organization has been dedicated to one single purpose, to build better lives for America's disabled veterans.

Volunteers enable VA to extend the scope and reach of care we provide. Volunteers also help to humanize the sometimes impersonal practice of medicine.

Last year DAV volunteers contributed more than 2 million hours of service under our VA Voluntary Service Programs, more than any other service organization in America. You give your hearts to our fellow veterans. You can be very, very proud of your service. It is an extraordinary contribution.

VA has made great strides in our campaign to make our care more accessible to veterans, but veterans must still come to us when they are sick and need our care.

DAV's transportation network drives sick and disabled veterans to meet VA medical facilities for treatment. In 1999 nearly 750,000 veterans were transported to our medical centers and clinics. DAV volunteers drove more than 25 million miles in support of this program.

The beautiful Ford vans on display here and hard at work around the nation are eloquent testimony of the wonderful partnership between DAV and Ford Motor Company. I thank Ford Motor Company for their enormous contribution to our nation's veterans. (Applause)

For 15 years now DAV and VA have co-sponsored the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic where severely disabled veterans conquer the mountainside and conquer their own disabilities.

They learn that there are no limits to what they can do, other than those they impose on themselves, and we are fortunate to have DAV as our partner.

The professionalism of DAV's trained staff of more than 250 National Services Officers to represent veterans and their families is an invaluable asset to the VA and to the disabled veterans we both serve. Clearly you have the finest NSOs in the country and I salute each and every one of you. (Applause)

Thank you, members of the DAV and Ladies Auxiliary, for everything you do for my department and those who come to us in their weakest and most vulnerable moments.

Men who have offered their lives for their country know that patriotism is not the fear of something. It is the love of something.

Adlai Stevenson said that back in August 1952 during his address to a veterans service organization at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

The Korean War was not yet over. World War II was barely gone. The war to end all wars, World War I, was still a first-hand memory for many veterans, and the seeds of Vietnam were just beginning to be sown in Indochina.

Up through 1952, nearly 50 years ago, 40 million of America's best young men and women had been asked to stand on the front lines of freedom, on the battlefield, at a cost of 1 million dead and twice that wounded.

By the end of the Vietnam War, another 2 million men and women had taken the oath and more than 60,000 would die in the service to their country.

Many of you in this room lived through those incredible years. In every case, throughout America's sometimes turbulent history, our veterans, Floridians and New Yorkers, Californians and Pennsylvanians, men and women, rustbelters and sunbelters alike, answered the cause because they so loved this country.

Some of you, I know, have read Tom Brokaw's book, "The Greatest Generation," about the men and women who fought and won World War II.

The book is especially popular with younger people, many of whom had never known before what their parents and grandparents had done for the sake of our freedom.

Here is what Brokaw wrote about those who served in uniform during that fateful period:

"At a time in their lives when their days and nights should have been filled with innocent adventure, love and the lessons of the work-a-day world, American soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coast guardsmen answered the call to save the world from two of the most ruthless military machines ever assembled; instruments of conquest in the hands of fascist maniacs. They faced great odds and a late start, but they did not protest. They succeeded on every front. They won the war. They saved the world."

The greatest generation of Americans did not end with World War II veterans. They and their sons and daughters and their grandsons and granddaughters continued the line of duty in the Korean War, through Vietnam and into the Gulf War.

In every conflict and in the Cold War, they rose to meet the challenges of defending a free country in a very dangerous world. Today, Americans can look to you and your colleagues across America at a time of unrivaled peace in the United States.

Because you did your duty for your country and were willing to put your life on the line for it, a boy or a girl celebrating a 10th birthday today in Florida was born after the Gulf War and has experienced nothing of its kind during their lifetime.

Abraham Lincoln once said: "All that a man hath will he give for his life; and while all contribute of this substance, the soldier, the soldier puts his life at stake and often yields it up in his country's cause. The highest merit, then, is due the soldier."

I applaud the selfless commitment to disabled veterans of your million members and 180,000 members of the DAV Auxiliary. VA is no less dedicated to providing America's veterans with programs and services to help them meet their health, housing, education, compensation, pension and memorial needs.

When I came on board six months ago, I brought with me memories of the VA that I had known and worked with many years before. The VA of my earlier days is not VA today.

It is better, and I have a five-part vision to try to make it even better.

My first vision is for VA to be the nation's recognized leader in the provision of quality health care to a clearly defined segment of the American population who have richly earned that health care, our nation's veterans.

In particular, I want us to lead in areas where we have a

unique role to play in American health care, spinal cord injury, blind rehabilitation, those with severe psychological, mental conditions, geriatric care and others as well.

We have a special role to play and we should be the leaders, make the investment in research and treatment and be profiled in America for what we do.

My second vision for the Department is to be the nation's recognized leader in disability compensation and disability evaluations. This is a core mission of our department.

It is the very foundation upon which we are built and from good disability evaluations comes the benefits that flow to our nation's disabled veterans.

I want us to take the lead in the development of software applications that integrate data from the moment a young man or woman enters the military, throughout their military career, and throughout his or her lifetime as an honorably discharged veteran.

I'm particularly concerned with the fate of America's former POWs. Like the survivors of the Bataan Death March, it is difficult to comprehend what they endured for the sake of liberty.

POWs from the Korean War suffered from the captivity at the hands of a culture that repudiated basic humanitarian responsibilities for soldiers taken prisoner.

Like the POWs of Japan, over one-third of those taken prisoner in Korea died in captivity; tragic testimony to the conditions they endured. And the POWs of Vietnam endured a systematic campaign by their captors to break their will and their loyalty to our country.

We do not know or fully understand the long-term effects of sustained captivity and abuses, but I am certain that our former POWs are not fully compensated for the effects of their experiences; and although I do not know exactly how to rectify it, I am determined to right that wrong. (Applause)

My third vision for VA is for the VA to be the nation's recognized leader in research, focused on patients whose illnesses, diseases and injuries are the product of military service.

Our core mission is to care for those who have borne the battle. Our research programs should support that mission.

My fourth vision for VA is to assure America that her sons and daughters who so proudly served in times of war and peace will forever be honored in national cemeteries, reorganized as national shrines, secured by their service and thereby dedicated to their memories. Last year 83,000 veterans were so honored.

Finally, my fifth mission is for VA to be the recognized leader in the entire nation, both the public and the private sectors, in the application of business principles that will allow us to be our country's most effective and efficient provider of benefits and services.

DAV's leadership and the leadership of all our national veterans service organizations are our partners in identifying problems and in developing solutions to the problems I will have to solve in order to make my vision concrete.

To further that partnership, we've recently created a new network of regional liaisons who will work with state and local VSO organizations.

We've hired six distinguished veterans for these positions. They will attend local conventions, meetings and other functions to keep the channels of communication open so that we know what the problems are out in Grassroots America; to go to schools and teach young people about the contributions of our men and women in uniform.

One of them, Bruce Nitsche, who retired three years ago with 25 years of service to the DAV, including assignment as your National Director of Voluntary Service, is joining our team, and I'm so excited and pleased that Bruce could be with us today as part of that. (Applause)

In the past few years, VA has dramatically transformed the veterans' health care system. Our Veterans Health Administration moved from an in-patient model of care, characterized by limited facilities and often far from a veteran's home to an outpatient model with more than 800 new sites where veterans can get care.

Today we provide better care, better quality care than ever

before. We treat more than 500,000 additional veterans with 25,000 fewer employees than we did just six years ago, and the cost of treating individual patients has gone down by nearly 24 percent.

VA leads the entire health care industry in many important areas like patient safety, computerized patient records, telemedicine, rehabilitation and clinical and health services research, and I'm very, very proud of our VA people, throughout our system, who bring our hospitals, our clinics and our nursing homes to life.

It's a strong record, but I believe we can do better and must do better. There are many other things that we have done and will continue to do to improve our service to veterans.

We've announced the selection of 14 new sites for outpatient clinics throughout the country. We've developed a policy to pay for emergency care in non-VA facilities for veterans who are eligible and are enrolled in our health care system.

We've established six new centers specializing in research, education and clinical care in Parkinson's disease.

We've funded two new centers specializing in studying the treatment of war-related illnesses and six new sites that are focused on changing the way we approach care for veterans at their end of their lives.

I'm so proud that we are going to open up a Center of Excellence here in Miami Beach at our Miami VA Medical Center for spinal cord injury research, and what a fitting place given Mrs. Pope's enormous contribution to this area.

I certainly look forward to working closely with her so that we can restore function to men and women who have been paralyzed as a result of their military service. (Applause)

And we've changed our policy on the patenting, marketing and licensing of new technologies developed by our researchers so that the VA gets credit and revenues from them and we will use those revenues to improve the care we provide. (Applause)

If research work results in financial gain, we are going to use that gain on behalf of the veterans we serve, and we are going to own the work, along with our researchers, that has been done with the funds that have been allocated to us for veterans.

I'm really tired of turning on the news and seeing some new medical breakthrough announced that was created in VA laboratories, thought up by VA researchers, and paid for with VA funds and hearing no mention of our VA anywhere at all. I want to see the VA logo behind that researcher in the future. (Applause)

Last, but surely not least in health care, the President has created a 15-member task force to improve coordination between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The task force will look at ways to improve the availability of health care to veterans and military retirees and their dependents. Its goals are to improve access to veterans and to strengthen the VA/DOD partnership for health care services.

We can eliminate some of the overlap between our departments. We can partner in more health care joint ventures, and we certainly can bring down the barriers so that medical records and personal records from DOD can be shipped to us immediately so we can get on with the process of processing their disability claims.

At a time when Federal Express guarantees that packages they deliver anywhere in the world will absolutely, positively get there overnight, how can it take over three months to transfer a veteran's record from the Department of Defense Headquarters in St. Louis to St. Petersburg? (Applause)

I know that you are very concerned with the amount of time it takes the VA to process benefit claims. So am I.

Because we understand that the hazards of the modern battlefield include more than bullets and shells, we've agreed to provide disability compensation for Vietnam veterans with Type II diabetes.

This will add significantly to our benefits caseload, but it is absolutely the right thing to do. Our decision to service-connected diabetes for veterans exposed to Agent Orange and because of the need to review decisions -- prior decisions, as a result of the legislation reinstating VA's duty to assist, which should never

have been stopped in the first place, it will add to our backlog, but we need to get on with it. (Applause)

We have a backlog today of close to 650,000 claims, and the average time it takes to process a claim is about nine months, average time. In many, many cases it takes, as you well know, much longer than that. Well, we have to do something about it.

I've told the President that I've declared war on the claims processing delays and that we need to get on with addressing them. You know, our nation, after the Pearl Harbor attack, built shipyards out of bare dirt in a matter of days, and they would turn out liberty ships at the rate of one a day.

When the Yorktown was badly damaged in the Battle of Coral Sea, it limped back to Pearl Harbor, and they were told that it would take six months to get that battleship back on the line.

Admiral Nimitz said, "I want that aircraft carrier back on the line in 48 hours", and that aircraft carrier was back on the line, heading to Midway.

That's the American way, and if we can do it then, it just seems to me that this is just as important. We've got to get these claims down. We've got to work together and I think we can do it. (Applause)

I will be holding our entire department responsible for this effort, just as I ask you to hold me accountable. This is not just a Veterans Benefits Administration problem, it's a Veterans Health Care Administration problem because they do the medical examinations.

It's a General Counsel problem because they write the regulations. It's an IT problem, so we must get our Information Technology people together to work together.

Last spring I commissioned a Claims Processing Task Force to conduct a top-to-bottom review of our claims system. I asked Admiral Dan Cooper, who headed up our nuclear power submarine forces in the Atlantic fleet, to head that Commission.

Before Labor Day I expect to receive recommendations from that task force on how we can speed our decisions by changing our organizations and our administrative procedures.

I am proud that Ken Wolfe of the DAV is part of that task force. I thank the DAV, and I thank Ken for their enormous support. (Applause)

We could not wait for the task force report to take action. Since January 23rd, when I was sworn in, VA has added more than 900 decisionmakers to help reduce the claims-processing backlog, and we will add 60 more before the end of September.

It's the largest increase since the Vietnam War and we've trained nearly 500 newly hired and promoted employees in proper claims processing, and we will train another 900 by October 1st.

We've developed a new computer system that will allow VBA to rapidly access medical records in the VA Health Administration, and we've continued work on a new benefits information computer system for our claims processors to use, but with the understanding that no system will be brought on line until it's thoroughly tested and ensured that it works properly.

And finally, we've directed our Board of Veterans Appeals to gather additional information on cases they are reviewing instead of returning those cases to VBA.

I believe this will help us to reduce the time it takes to process appeals. I don't understand why an attorney or a paralegal at the Board of Veterans Appeals can't pick up the phone if they need one small bit of information and get that information and evaluate that case, grant the claim, rather than remanding it back to the regional offices where it sits for a year or two. It doesn't make any sense to me. (Applause)

We have a crisis in our regional offices and our attorneys on the Board -- now all the folks up there are very well intentioned and very well meaning -- have no work because they've remanded it all back to the ROs.

This is a situation that simply needs to change. General Omar Bradley once said, "We are dealing with veterans, not procedures; with their problems, not ours".

I think we should think about those words everyday as we go

about our business of evaluating disability claims. We've been so focused on processes that we've forgotten about the most important thing, that veterans are the bottom line.

Veterans, not VA, are the victims of these delays and that is unconscionable to me. (Applause) I want to go back to a time when claims decisions are made in 90 days and done right the first time. (Applause)

Ten years ago our ratings specialists were rating 10 to maybe 15 cases a day. Today, after millions upon millions of dollars in new information technologies systems and new procedures, we're lucky if they do two a day. Is it any wonder that we have a backlog of 650,000 claims?

And let me add a special plea to those of you who are National Service Officers. I plead with you to produce cases in a complete and timely manner for our claims examiners to work on.

If we want to solve this problem, we will have to work on it together. I promise you I will do everything I can to reduce the time it takes to process claims, but I cannot succeed without your help.

I believe our national cemeteries are national shrines, hallowed ground where Americans young and old can come to gain a greater appreciation of the noble sacrifices of the generations of men and women who served to make America great.

Over the next several years, we will continue to open up new national shrines around the country as the aging veteran population means that we need more internment space.

One of England's greatest prime ministers, William Gladstone, once said, "Show me the manner in which a nation cares for its war dead, and I will measure exactly the sympathies of its people, the respect for the law of the land and their loyalty to high ideals."

National cemeteries, sheltering the remains of our nation's greatest heroes, must provide a tangible measurement confirming our nation's respect and gratitude for veterans who have passed on.

I will do my utmost for you to ensure our nation's national cemeteries are worthy of the service and sacrifice of the men and women who earned the right to eternal rest under the flag they defended. (Applause)

And finally, VA must simply use sound business principles in accomplishing our mission. We must have systems that will enable us to use the resources we have as efficiently and effectively as possible.

I do not want to waste even one dollar of the taxpayers' funds we hold in trust for America's veterans, because every dollar we waste means a veteran is not being served at a VA facility or another veteran will have to wait longer for the care he or she needs.

It is as simple as this. I don't want to leave any money on the table. I don't want us to squander any of the resources that we have been entrusted to administer.

We honor veterans when we operate more efficiently; and to that end, I have directed my chief information officer to design and execute a comprehensive, integrated computer architecture that will allow the Veterans Health Administration, Benefits Administration and National Cemetery Administration to share information more easily.

The initiatives we are looking at are all designed to eliminate information-sharing barriers within our agency and with DOD and end our reliance on stovepipe system development and design and improve service to veterans. (Applause)

Our veterans have often faced tremendous odds. They have always done what was asked of them. They saved the world more than once. We owe them, we owe you a debt that can never be repaid. VA benefits are a small step towards redemption of that debt.

VA has a very proud history. America's veterans preserved America's promise for tomorrow's citizens. In turn, America entrusted VA with fulfilling our national obligation to those who served us well.

We are called upon to meet President Lincoln's Civil War challenge to America:

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness

in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up our nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan. To do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Mr. Lincoln's promise to veterans of the 19th century is VA's promise to the veterans of the 21st century. Tomorrow's veterans must be able to count on us for continued high-quality health care, research and treatment.

Tomorrow's veterans must be assured of the best prosthetic devices, spinal cord injury rehabilitation and to continue to benefit from VA's innovations in treatment.

Tomorrow's veterans will continue to reach their education, skilled training and employment goals through the VA's unswerving support of the GI Bill and meaningful and productive vocational rehabilitation benefits, and tomorrow's veterans and their families must be able to rest easy with continued VA loan guarantees to enable them to buy the home that they so much want.

VA's 215,000 employees want to make those visions of tomorrow come true for America's veterans. Together, we will repay the debt America owes her veterans and their families for their services and their sacrifices.

Let me conclude again with some of President Lincoln's words, second inaugural address, "Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history. We of this Congress and of this Administration will be remembered in spite of ourselves.

"No personal significance or insignificance can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down in honor or dishonor to the latest generation.

"We, even we here, hold the power and bear the responsibility. We shall nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of Earth."

America just celebrated its 225th anniversary. We are barely a teenager when compared to the dowager nations of Europe, and we are but babes when measured against the long life spans of some Middle Eastern and Asian cultures.

Yet, our national will to live in and work for peace through democratic principles protected by the selfless service of men and women like you transcends all of the years on the calendar.

Your legacy brought us to this day; and as we enjoy this beautiful day and your week here in Miami Beach, let's remember that at this very moment, young soldiers are waking up to ensure that the last legacy of Stalinism doesn't plunge the world back to war along the DMZ in Korea, and young men and women are patrolling the Persian Gulf to ensure the free flow of oil that propels the economy of this state and of our nation; and that young soldiers are in the Balkans keeping the lid on the cauldron that has all too often enveloped first Europe and then the United States.

Every day, American men and women are preserving our freedom and we have a responsibility to them.

You are to be honored for keeping the beacon of hope burning for all the world to see and for making America still the last best hope of Earth. God bless you all. Thank you very much. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary, for those gracious remarks. We understand, sir, that you have another engagement to attend. Thank you again for coming.

It is my honor once again to share the platform with our DAV Auxiliary National Commander, Carol Gray.

During my term as your National Commander, I have had the pleasure and the privilege of seeing her exemplify love, leadership and the dedication that has so ably led the Auxiliary through the past.

My Auxiliary counterpart, Carol, has impressed me time and again with her untiring dedication, her limitless compassion and her competent leadership in the Auxiliary.

Under Carol's leadership, the Auxiliary has been with the DAV every step of the way in the ongoing battle to protect the earned benefits and services disabled veterans and their families count on.

Commander Gray and I have shared many travels and experiences

during our terms. I can tell you, without reservation, the Auxiliary was magnificently represented by this wonderful woman who has dedicated herself to helping the families of disabled veterans who sacrificed so much for their country.

Carol originally joined the DAV Auxiliary as a junior member in 1941 and has been an Auxiliary life member since 1978.

She is well aware of the Auxiliary's fine heritage. She is also very knowledgeable of the issues facing disabled veterans and their families.

Here to deliver her report to the National Convention is my friend, a truly exceptional woman, DAV Auxiliary National Commander Carol Gray. (Standing Ovation)

AUXILIARY COMMANDER CAROL GRAY: Thank you, Commander, for your kind introduction and for the opportunity I've had to serve with you this past year. Good afternoon.

National Officers, Past National Commander, distinguished guests, delegates and members of the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary at this 80th Convention and the first one in the 21st century. Wow!

It is with overwhelming feelings of honor and pride that I stand before you today to share with you some of the ways that you let your Auxiliary light shine during the past year.

To begin with, I would like to introduce our national officers who have carried the light of the Auxiliary this past year. Would hold your applause until they're all standing.

Our National Adjutant and Past National Commander Maria Tedrow; National Senior Vice Commander Renee Jones from North Carolina; National 1st Junior Vice Commander Linda Trulio from New Jersey; National 2nd Junior Vice Commander Janet Bennett from Nevada; National 3rd Junior Vice Commander Gertrude Tidwell from Oklahoma; National Fourth Junior Vice Commander Judy Steinhouse from North Dakota; National Chaplain Vicki Greer from Georgia; National Judge Advocate Shelia Allred from North Carolina; National Assistant Adjutant Judy Hezlep from Ohio; Immediate Past National Commander Paula Raymond from Illinois.

Also on the dais is Past National Commander Barbara Hicks, who will be making a presentation later this afternoon; and the Auxiliary National Convention Chairman, Kate Egan, Immediate Past State Commander from Florida. (Applause)

Thank you, ladies. Also seated down here in the front are the Auxiliary National Executive Committee women:

From District 1, Louise Barrett, Massachusetts; District 2, Lucita Christian, New York; District 3, Marie Clancey of Maine; District 4, Jenny Bizon, New Jersey; District 5, Rhea Lynn, Pennsylvania; District 6, Marianne Piekielniak from Virginia; District 7, Sunny Barzelogna from Florida; District 8, Juanita Upton from Mississippi; District 9, Ruth Koon from Georgia; District 10, Gloria Boozer, Michigan; District 11, Judy Uetterling, Ohio; District 12, Sandra Donahue, Illinois; District 13, Norma Zeimet, Indiana; District 14, Judy Perry, South Dakota; District 15, Judy McLaskey, Iowa; District 16, Donna Stinnett, California; District 17, Corabelle Crossley from Utah; District 18, Ann Jones from Arizona; District 19, Deborah Mazza from Oregon; District 20, Earlene Cole from Texas; and District 21, Sue Hollingsworth from Oklahoma. Thank you, ladies. (Applause)

It is also my distinct pleasure to introduce a very special group of ladies who have paved the road to this day and who continue to let their light shine for the Auxiliary; our Auxiliary Past National Commanders, and there are 19 of them here today. Ladies, please stand and be recognized. (Applause) Thank you for your continued service.

The wonderful outpouring of women in our Auxiliaries to aid and assist the disabled veterans and our families is astounding and amazing. You nurture their needs. You know the pain they suffer. You know because you are with them every step of the way.

Your Auxiliary light shines because you care enough to make a difference in their lives. That light is reflected in our continued efforts to grow, not just in numbers, but also in strength, into an Auxiliary membership that will be there to protect the benefits of those who were disabled while serving this

nation.

I remember well the day I received the information that the Auxiliary not only met its membership quota this year, but had exceeded that goal, putting the membership at well over 200,000. (Applause)

This strong membership will build legislative strength that we will combine with that of the Disabled American Veterans to protect and improve the benefits, the services and the programs our families need and that they can depend on to be there.

When our work is combined with that of the DAV, we can and will use that strength to assist a very dedicated legislative team at the DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters when they call on us.

They can depend on us to write those letters and e-mails. They can depend on our phone calls, and they can depend on our personal visits. (Applause)

It was an honor to be seated at the table with members of the DAV when Commander Albarran made his presentation to the Joint Veterans Affairs Committee in our nation's capital.

Had the Committee asked, I would have told them of the dedication and support that the women and families have given to those who sacrificed so much in service to this nation, and that you are the light in their lives each and every day.

I would have told them of the years you have witnessed their suffering and agony. I would have told them of the growing number of widows among us because of the early deaths of their spouses, leaving many of them in need.

Their numbers are too great and their needs are too many. The light of the Auxiliary now shines on these widows through the Auxiliary Service Support Program, giving them a place to turn for needed help.

Your continued support of this program has made it possible to pay that utility bill and other basic necessities. I thank each and every one of you who generously contribute to make this program possible.

The light of the Auxiliary also shines brightly at the Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. Countless Auxiliary volunteers return year after year to witness the miracles on the mountainside at the Clinic.

This year I had the opportunity to join them. While in the airport in Denver, awaiting the last leg of the trip that would take us to Aspen and Snow Mass Village, I was talking with one of the veterans on the way there to participate for the very first time.

I asked him what he was planning to do while at the Clinic. His answer was "I'm going to practice falling down". This meant that although he might fall, in all likelihood would fall, that he would continue to get up and try again.

It is this determination and persistence that we must follow to complete the tasks we are called to do.

I was fortunate to have two very capable gentlemen who saw to it that I did not fall as we made our way up the mountain to give bottles of water to disabled veterans and instructors skiing there.

Those gentlemen, major league baseball umpires Larry Barnett and Jerry Layne, not only kept me on my feet, they kept me smiling at their antics and touched my heart with their concern for our disabled veterans.

My sincere thank you to both of these great volunteers and, Larry, would you please stand up? (Applause) Thank you.

Along with DAV members, the light of Auxiliary members shines on the hospitalized veterans every year, volunteering millions of hours of service and love to them.

Your good works are appreciated and are much more valuable than time allows me to convey. The Auxiliary has had a successful year and it is you, every member, who has taken the time to share your time and your talents for our veterans and their families.

You are each a light in the Auxiliary's beacon of success. You have made all that we set out to accomplish a reality. Our cause is true and it is just. I implore you to stay involved and get others involved.

Let us remember the purpose that brought us together and always to let your Auxiliary light shine. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Carol, for those wonderful remarks, and it's an honor and a privilege to have served with you.

AUXILIARY COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, Commander, and if you would join me for a moment. On behalf of the more than 200,000 Auxiliary members, we'd like to present this plaque to you for your service, for your dedication, for your support of the Auxiliary.

It reads: "Presented to Armando C. Albarran, National Commander, in appreciation for distinguished service given to Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary 2000-2001" and is signed Maria M. Tedrow, National Adjutant; Carol A. Gray, National Commander. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. Again, let me say thank you, and it has been a pleasure and an honor to serve with you this year.

The DAV moved into the limelight this year as we began to sponsor DAV events at major league baseball parks across the nation.

Fourteen major league teams hosted, or will host, DAV during games this year, and more are expected to honor DAV in the year 2002.

To help major league teams honor disabled veterans and their families, the DAV prepared a program showing the contributions of baseball to our nation and to the service and sacrifice of veterans who played baseball for a living.

Our nation will always be linked to the national pastime, just as those boys of summer who play the game will always be linked to our nation's veterans. Ladies and gentlemen, let's play ball.

(Video Presentation)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: The DAV's role as the benefactor for disabled veterans and their families is clearly visible in its DAV Transportation Network donation of vans to the VA.

Let me take you back to July 11, 1996, when a huge crowd gathered at the DAV National Headquarters for the first DAV Transportation Network Drive Away ceremonies that put 141 new Ford vans on the road to drive sick and disabled veterans to VA medical centers.

Just about six weeks later, on August 20th, during a special ceremony at Henry Ford's estate in Dearborn, Michigan, the Ford Motor Company Chairman Alex Trotman donated 11 eleven additional brand new 1996 Ford fifteen-passenger vans to the DAV Nationwide Transportation Network. (Applause)

It was noted at that time that Ford's generosity represented more than a needed donation to a worthy cause. It was a continuation of a great tradition, a tradition and relationship that began in 1922 when Henry Ford organized a caravan of Model-T's to drive veterans to the DAV's 2nd National Convention in San Francisco.

Many of you will recall the Capital DriveAway ceremonies in Washington, D.C. in 1998, during which the DAV National Organization and its departments donated 147 new Ford vans to the Department of Veterans Affairs. What a celebration that was. (Applause)

And in June of last year, Ford Motor Company hosted a DriveAway 2000 at their world headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan, where the DAV donated 102 new Ford vans to the VA to provide transportation for the sick and disabled veterans at medical facilities in 35 states. (Applause)

This one-year contribution represents a cost of more than $2.3 million for DAV chapters, departments and the national organization. (Applause)

Since the DAV Transportation Network originated in 1987, chapters, departments and the national organization have purchased and donated 1,108 vans at the cost of more than $22.1 million to the VA medical facilities across the country.

This total includes 116 new vans that are purchased this year. (Applause) Speaking of giving things away, I am sure it hasn't escaped anyone's notice that there are quite a few new vans

adorning the convention area here today.

Here to give us what can only be more good news is Ford Motor Company Vice President, Chief of Staff, and also a DAV life member, John Rintamaki. (Applause)

MR. JOHN RINTAMAKI: Commander Albarran, Adjutant Wilson, national officers, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I'm proud to be here in Miami today representing Ford Motor Company at the 80th Annual Disabled American Veterans National Convention.

As the Commander has said, we started this in 1922, but we're not finished. (Applause) At Ford we understand the importance of transportation, especially because all our livelihood depends on it.

We also understand the role that transportation plays in the DAV's daily activities and the lives of its members and veterans who served our country.

I want to announce today Ford's commitment and continued support of the DAV through a donation of 18 new Ford passenger vans just like those. (Applause) Thank you.

We're excited about expanding our contribution this year, and we're proud to announce that with those vans, we'll have Ford vans in every state in the U.S. (Applause)

Now, I'd like to ask Commander Albarran and Art Wilson to step up to the stage just for a second. You might guess what this is. I've got to give the handle of the key to the Commander. (Applause)

On behalf of the 380,000 employees of Ford Motor Company, we're presenting this ceremonial key for the vans. This key fits a really large van and that's parked outside. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I'll keep this one. Thank you.

MR. RINTAMAKI: Now, at the same time, I would like to announce that Ford is providing an additional $50,000 to the DAV's Scholarship Plan, which supports volunteer recruiting efforts. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBERRAN: Thank you.

MR. RINTAMAKI: Art tells me that check should have been made payable to Art Wilson, but it's really to the DAV National Commander's Youth Volunteer Scholarship Program. (Applause) This is the only time I can get to Art Wilson; he's such a good guy.

First, I've got a couple of other things I would like to say. We're very, very happy to have been honored to have been the host sponsor for the 2001 Winter Sports Clinic. It was a great week of skiing, for all of you who were there.

Second, I want to confirm that Ford has launched a special member vehicle purchase plan, which allows a very, very special discount to DAV members and their families for the purchase of new Ford vehicles.

It's a better price than you get from any dealer anywhere. (Applause) Five hundred fifty of you have already purchased vehicles under this plan, and I'm very pleased about that, and I urge you to take advantage of it.

I must say that Ford truly appreciates the partnership that it has with you. We've got a lot of competitive spirit and so do you, and it's just a great partnership.

We're committed to building better communities and a better quality of life and you are leading the way.

Good luck to all of you in this convention. I looked at the agenda; it's an outstanding set of meetings. Have a great day. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Wow! What can I say about that? We continue to be deeply grateful and overwhelmed by Ford's generosity. Thank you again, John. (Applause)

These 18 vans, donated without cost to the DAV, continues 80 years of cooperation between Ford Motor Company and the DAV. Since 1996 Ford has donated a total of 81 vans to the DAV, worth approximately $1,750,000. (Applause)

Ford Motor Company understands that we would not enjoy our freedom today were it not for the courage of those who defended us when we needed defending.

On behalf of the more than 1 million members of the Disabled

American Veterans, please accept our heartfelt thanks for providing these beautiful Ford vans to both our Transportation Network and our Homeless Veterans Initiative Program. (Applause)

As you know, last year the DAV created the National Commander's Youth Scholarship for deserving young men and women who have donated their time and compassion to sick and disabled veterans at VA medical centers.

I am proud to acknowledge that Ford has recognized their valuable contribution in the significance of the DAV scholarship program.

This generous $50,000 donation will help advance the program and ensure that the valuable scholarships are available to deserving young volunteers in the future. Thank you. (Applause)

"Korean War Stories" was produced with the objective of showing the honor, courage, dedication and sacrifice of Korean War veterans, but it goes well beyond that.

It effectively shows those same traits are common among all veterans. The DAV National Service Foundation provided substantial funding for this documentary to be produced and broadcast on Public Television this past Memorial Day.

The one-hour long program will continue to air periodically on PBS stations nationwide for the next three years.

We are honored that Ford Motor Company joined the National Service Foundation as a sponsor to help ensure this project achieves its purpose of telling the American people that veterans of the forgotten war are no longer forgotten. Please join me in thanking Ford for its support for this outstanding project. (Applause)

Our Homeless Veterans' Initiative gives lasting meaning to its credo, "We don't leave our wounded behind."

These four new vans will allow the DAV to reach out to the homeless veterans, to bring them the help they need, to offer the services they require and to restore them to productive lives.

As National Adjutant Art Wilson has declared, we can save our homeless veterans one at a time. That's our goal and that's our dream.

Ford, through its generosity, is helping us reach that goal to realize that dream, to end the tragedy of homeless veterans in our nation.

It is now my pleasure to honor those four departments selected to receive one of the new specially designed Ford vans in recognition and support of their DAV homeless veterans programs.

I am confident that your success will strengthen the DAV's commitment to our promise that we won't leave our wounded behind.

Will the following department commanders please stand as your name is called:

Herbert Belton, Commander of the DAV Department of the District of Columbia. This van will be donated to the Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Program at the VA Community Clinic, transporting homeless veterans to the clinic sites in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. (Applause)

Louis Logue, Commander of the DAV Department of Kentucky. The DAV Department of Kentucky will donate the van to the Louisville VA Medical Center to transport homeless veterans to the VET Place, a homeless veterans outreach program operated by the VA.

The van will be used to help place homeless veterans in temporary housing facilities which offer medical care and substance abuse counseling. (Applause)

Raymond Hutchinson, Commander of the DAV Department of Ohio. This van will be donated to the Joseph House, a community-based residential treatment facility for homeless veterans in Cincinnati. (Applause)

Terry Schow, representing the Commander and the Department of Utah. This van will be donated to the Homeless Veterans Fellowship, Incorporated, a non-profit organization in Ogden, to transport homeless veterans to community volunteer positions and to the Salt Lake VA Medical Center for treatment. (Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, please give a big hand to these department leaders and their commitment to saving homeless veterans in their states. (Applause)

I want to challenge every department, every chapter, to look around your hometown, your neighborhoods, and find a way to help homeless veterans.

They must no longer be the invisible persons mostly ignored by our citizens and our government. The homeless veterans must be, and rightfully so, a priority for all of us, and this initiative creates a program in which all of us can help. Thank you. (Applause)

The Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year represents an individual who has overcome personal, social and sometimes enormous physical barriers to excel in life as an example to all.

This individual inspires courage over fear, strength over hardship and achievement over seemingly insurmountable odds.

The Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year for the year 2001 is all that and much more. A combat-disabled veteran marine from the war-torn jungles of Vietnam, he is recognized as a life-long advocate for veterans and their families.

He graduated with honors from Arizona State University in 1974 with a degree in Business Management. Richard soon opened his own business, but left it and enrolled in law school at Arizona State University.

He received his law degree in 1981 and has dedicated his life to public service. Today, Mr. Romley is a nationally recognized leader in criminal justice and community improvement related issues.

He is now serving his fourth term as the Maricopa County Attorney, administering one of the largest prosecuting attorney's offices and serving the fourth most populated county in America.

He has never forgotten his service to our nation and the compassion of the DAV. Please join me now in viewing the following film, which I believe will bring you some insight into this extraordinary human being.

(Video Presentation)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Ladies and gentlemen, it is, indeed, an honor for me to introduce Mr. Richard Romley and to present him with the DAV's highest individual award as the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year. (Standing Ovation)

The National Commander's Award to the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, Richard Romley, for conspicuous and meritorious effort in overcoming a severe service-connected disability to the end that you have achieved success and a higher order of accomplishment in your vocational effort of choice.

Further, that such consistent and noteworthy accomplishment will ever serve as an inspiration and a challenge to your comrades. Signed, Armando C. Albarran; National Adjutant, Arthur H. Wilson, National Adjutant. (Applause)

MR. RICHARD ROMLEY: Thank you. Commander, Adjutant, members of the DAV and guests, thank you very much. (Applause) I am very proud and sincerely humbled by this.

With that, I would like to take a moment of your time and share an experience that in the past couple of years happened to me.

An elderly lady, a few years ago, who is retired and living in our retirement area at Sun City right outside of Phoenix, Arizona, was going through her closet, and she had come across a box of letters from her son.

Her son was a marine and served in Vietnam as well and was killed over there, and she hadn't looked in that box for some time, and she started to go through those letters.

She knew that I, too, had served in Vietnam and she passed on a letter to me, thinking that I may enjoy it. The letter is one in which all combat veterans perhaps write at some time. It's just a moment of reflection, and if you don't mind, I'd like to read a part of that letter to you:

"I'm sure most of you don't know me, but my buddies over here call me Reb. I'm in the 3rd Marines, stationed in Vietnam near the DMZ.

"I have been up here in the mountains for quite a while. I have been in several firefights, which I pray to God I will never have to go through again.

"I've seen my buddies lying in the mud bleeding. So many have died. Here in Vietnam, I live in the mud and the heat of the sun. I don't get to sleep much at night and I have no idea from one day to the next where I will be.

"I think of home all the time and wish my buddies and I could be there. I look a lot older than I am, and I feel it, too, but I don't feel sorry for myself, for only the ones who will never see the United States again and for the young men with injuries they will carry for the rest of their lives.

"So many families who will be left alone. I pray to God this war would end, but I know we have to be where we are needed and help keep America free.

"You see, those of us over here in Vietnam love America and realize that freedom, at times, requires sacrifice. All that we ask of you, the people of the United States, is to remember us and to keep the men of Vietnam in your prayers. Reb, U.S.M.C., Vietnam."

Reb was my best friend, David Schaefer. He was killed in Vietnam in August on some small mountaintop. We grew up together. We joined the Marine Corps together. We went through boot camp and advanced infantry training together.

We had flown to Vietnam together where we were separated and he died. I've named my son after him. And he is right about one thing. He is right about one thing. America must never forget, never. (Applause)

And that is why the DAV is so important. The DAV is the history book for America of the sacrifices of so many so that all of us may enjoy the freedoms that we enjoy, all of us.

So many torn bodies, so many tortured souls, so many who never came home. America must never forget and the DAV must continue to fight for those memories. (Applause)

The DAV is also there, of course, for the veterans. How many of you out there were there when the DAV came to you? I know that I was.

I was 20 years old, so seriously wounded, not knowing what my life had in front of me, truly scared when I came back home, and the DAV was there.

I think that's why it's so very hard for me to say today, to express the importance and the sincere appreciation for this particular award.

The words escape me in so many ways. So, I'll just say thank you and I will never forget. God bless. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Rick, it is, indeed, an honor to present to you this plaque for the outstanding job that you have done in your life. I am very proud to present you this plaque, again. Thank you.

MR. ROMLEY: Thank you, sir. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: At this time I would like to ask Auxiliary National Commander Carol Gray to come forward for a special presentation.

AUXILIARY COMMANDER GRAY: At this time, it gives me an honor and a pleasure to introduce to you the Past National Commander, Barbara Hicks, who will be making a very special presentation. (Applause)

PAST AUXILIARY COMMANDER BARBARA HICKS: Thank you, Commander Carol. National Commanders Albarran and Gray, National Adjutants Wilson and Tedrow, national officers, members and guests, this year's outstanding Auxiliary member shines brightly from the golden state of California as one incredible Auxiliary member.

Her involvement with the organization began as a nurse's aide on the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at the VA Medical Center in Long Beach, California, more than 20 years ago.

As she states, "Helping veterans just got into my blood", she knew in her heart that our disabled veterans did much to make us a free country, and she wanted to help in any way possible.

She is eligible for membership through her late husband, Carlton, a World War II navy veteran and is presently Adjutant of her unit, Number 92.

She has participated in numerous programs during the year, logging 732 miles for state activities and an additional 182 for

installations and other functions.

She collects for the Forget Me Not drives, organizes parties, parades and dinners commemorating all military branches and Pearl Harbor survivors.

She is also an active recruiter for membership and visits potential members in their homes. Two complete knee replacements have not slowed her down.

She is continually helping veterans and their families. During her 20 years as an active DAV Auxiliary member, Mrs. Hudson served three terms as District Commander, five as Unit Commander, and nearly every elected Auxiliary unit office, including appointed positions.

We admire her for her good nature, limitless energy and love of neighbor. Her efforts are commendable on their own, but when you consider Hilda is 82 years old, it is easy to see she is one incredible Auxiliary member.

It is, therefore, my honor to introduce to you the Outstanding Member of the Year, Hilda Hudson. (Standing Ovation)

Hilda, your plaque reads, "DAVA Past National Commander's award to Hilda E. Hudson, Outstanding Member of the Year, 2000." (Applause)

MRS. HILDA HUDSON: National Commanders, National Adjutants, national officers, delegates, members and guests, I am so proud to have been chosen the Auxiliary National Commander's award recipient this year.

I have always loved what I do to help the veterans. I never dreamed that I would receive any award for what I love doing.

I need to thank my Auxiliary Unit 92 in the state of California for their support and faith in me. In my 80 some years of life, I have traveled to forty states.

With receiving this award now, I have achieved number 50. Florida was the only one I missed. (Applause)

Thank you again for this honor, but before I go, I want you to listen to what I feel for our country.

My own Uncle Sam. You missed it because you keep clapping too much, but I'll play it one more time. (Laughter and applause) Thank you all. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Every year we recognize the extraordinary commitment of the DAV and Auxiliary volunteers through the George H. Seal Memorial Trophy.

This special tribute honors the remarkable volunteers who best epitomize the volunteer spirit of our organization through their selfless dedication to hospitalized veterans under the VA Volunteer Service Program.

Ladies and gentlemen, this year's George H. Seal Award winners are Terry Rehder from Fargo, North Dakota; Emma Preffer of West Palm Beach, Florida; and Catherine Douckas from Lake Worth, Florida. (Applause)

Terry Rehder, a member of DAV Chapter Number 1 in Fargo, rises early every day to make sure that sick and disabled veterans get to where they are going.

He has volunteered 5,500 hours since 1995. In his duties, Mr. Rehder manages all travel services associated with the DAV Transportation Network and coordinates the activities of 8 vans and 75 volunteers.

Many times, Mr. Rehder goes to work at 5:00 a.m. in the morning to drive a 240-mile trip to the Minneapolis VA Medical Center and back, which includes some ten hours of driving and two and three hours of assisting veterans.

In 14 years of volunteering, Mr. Rehder has brought honor to the DAV and its mission to build better lives for disabled veterans and their families.

Despite serious health conditions that restrict his activity, Mr. Rehder is always there to help his fellow veterans. He is one reason why the DAV Voluntary Services Program works so well.

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to introduce your 2001 DAV member recipient of the George H. Seal Memorial Trophy, Mr. Terry Rehder. (Applause)

MR. TERRY REHDER: Commander Albarran, Adjutant Wilson, Auxiliary Commander Gray, my fellow members of this great

organization, I am truly humbled by the honor you have bestowed upon me today.

Volunteering, for me, has always been a way to give back to the DAV for what they did for me and my family when my disability ended my career. There are so many people I need to thank, for without their support I wouldn't be here today to accept this prestigious award.

First and foremost, my family, who are here with me today. I'd like to introduce my wife, Bobbi, and out in the audience, my son Jason, my daughter Tiffany, my son-in-law John and my grandson Jacob. (Applause) Thank you.

I want to thank the DAV Department of North Dakota for their continued support, the VA Medical Center in Fargo and its director, Doug Kenyon, and Ronnie Miller, who is sitting next to me today. (Applause)

She is the VAVS Director, whose guidance and support have been invaluable over the years for me to get where I am today. Thanks, Ronnie.

But most of all, I want to thank Greg Seurer. I think he is one of the greatest NSOs in this organization, because he has done so much for me in putting my life back together after many, many years of trying to find somebody to help me with my disabilities, and this gentleman did that in 45 minutes in his office, and I want to thank him very much. Thanks, Greg. (Applause)

I also would like to thank Darlene Stamos. She is the one that makes things run smooth in our office, at our Fargo National Service Office in Fargo.

Her friendship, support and guidance are the reason I am here and the reason I will continue to work with and support this great organization and I want to thank you very, very much. I'm very proud. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Terry, it is an honor and a privilege to present you the George H. Seal Memorial Award, 2001. Congratulations. (Applause)

MR. REHDER: Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Mrs. Preffer, 82 years old, and Mrs. Douckas, 75 years old, are both members of DAV Auxiliary Unit 152 in Delray, Florida.

They have operated the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center Barber and Beauty Shop since it opened five years ago. A haircut costs only $5.00 and all the money goes to help the sick and disabled veterans.

The funds raised provides comfort items to hospitalized veterans, helps pay bills, assist homeless veterans, and meet the emergency needs of disabled veterans.

Each year they use their proceeds to sponsor one disabled veteran to the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic sponsored by the DAV and VA.

Mrs. Preffer has donated 3,125 hours as a volunteer, and Mrs. Douckas has logged 3,059 hours. They work side by side every Monday and Thursday in the shop, and they often come in on weekends if it's needed.

The miracles these ladies have performed could not have been done single handedly. Only as a team could they have enhanced the quality of the lives of so many veterans and their families.

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2001 DAV Auxiliary member recipients of the George H. Seal Memorial Trophy, Mrs. Emma Preffer and Mrs. Catherine Douckas. (Applause)

MRS. EMMA PREFFER: I guess you could say we're honored. Kay asked me to do the speaking and so please bear with us. This is Kay and Emma, a little of our experience. Our journey began in 1996 when Kay and I decided we would volunteer at the hospital.

Being friends for over 40 years and both being retired beauticians, we volunteered and worked with social services until a friend of our husbands was in the hospital with cancer and needed a haircut.

Now, we went to Timothy Cobb, Chief of Voluntary Services at that time and received permission to cut his hair. Tim watched and was impressed. He then asked us to open a barber shop and beauty

salon as our own.

We told him no way, we wanted to be volunteers. We made him an offer he couldn't refuse. We would operate a shop, not as our own, but as volunteers.

All the proceeds were earmarked to go back to the hospital, the veterans, and their families. We're proud to report as of March 7, 2001, we have given $51,000 to the hospital, all from haircuts, perms, colors, anything you get in a beauty shop. (Applause)

We have a co-worker, and he is here today, who is a veteran of the Navy, who travels 40 miles each way to donate his time every Monday and Thursday.

He has been doing this for the past three years. Jim Diana, if you're here, would you please stand up? He was here a minute ago. Did he leave? No. (Applause) Oh, he's right there. We appreciate and love you very much.

Another co-worker, our receptionist, Lillian Trojanopic, spends her Mondays with us and is a great help sweeping up all our hair. Thank you so much, Lillian. I know she's here. Would you stand? (Applause)

It has been a great and rewarding pleasure to serve the veterans, but we could not have done it without the VA hospital staff and fellow volunteers. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you.

The veterans went to serve for all of us and in our eyes, this is pay back time. When we hear all the stories they tell us, it warms our hearts just to see the smiles on their faces when we pamper them.

We were very proud and surprised to hear National Commander Armando Albarran speak to us on the phone and tell us we received this honor. It was something we will never forget. Thank you. (Applause)

I have the rest of my family here. I don't know just where they're at, my daughter and my grandson and my granddaughter. We love you all and thank you from the bottom of our hearts. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Catherine, Emma, it is, indeed, an honor for me to present to you both the George Seal Memorial Trophy Award winner for 2001 DAVA. Thank you very much. (Applause)

A special scholarship program was created last year to honor outstanding young volunteers who are active participants in the VA Voluntary Service Program.

This year the Disabled American Veterans has selected twelve outstanding youth volunteers to receive the second annual DAV National Commander's Youth Volunteer Scholarship awards.

The first place scholarship of $15,000 was awarded to Scott Butcher, 18, of Phoenix, Arizona, who contributed 634 hours of service at the VA Medical Center in Phoenix last year.

Scott plans to attend the honors program at Arizona State University this fall. At the Phoenix VA Medical Center, he has supported a wide variety of community service projects, including working as a roving volunteer in any area where he's needed.

Scott's enthusiasm and commitment to providing quality service is shown through his willingness to adapt and create new ideas to help disabled veterans.

He has gone the extra mile to assist veterans, VA Medical Center staff, and fellow volunteers. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Scott Butcher. (Applause)

MR. SCOTT C.BUTCHER: Good evening. National Commander Albarran, National Adjutant Art Wilson, Secretary Principi, thank you all so very much for selecting me as the recipient of the National Commander's Youth Scholarship.

I am humbled by your decision, and to be sure, honored to be chosen as this great organization's Youth Volunteer for the year 2001.

As a youth volunteer at the Carl D. Hayden VA Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona, I have had the opportunity to work very closely with VA staff and volunteers for the purpose of a variety of services to our veterans.

It is my belief that there could be no greater purpose or

calling then to serve those who have advanced the cause of peace and defended our freedom and the freedom of millions of people from around the world.

There could be no doubt in anyone's mind that because of the commitment of our men and women in uniform to preserve the peace, we live on a planet that would otherwise be dominated by hostility and chaos, suffering and despair.

As I look at each of you, I see the faces of the men and women that I help to care for each and every day, and I am deeply grateful, grateful for the opportunity to participate in their care and grateful to be a part of their lives.

As disabled veterans, each of you wear the scars of your sacrifices and commitment, and to be sure, your journey has not been pleasant, but if my words can be of any comfort, please know that there are thousands of young people, just like me, who look to you for direction, who seek your advice and guidance and who appreciate your understanding of duty, honor, country.

Because of all the things you have done, because of all the sacrifices you have made, because of all the lives that have been given for the cause of peace, I stand here before you today and from the depths of my heart, share these few inadequate thoughts.

Had it not been for each of you, these thoughts and words could very well be forbidden. I love this nation and I am proud to be counted among you as citizens of the United States of America.

Patriotism is not a dirty word. As members of the Disabled American Veterans, you already know the price of freedom is high, but you also know that there is no greater or sweeter victory when the cause is far more important and by far greater than the sacrifice.

The heroes in my life are not the animated characters on Saturday night TV or the fictional good guys in the make-believe stories that fill our theaters.

My heroes are simple, everyday, down to earth people who just happen to belong to an elite group of men and women, our nation's veterans. God bless you, and to be sure, God bless America. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Again, congratulations, Scott.

The second place scholarship of $10,000 went to Wendy Koegel, 18 years old of Marion, Indiana, who donated 370 voluntary hours at the VA Medical Center in Marion. She will use her scholarship to attend Purdue University to major in hotel/restaurant management.

Ashley Kirstein, 17, of Asheville, North Carolina, is the winner of a $7,500 scholarship. A student at A.C. Reynolds High School in Asheville, Ashley has been volunteering at the Asheville VA Medical Center since she was 12 years old.

April Cross, 18, of Lakewood, Washington, is also a winner of a $7,500 scholarship. April plans to attend Western Washington University to major in computer programming. She has volunteered at the Seattle VA Medical Center for four years and last year put in 293 hours.

In addition to the above, we also want to congratulate the eight $5,000 scholarship award winners. (Applause)

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

ADJUTANT WILSON: The Committee Advisors: Credentials, Michael J. Walsh and Edward G. Galian; General Resolutions and Membership, Rick Surratt; Legislation and Veterans Rights, Thomas L. Tomlinson and Joseph A. Violante; Constitution and Bylaws, Kenneth G. Musselmann and Fred R. Bristol; Finance and Dues, Bradley S. Barton and Richard E. Patterson; Employment, Louis N. Stamas and Edward R. Reese; Hospital and Voluntary Services, Elwood Lechausse and Edward E. Hartman; Nomination of National Officers, Gene A. Murphy and William E. Leach.

Committee Advisors can pick up their committee folders from the Resolution Coordinating Office located in Imperial Room I.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Before I continue, I want to make one announcement. Today, at 12:00 noon, a friend of mine that I had not seen for 35 years came to the convention and is here today.

I hadn't seen him in 35 years. The last time I saw him, I was at Fort Gordon, Georgia, AIT, and then at jump school at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Joey Strickland, who is the Director of the State Veterans Commission in Louisiana, would you please stand up and be recognized. (Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, if you'll please rise, I will ask the chaplain to lead us in our closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN BROWN: Let us bow our heads. The Lord bless thee and keep thee. The Lord make his face shine upon thee and be gracious. The Lord lift his countenance upon thee and give thee peace forevermore. Amen. God bless you.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: The convention stands in recess until 10:00 o'clock Monday morning.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 4:30 o'clock p.m., July 29, 2001.)

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

July 30, 2001

The First Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 80th National Convention convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Fontainebleau Hilton Resort, Miami Beach, Florida, Monday morning, July 30, 2001, and was called to order at 10:00 o'clock a.m. by Commander Armando C. Albarran.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: The Convention will come to order. In opening the first business session of the 80th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans, it is fitting and proper that we render the respect due to the flag. Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: We will now be lead in prayer by Chaplain Brown.

CHAPLAIN BROWN: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father who sitteth in the families, we commend to Thy continual care of the Disabled American Veterans.

Put far from them, we beseech Thee, every root of bitterness, the desire of vain glory. Bless everyone that is here today, Lord. Let us say Amen together. Amen.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: In order for a delegate to be heard at this convention, he must be recognized by the Chair.

Only those delegates at the microphone will be recognized. The delegate must state his name, chapter number and the state he represents.

I will now call on the Chairman of the Credentials Committee, Doug Lay, for his first report.

MR. DOUG LAY: Thank you, Commander and delegates. The National Convention Committee on Credentials was called to order for its first business session on 7/30/2001 by Advisors Michael J. Walsh and Edward Galian.

The first order of business was the election of a Credentials Committee Chairman. Doug Lay was nominated for Chairman. There being no further nominations, Doug Lay was elected Chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of Secretary. Sloan Hoops was nominated and elected Secretary. The Credentials Committee met this morning in the Imperial V Board Room of the Fontainebleau Hilton Resort Hotel.

Roll call showed 1,024 delegates and 43 alternates present. This is a partial report for informational purposes only and reflects a registration at the close of registration at 4:00 p.m. on 7/29/2001.

At the present time we have 465 chapters, 41 departments, 34 National Officers, 11 Past National Commanders, for a total of 1,024 delegates and 43 alternates for a total vote of 9,661.

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

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Doug. Comrades, the Rules are a continuing part of our bylaws. They are part and parcel of Article 3 and remain in effect continuously. They are subject to

amendment as provided in the Bylaws. Mike 2.

MR. KENNETH G. MUSSELMANN: Kenneth Musselmann, Past National Commander. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee met this morning, and they approved a resolution that is on everybody's seat.

That resolution deals with one of the rules to the Convention and that Rule is 22. The explanation for the motion that I'm about to make is stated on that piece of paper and at this time, Comrade Commander, I'd like to move for Rule 22 to be omitted from the Rules of the Convention.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. Mike 3.

NEC 6TH DISTRICT DAVID L. TANNENBAUM: Mike 3, Dave Tannenbaum, NEC 6th District, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: You heard the motion and the second. All in favor, say aye; all against. So ordered.

I now will ask National Adjutant Wilson to read DAV's Statement of Policy.

ADJUTANT WILSON: The National Executive Committee, at its most recent meeting, approved the following resolution on DAV policy and recommends its adoption by this Convention.

The Disabled American Veterans was founded on the principle that this nation's first duty to veterans is the rehabilitation of its wartime disabled. This principle envisions:

1. High-quality hospital and medical care administered 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. Enhance the opportunities for employment and preferential job placement so that the remaining ability of the disabled veteran is used productively;

5. Adequate compensation to the widows and survivors of veterans whose deaths are held to be service connected under the laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs;

6. Enhance Outreach to ensure that all disabled veterans receive all benefits they have earned and that the American people respect the needs of 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 dependents and survivors which is 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's evident that such legislation will jeopardize benefits for service-connected disabled veterans.

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

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

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: The Chair will entertain a motion to adopt DAV's Statement of Policy. Mike 2.

MR. WILLIAM A. REINHART: William Reinhart, Chapter 19, Kentucky. I so move.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Mike 1.

MR. JAMES H. TANNER: I second that, Jim Tanner, Joseph R. Harold Chapter Number 10, Groton, Massachusetts.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: We heard the motion and we heard the second. All in favor, say aye; all against say nay. The aye's have it. Thank you.

I want to speak for a moment about leadership. It means to go boldly to be up front ahead of the group. It means to create an

environment in which others will honor and want to follow. It means being creative, innovative, and visionary.

It is elusive for some and a rare quality. That is why DAV has been so fortunate to have a true leader at the helm of our organization.

His vision, his loyalty, commitment to service, and strength has not only enhanced our organization, but also the lives of millions of disabled veterans and their families.

Of course, I am talking about DAV National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson, but to all of us he's known simply as Art.

For nearly 35 years, Art Wilson has dedicated himself to serving disabled veterans and their families with energy and fidelity.

Initially, as a National Service Officer, the first Vietnam veteran to enter the DAV Service Program, Art moved up through the ranks of our NSO Corps to supervisory positions, then on the National Appeals Office at the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington.

Since Art's appointment as National Adjutant in 1994, his superb leadership and commitment to the organization's ideals led to an extraordinary revival of the DAV. He has energized the DAV with a power that hasn't been seen since the early days of Judge Marx.

Ladies and gentlemen, here to give his report to the National Convention is my friend and your friend, our National Adjutant Art Wilson. (Standing Ovation)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning. Thank you, Armando. Thank you very much for that very nice introduction and thank you so much for your kind comments about our DAV staff yesterday in your report. We appreciate it. Thank you, sir. (Applause)

It has certainly been an honor and a pleasure to serve with you this year, Commander, and I can tell you that everybody in this room knows the kind of leadership and the dedication to our cause that you have brought to the office of National Commander.

Thank you so very much for all that you have done for this country's disabled veterans and their families. Thank you. (Applause)

Throughout your year of office, you have shown your support for our membership and our staff through your warmth and dedication to our mission of service and hope.

I assure you that all of us have the utmost respect for you as well. Thank you again, Commander. In fact, I'm sure that you know of our fondness and respect that extends to every one of your line officers in George Steese, Ed Heath, Alan Bowers, Jim Sursely, Ed Galian, Paul Jackson, Reverend Brown, the National Executive and Finance Committees and, of course, our National Interim Committees.

What an excellent group of men and women. You have all done such a marvelous job in helping us have another very successful year. We couldn't have done it without you and your support and your excellence leadership pays off in the end. Thank you, gentlemen. (Applause)

My thanks, also, go to Auxiliary National Commander Carol Gray and, of course, Adjutant Maria Tedrow and the entire DAV Auxiliary. I can't tell you how lucky we are to have such a wonderful partnership with the Auxiliary, and I want to thank them personally for everything that they do as well. (Applause)

But I, especially, want to say thank you to the wonderful folks all across the country, our members, whose heart and soul are in our organization; the leaders of our chapters and our departments, our dedicated hospital service coordinators, our department and chapter service officers and to every one of our amazing VAVS volunteers who give so much of themselves to help veterans. My most heartfelt thanks to you all. (Applause)

I offer my sincerest appreciation to our DAV staffs in Washington and Cold Springs, as well as your national service officers and support staffs all across the country.

America's disabled veterans and their families couldn't have a finer and more capable professional dedicated group of men and women.

They're simply the very, very best. And having said all that, let me ask that all the national service officers, both active and retired, in this room stand and be recognized. (Applause)

Thank you all so very much. Let me also offer my deep gratitude to everyone in this room and to all DAV and Auxiliary members that you represent.

I salute you, I salute them, and I salute all that you do to fulfill our mission of service of building better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families. (Applause)

This year has been a year of major achievement, and coming up shortly you will see a brief video to show you that this is truly an outstanding achievement year for DAV.

We are right on track in meeting the strategic goals that we've set for our organization, and we're chalking up tremendous success as we achieve our annual business plan objectives.

We've got quite a team; your National Service Department, your Voluntary Services Department, the Legislative Department, Membership, Fund Raising, Information Systems, Human Resources, Communications and all of the other various entities working in concert with our departments and our chapters to accomplish our mission and to meet our strategic goals.

You're going to get more details on some of our achievements later on, but I want to take a special note of two service programs that we launched this year; the DAV Transition Service Program and our new fleet of twelve Mobile Service Offices; and let me tell you, we've really hit the ground running with these great programs.

The Transition Service Program is an extension of what we've been doing for years through the Transition Assistance Program and the Disabled Transition Assistance Program, while taking advantage of new opportunities for service provided by the VA and the Department of Defense.

We currently have 25 Transition Service Offices operating at military separation sites all across the country. We expect the program to expand in the future to include all military separation sites.

The DAV Mobile Service Office Program is the most extensive outreach program in the history of our organization. Modeled after a program we launched in 1974, these National Service Offices on wheels are an outstanding example of the DAV's foresight and commitment to the men and women who have served and sacrificed for our nation.

We've also been involved in a different kind of outreach effort; a documentary film, "The Korean War Stories," which was broadcast nationwide on public television over Memorial Day weekend, and what a hit it was.

The program has been aired several times since in many areas of the country and PBS has agreed to show the program several times per year over the next three years.

So, as you know, the DAV National Service Foundation was the first major sponsor of this outstanding documentary program, which I believe certainly has a good chance of winning some very prestigious awards.

It sure has a lot of star power with astronauts John Glenn and Buzz Aldrin, Senator John Warner and Congressmen Charles Rangle and Sam Johnson and baseball hall of famer, Ted Williams, and, of course, our own Past National Commander, Andy Kistler.

Not only was it great that Walter Cronkite narrated the documentary, but while he was being filmed, he also had some very candid observations about the service and sacrifice of America's veterans and a lot of nice things to say about the DAV in particular. (Applause)

Earlier this year, the DAV was honored to have crew members from the U.S.S. Cole participate in flag raising ceremonies at the 25th anniversary of the Denvel D. Adams National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The ceremonies also included current and past leaders of our organization, government dignitaries, and over 200 DAV and Auxiliary members who were attending our Mid-Winter Conference in Washington.

The DAV also provided folded flags and display cases to the

families of the 17 members of the U.S.S. Cole who were killed in a terrorist bomb attack in Yemen. I can tell you that the families were deeply touched by that very special tribute to the courage and sacrifice of their loved ones.

Of course, our advocacy on behalf of disabled veterans and their families continues to be our top priority. We have scored a number of victories in the public policy arena, thanks in some measure to Commander Albarran's excellent legislative presentation before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees.

Commander, I don't mind telling you that your presentation was very well received by members of Congress, and what a tremendous job you did; and, again, Commander, thank you for representing us so well. (Applause)

The one thing I want to mention is that Congress and the President were able to pass legislation giving the final go ahead for building the World War II memorial on the Mall in Washington, and it's about time. (Applause)

The men and women of World War II represent an extraordinary generation of Americans and they certainly deserve a memorial honoring their sacrifice.

From Pearl Harbor and before, to D-Day, on to victory in North Africa and Europe, and the final victory in the Pacific, they won the war and they planned for peace. They led the country through the second half of the 20th century and opened the way for the 21st century, and again I say, and I know you agree, it's about time. (Applause)

I also think it's about time that a national monument to service and the sacrifice of disabled veterans be built in our nation's capital as well, and I'm proud to say that the Disabled Veterans LIFE Memorial Foundation is working hard to bring this memorial to a reality.

As you know, legislation authorizing the Disabled Veterans Memorial on federal land in Washington was signed into law last October, and we must make sure that the American public understands the sacrifices made by disabled veterans in this country, and those sacrifices to us represent the cost of freedom, a cost that we as disabled veterans and our families continue to pay every single day.

America has an obligation to recognize the sacrifice of living disabled veterans, and it's our duty to make sure that they never, ever forget. (Applause) The memorial will be funded by private contributions. Consequently, the Disabled Veterans LIFE Memorial Foundation is beginning to launch a nationwide fund raising campaign for the memorial.

Site selection has begun and the Foundation is working with the National Park Service and other agencies to comply with all relevant statutes and regulations.

I also want to note that in addition to many chapters from around the country, DAV Chapter Number 1 in Cincinnati, DAV's very first chapter, recently presented the Foundation with a check for $30,000 to help build this important national memorial. (Applause)

Construction of the memorial will begin when the site selection and design have been completed and approved and all necessary funds have been secured, and, yes, it's about time that we had a memorial to disabled veterans as well. (Applause)

You'll see in the film highlights from the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, which we've been sponsoring, along with the Department of Veterans Affairs, for the last 15 years.

This is one of the most successful rehabilitation programs ever to come down the pike because it quite literally changes people's lives.

If you have any doubts about that statement, I suggest that you ask Junior Vice Commander Jim Sursely. Jim won the DAV's Freedom Award this year at the Clinic as the outstanding first-time participant whose accomplishments in overcoming barriers of disability are truly an inspiration for others, and I extend my congratulations to Jim because I was there and I know he earned it. (Applause)

Well, let's get on with this and let's run the video so you can see for yourselves some of the achievements that the DAV has

made over the past year. And just so you know, we weren't really in a big rush to get the Mobile Service Officers on the road, but when you see the video, I think you'll get the idea.

(Video Presentation)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Well, you had a little glimpse of what we've accomplished this past year, but that's certainly not all that we've done.

I want to share a personal story with you. I met with Walter Cronkite, and it was certainly an honor for me to have that opportunity. Walter Cronkite is not an assuming figure, but the minute he opens his mouth, it just takes your breath away, because we all go back with that voice.

But when he spoke to the camera there, he did that strictly unannounced, strictly off the cuff. There wasn't any script. I honestly thought when I saw that video that my mouth would be open, because he took my breath away.

The things that he said is so profound in such a short period of time, and he did it unprovoked and it was just a wonderful experience, and I can tell you that he's really, really a strong supporter of veterans of this country.

Let me tell you that none of what we've been able to do for veterans would be possible without the support of all of you, our members, and without the help of the American people, who support our services with their very, very generous contributions.

My thanks to all of you and, of course, our special thanks to the American people. As you know, the DAV has had another successful financial year, which has allowed us to build and expand our service to more disabled veterans and their families.

But, as I've said time and time again, doing well simply means we continue to do good things, to continue to provide our world class service to veterans, and that's the only thing that really, really matters. (Applause)

Before I close, I want to express my sincere personal gratitude to Rick Patterson, who directs our National Headquarters staff in Cold Spring, which includes Max Hart from the Fund Raising Department and his staff, of course, and Inspector General Bob Gushie and General Counsel Chris Clay, our Comptroller Anita Blum, and all the folks who do such a fine job handling our financial matters; Greg Jackson and his staff in the Human Resources Department, Mike Walsh and everybody in the Membership Department, Gary Weaver and his team at the Communications Department, and, of course, Nancy O'Brien who administers our charitable programs. (Applause) Good, well deserved.

And my special thanks, of course, to Dave Gorman at our Washington Headquarters and his team of Ken Wolfe and the staff of the National Service Department; the entire National Service Officer Corps and their clerical staffs, Joe Violante and the team at our National Legislative Department; and Jerry Steelman at the National Voluntary Services and his staff. (Applause)

A special thanks, of course, to all of our employees, about 650 in all, who are on the job every day to make sure that our organization remains as the number one national veterans service organization.

But, I especially want to express my gratitude to all of you and to our members all across the country for allowing me the privilege of serving this great organization and to serve each one of you. Thank you so much and God bless you. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Art, for that wonderful report and a great film presentation. At this time, I will entertain a motion to accept the National Adjutant's report.

MR. RICHARD E. MARBES: Comrade Commander, Mike 3.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Mike 3.

MR. RICHARD E. MARBES: Past National Commander Dick Marbes. I move to accept the wonderful report of Adjutant Wilson and to tell you that I really feel on behalf of all of us out here that it truly expresses the attitude and the feelings of the members of the DAV. Thank you.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Do I hear a second? Mike 2. 2.

MR. MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER: Past National Commander Mike Dobmeier proudly seconds that motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Mike. All in favor, say aye; all against, nay. The aye's have it. Accepted. (Applause)

At this time, I would like to introduce our National Membership Director, Michael Walsh, for his report and presentations of Membership Recruitment Awards. Mike.

MR. MICHAEL J. WALSH: Thank you, Commander. Good morning everyone. National Officers, National Adjutant Wilson, Executive Directors Rick Patterson and Dave Gorman, DAV delegates and especially all you membership recruiters out there, it's my pleasure to participate in the membership awards for the 2000/2001 membership year.

It really has been an outstanding year for the Disabled American Veterans, and please allow me to include the Auxiliary in that assessment. Without question, our membership continues to grow, become stronger and more active in our pursuit to take care of this nation's wartime disabled veterans.

DAV's population is made up of people from all walks of life and together we finish this membership year with 1,181,708 members. (Applause) This included a life member population of 902,469.

Commander, during the past year we've had several successful recruiters, and with your permission, I'm pleased to announce those who sponsored 100 or more new members.

They are: Coy Hennis of North Carolina; Wally Tyson of North Carolina; Roy Hanson of Minnesota; Jerry Lowenstein of North Carolina; Lloyd Breton of Florida; Robert Smith of Virginia; Alvin Robinson of North Carolina; John Parker of California; Johnny Garlic of Kentucky; Littleton Foust of Oklahoma and, of course, Prosper Sodano of New York and finally, Bob Sinclair of Massachusetts. (Applause)

My personal congratulations and thanks of the Organization go out to each and every one of you for a job well done. I know that it's not easy to recruit new members. Those who are successful possess a combination of salesmanship, tact and a professional demeanor and a genuine caring added to it about the DAV and our future.

Recruiters are, indeed, a rare breed. You have my personal appreciation for everything you do. That leads us into the fun part of today's program, the annual awards. Commander, if you will allow me to assist you, I will announce these winners so that you can present them with their awards.

As a way of recognizing the departments this year, we will also present them with an engraved crystal plaque to be displayed at their department headquarters, along with the leather bomber jackets that we started last year.

From the very start of the membership year, this individual has led everyone in recruiting new members. Coy Hennis is from Chapter 20 in North Carolina. This year he recruited 551 new members. Two hundred eighty-five of those were fully paid life members and he amassed 1,263 DAV bonus points.

Those who claim that recruiters from smaller departments don't stand a chance at this honor have not seen Coy in action. He has successfully signed up members, even here in Miami, since he's been here on Friday, and each year he does it at the Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C.

The man with the red vest and all those pins is this year's Recruiter of the Year for the 2nd consecutive year. It's also interesting to note that this year four of the top ten recruiters are also from North Carolina. Congratulations, Coy. (Applause)

MR. COY HENNIS: I want ten seconds. I've got one example. Carry your membership in your pocket at all times. One example. Down here I went to pick up something at the grocery store, driving our DAV van.

I walked into the grocery store. Somebody tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Are you driving that DAV van?" I said, "Yes, sir". He said, "I'd like to join".

I didn't have to do anything; wearing my hat. How did he find me in the grocery store? I had my hat on. So, exposure with that hat. Keep your membership application with you. So if you'll do that, we can have a greater year this year. I rest my case. (Applause)

MR. WALSH: In the division standings, the competition was so close that we had to count the results several times just to ensure the correct winner in several of the divisions. I'm sure that you realize that these division competitions are based on the life member populations of the departments.

In Division V, consisting of those departments with less than 5,000 fully paid life members, the Department of Hawaii is the winner, finishing at 105.99 percent of their goal, or 219 new fully paid members over goal.

Accepting for the Department of Hawaii is Jim Santos, Department Commander.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Jim, congratulations, job well done. (Applause)

MR. JAMES SANTOS: Thank you very much.

MR. WALSH: In Division IV, those departments with 5,000 to 9,999 members, it was taken by the Department of Mississippi. They finished the year at 104.04 percent, 280 fully paid members over goal.

Accepting for the Department of Mississippi is Commander Wilbur Trahan.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Congratulations, job well done. (Applause)

MR. WILBUR L. TRAHAN: I'd like to thank everybody in the department for their hard work, especially my NSO Gerald Humphries, my adjutant Jimmy Reese, Commander Jimmy Tart and also Chapter 5 Adjutant, which is Ike Coleman, III. We came up from last place two years ago to number one in our division. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. WALSH: Division III, those departments with 10,000 to 17,999 life members, was taken by the Department of Arkansas, who finished at 104.19 percent, or 469 new fully paid members over goal.

The department has never won the division and has often ranked near the bottom in the past competitions. We're real pleased that they've done so much better this year and accepting on the behalf of the Department of Arkansas is David Spurgin.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Congratulations, job well done. (Applause)

MR. DAVID W. SPURGIN: On behalf of the Department of Arkansas, I gladly accept this plaque and the jacket. Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. WALSH: In Division II, of course, it should come as no surprise, it's, of course, the Department of North Carolina, led by Commander Richard Mann.

With all their recruiters doing such an outstanding job down there and incorporating many of their own incentives, they finished with an amazing 1,263 members over goal, or at 105.12 percent. North Carolina led that division for the entire year. Dick.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Congratulations. (Applause)

MR. RICHARD D. MANN: Thank you. I just want to thank all the members of North Carolina, but when you have four of the top recruiters in your state, it's pretty easy to win this. I had an easy job. Thank you, North Carolina. (Applause)

MR. WALSH: The final and largest, Division I, those with over 35,000 members, had the closest finish. While the Department of Florida led throughout most of the year, someone else was slowly but surely creeping up behind them and finally took the top honors at the last minute.

To only a few people's surprise, the Department of California walks away with the top honor. Led by Commander Richard Weber, they finished at 105.36 percent, or 2,256 new members over goal. Commander.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Congratulations, job well done. (Applause)

MR. RICHARD WEBER: Thank you, California, very, very much. Without your hard work and dedication, this wouldn't have been possible. I would like to congratulate Florida on second place. (Laughter and applause) Thank you very much.

MR. WALSH: Florida, you folks really don't want a recount, do you?

(Response of "Yes")

MR. WALSH: You didn't do very well in the last time you did one.

The final two awards are, of course, our oldest honors for departments who attain the highest percentage over goal and the highest numerical increase over goal.

The Robert S. Marx Award, named for our first national commander, is awarded to the Department of Hawaii for finishing the membership year at 105.99 percent of goal. Again, accepting on behalf of the department is Commander Jim Santos.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Jim, congratulations again. Job well done. (Applause)

MR. WALSH: The Jonathan M. Wainwright Award is named for our past national commander who believed that membership growth and strength was vital in making our voice heard on Capitol Hill.

This year the department who finished the year with 2,656 new fully paid members over goal is the Department of California. Accepting is Commander Dennis Weber.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Again, congratulations. Well done, again. (Applause)

MR. WEBER: Thank you. This is an honor to represent the state of California, and I was not expecting this second award. Thank you, California, for your hard work.

Thank you, chapters, for your extremely hard work, and I'd like to also recognize last year's Senior Vice Commander Gary Crossland for his hard work in membership. Thanks again. (Applause)

MR. WALSH: These award presentations, of course, are the easy part of this job, I guess. Earning them is another story. However, those awards are only symbols for the real work that goes into building our membership.

Each of these individuals and departments possess those special qualities that set them apart from others, yet their actions are exactly what keeps us all together.

Commander, it's been a pleasure and honor to serve you and all of our members this year. It was full of challenges that we feel were met with hard work and enthusiasm; and without question, we were rewarded with success.

I thank you for your attention this morning and as always, we'll look forward to next year. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Mike. I will now call for a motion to accept Mike Walsh's report. Mike 1.

MR. WILLIAM NOVAK, JR.: Bill Novak, Department of New York, District 2, seconds Mike's fine report and commends him on the fine work he does with membership.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. Mike 2.

MR. STEVE D. GIRDLER: Steve Girdler, Commander, Chapter 19, Northern Kentucky, second that motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: You heard the motion and the second. All in favor, say aye; all again, say nay. The ayes have it and so ordered.

I will now call on the National Finance Committee Chairman, Brad Barton, for his report.

MR. BRADLEY S. BARTON: Good morning. National Commander Albarran, fellow members of the National Executive Committee, DAV members and guests, before I begin my report, please allow me to recognize my fellow members of the National Finance Committee:

National Commander Armando C. Albarran of Texas; 12th District NEC Raymond E. Dempsey of Illinois, 20th District NEC Mike Baker of Texas, and 21st District NEC Wayne L. Douglass of Arkansas.

I would also like to recognize National Senior Vice Commander George A. Steese of California and National Judge Advocate Edward G. Galian of New York who serve on the committee in a non-voting capacity.

It is my honor and privilege to present a report on the financial affairs of our organization. During the first six months, we sent out 31.4 million pieces of fund-raising mail.

The DAV's gross income from direct mail fund raising, through June 30th was $44.2 million. By year's end, we will have mailed 56 million pieces of fund-raising mail, and we expect to generate $97.6 million in gross revenue. (Applause)

Under the Department Fund-Raising Program, distributions to the departments in December 2000 and June 2001 totaled $3.8 million. Since 1994, when the program began, $27.5 million has been distributed to the departments for their service programs at no expense on their part. (Applause)

I thank all of the departments and chapters for their continued participation in this program and especially our members for their financial support.

Through June 2001, DAV received total support and revenue from all sources of $69.1 million and had total expenses of $62 million, of which $42.4 million was for service programs.

The value of our general fund long-term investment portfolio has increased to an all-time high of $193.2 million. The net worth of our organization is also at an all-time high of $205.9 million, thanks to the generosity of our supporters throughout this great country. (Applause)

At June 30, 2001, the life membership fund reserve was $85.7 million. Based upon conservative actuarial assumptions of a 6.66 percent rate of return on investments, we estimate, in the short term, that the fund will be depleted by the year 2014 with 490,000 members remaining.

For the fund to break even, it would have to realize an average annual return on investments of 10.2 percent. Historically, Life Membership Fund rates of return on investments over three, five and ten years have been 11.83 percent, 14.38 percent and 12.20 percent, respectively.

The committee believes that over the long term the Life Member Fund is soundly invested. The national staff, however, continues to monitor the Life Membership Fund for changes in long-term outlook.

Before closing, I would like to thank the other committee members, National Adjutant Art Wilson and the DAV's professional staff for their prudent and successful management of our organization. (Applause)

Let me thank you, Commander Albarran, for the support I received in my role as the Finance Committee Chairman. It has been an honor to serve as the Chair of this important Committee.

Commander Albarran, 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 this report.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: You heard the report and motion. Do I hear a second? Mike 1.

MR. FRANK J. DROGO, JR.: Frank Drogo, Past State Commander, also National Committeeman from District 1, seconds the motion on Brad Barton's financial report.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. All in favor, say aye; all against say nay. The ayes have it; so moved. (Applause)

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 2000 and Independent Auditors' Report

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

National Finance Committee
Disabled American Veterans:

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) as of December 31, 2000, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of DAV's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of DAV at December 31, 2000 and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Deloitte & Touche LLP

February 23, 2001

Deloitte
Touche
Tohmatsu

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2000

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	
ASSETS:		LIABILITIES:	
Cash	$ 3,244,358	Accounts payable	$ 4,070,698
Receivables	1,393,273	Accrued expenses:	
Solicitation materials	2,631,351	Salaries and related taxes and withholdings	579,253
Prepaid expenses	3,063,930	Medical	525,782
Prepaid Pension Asset (Note 5)	3,464,537	Postretirement benefits (Note 5)	25,888,261
Investments (Note 2)	215,684,306	Deferred dues and service fees collected	
Property and equipment, net (Note 2)	11,938,744	in advance (Note 4)	4,247,939
Life Membership:		Other	2,039,776
Cash	1,138,008	Life Membership:	
Investments (Note 2)	85,882,685	Accounts payable	878,676
		Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues (Note 4)	86,142,017
		Total liabilities	124,372,402
		UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (Note 3)	204,068,790
TOTAL	$328,441,192	TOTAL	$328,441,192

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000

SUPPORT AND REVENUE:	
Support:	
Contributions received primarily from direct mail solicitations (Note 2)	$100,076,960
Contributed services and facilities, primarily services (Note 2)	24,763,932
List royalties	1,364,308
Bequests	3,773,429
Total support	129,978,629
Revenue:	
Membership dues and fees (Note 4)	8,086,659
Income from investments	9,378,395
Realized investment gains	6,639,148
Miscellaneous	116,537
Total revenue	24,220,739
Total support and revenue	154,199,368
EXPENSES:	
Program Services:	
National Service Program	31,770,767
Legislative Service Program	878,576
Voluntary Service Program	25,093,884
State Services, Disaster Relief Programs, and Memorials	3,799,292
Publications and Other Communications	2,896,579
Membership Services	4,709,450
Public Awareness Outreach	14,241,846
Total program services	83,390,394
Supporting Services:	
Fund Raising costs	31,142,533
Administrative and general	5,849,722
Total supporting services	36,992,255
Total expenses	120,382,649
EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	33,816,719
DECREASE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS (Note 2)	(7,200,701)
EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES AND DECREASE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION ON INVESTMENTS	26,616,018
ADJUSTMENT TO MINIMUM PENSION LIABILITY (Note 5)	11,152,609
INCREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	37,768,627
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, Beginning of year	166,300,163
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, End of year	$204,068,790

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000

	National Service Program	Legislative Service Program	Voluntary Service Program	State Services, Disaster Relief Programs and Memorials	Publications and other Communications	Membership Services	Public Awareness Outreach	Total Program Services	Fund Raising Costs	Adminstrative and General	Total Supporting Services	Total Expenses
Salaries (Note 2)	$ 14,925,518	$313,499	$ 387,451	$	$ 408,243	$ 838,666	$ 4,792	$ 16,878,169	$ 3,538,379	$ 2,502,664	$ 6,041,043	$ 22,919,212
Employee benefits (Note 5)	8,128,048	113,885	241,148		149,543	496,792		9,129,416	2,201,287	1,493,158	3,694,445	12,823,861
Payroll taxes	1,274,419	25,633	40,438		34,322	67,674	448	1,442,934	309,720	209,188	518,908	1,961,842
DAV transportation network - volunteers			23,173,224					23,173,224				23,173,224
Winter sports clinic			385,791					385,791				385,791
Colorado Trust (Note 6)			500,000					500,000				500,000
Other grants	106,500	22,500	6,500					135,500				135,500
Disaster relief				30,940				30,940				30,940
State Service Program				3,743,352				3,743,352				3,743,352
Memorials				25,000				25,000				25,000
Expenses of national convention						469,332		469,332				469,332
Expenses of national commander and committees						555,218		555,218				555,218
Travel and relocation	2,142,661	42,817	158,136		35,489	218,204		2,597,307	26,861	155,773	182,634	2,779,941
Facilities	1,590,708							1,590,708				1,590,708
Postage and shipping	499,307	38,450	24,773		827,810	245,469	4,239	1,640,048	6,925,337	127,611	7,052,948	8,692,996
Equipment rental and maintenance	259,407		581		1,026	1,531		262,545	500,372	323,158	823,530	1,086,075
Supplies	590,127	123,226	114,344		164,987	319,342	14,255	1,326,281	498,374	666,785	1,165,159	2,491,440
Insurance	83,956	762	34,948		564	563		120,793	27,446	151,225	178,671	299,464
Telephone	108,469	309	4,629		4,771	13,937		132,115	27,416	61,471	88,887	221,002
Outside service	175,618					42,168		217,786	584,828	73,770	658,598	876,384
Project costs		113,733			122,981			236,714		38,738	38,738	275,452
Printing of magazine					1,116,040			1,116,040				1,116,040
Cost of solicitation mailings - materials									28,783,118		28,783,118	28,783,118
Heat, light, water and power	104,954							104,954	383,317	374	383,691	488,645
Security service	90,779							90,779	217,542		217,542	308,321
Depreciation of property and equipment	706,502	1,396	3,934		14,491	26,554		754,877	874,896	568,006	1,442,902	2,197,779
Legal fees	10,029					89,680		99,709	3,840	225,998	229,838	329,547
Professional fees	318,691					175,248		493,939	486,006	652,877	1,138,883	1,632,822
Allocations (to) from other departments	610,327					1,136,917	14,218,112	15,965,356	(14,247,774)	(1,717,582)	(15,965,356)	
Other	44,747	82,366	15,987		16,312	12,155		171,567	1,568	316,508	318,076	489,643
Total, year ended December 31, 2000	$ 31,770,767	$878,576	$ 25,093,884	$ 3,799,292	$ 2,896,579	$ 4,709,450	$ 14,241,846	$ 83,390,394	$ 31,142,533	$ 5,849,722	$ 36,992,255	$ 120,382,649

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Excess of support and revenue over expenses	$ 33,816,719
Adjustments to reconcile excess of support and revenue over expenses to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Depreciation and amortization	2,197,779
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	7,402
Realized investment gains	(6,639,148)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
Receivables	(526,393)
Solicitation materials	727,141
Prepaid expenses	311,135
Accounts payable	1,520,766
Accrued expenses	(1,522,379)
Deferred dues and service fees and other	1,020,544
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	5,504,574
Net cash provided by operating activities	36,418,140
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Net cost of investment purchases	(27,093,228)
Payments for property and equipment	(4,185,792)
Proceeds from sales of property and equipment	8,725
Increase in life membership investments	(5,556,661)
Net cash used in investing activities	(36,826,956)
NET DECREASE IN CASH	(408,816)
CASH, Beginning of year	4,791,182
CASH, End of year	$ 4,382,366

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000

1. ORGANIZATION

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is a Congressionally chartered, not-for-profit service organization. Made up exclusively of men and women disabled in our nation's defense; DAV is dedicated to one, single purpose: building better lives for all of our nation's disabled veterans and their families. This mission is carried forward by:

- providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government;
- providing outreach concerning its program services to the American people generally, and to disabled veterans and their families specifically;
- representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses and their orphans before Congress, the White House, and the Judicial Branch, as well as state and local government;
- 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.

Investments - Investments are recorded at fair (market) value. The fair value of DAV's investments is determined based on the quoted market prices of the related securities. Gains and losses on the sale of investment securities are recognized based upon the specific identification method and, for general investments (also see Note 4), are reflected as a separate component of revenue.

The cost and market value of investments in securities and the net unrealized appreciation at December 31, 2000 are summarized below:

General	Cost	Market Value	Unrealized Appreciation
Cash equivalents	$ 19,678,959	$ 19,678,959	
Corporate bonds	81,208,913	82,972,391	$ 1,763,478
U.S. Treasury obligations	27,052,048	27,509,338	457,290
Common stocks	49,141,632	58,536,921	9,395,289
Common stock funds	18,823,833	25,297,643	6,473,810
Subtotal	$195,905,385	213,995,252	$18,089,867
Interest and dividends receivable		1,689,054	
Total		$215,684,306	
Life Membership			
Cash equivalents	$ 2,071,337	$ 2,071,337	
Corporate bonds	19,184,719	19,588,863	$ 404,144
U.S. Treasury obligations	13,498,324	13,918,139	419,815
Common stocks	38,336,068	45,705,205	7,369,137
Common stock funds	3,800,580	3,969,634	169,054
Subtotal	$ 76,891,028	85,253,178	$ 8,362,150
Interest and dividends receivable		629,507	
Total		$ 85,882,685	

Property and Equipment - Property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation, and are composed of the following at December 31, 2000:

	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Book Value
Land and improvements	$ 1,144,637	$ 377,144	$ 767,493
Buildings and improvements	9,549,121	4,730,362	4,818,759
Machinery and other equipment	18,452,563	12,100,071	6,352,492
Total	$29,146,321	$17,207,577	$11,938,744

Depreciation is computed generally on the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of assets, which range from 3 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.

Contributed Services and Facilities - DAV operates extensive programs through which volunteers contribute many hours of service to veterans; however, only a portion of those hours, those donated to veterans at medical facilities of the VA, are tabulated. Of the 2,341,680 hours accounted for in 2000 - 1,562,591 are for the DAV's Nationwide Transportation Network. Using a formula developed by Independent Sector, an organization that provides oversight to nonprofit organizations in America, the value of these hours contributed to the DAV Transportation Network is $23,173,224. This value, together with the value of certain contributed facilities, is recorded as Support and Expenses in the accompanying Statement of Activities and Statement of Functional Expenses. The remaining 779,089 hours -- valued at $11,553,890 are contributed to the DAV VA Voluntary Service Program. This amount and the value of any other volunteer time have not been recorded in the accompanying Statement of Activities and Statement of Functional Expenses because such hours do not meet the technical requirements set forth in accounting standards for recognizing contributed services.

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

Income Taxes - As a not-for-profit service organization, DAV is exempt from Federal income tax as a 501(c)(4) organization. Contributions made to DAV are tax deductible pursuant to Title 26 U.S.C., Section 170(c).

Use of Estimates - The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and 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 2000, DAV incurred joint costs of $39,729,107 for informational materials and activities that included fund-raising appeals. Of those costs, $14,218,112 was allocated to public awareness outreach (program services) and $25,510,995 was allocated to fund raising costs.

3. DESIGNATED NET ASSETS

Certain unrestricted net assets have been designated by DAV's National Finance Committee for disaster relief. As of December 31, 2000, $178,891 is designated for assistance to disabled veterans and their families who have suffered losses resulting from natural disasters.

4. 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 life members. Generally, life membership assets for national per capita dues are transferred to the general assets of DAV at the beginning of the membership year (July 1) and deferred and recognized as income in the statement of activities over the course of the membership year. The per capita chapter and department dues are distributed at the beginning of the membership year.

The following summary represents the changes during 2000 in the reserve for future distribution of membership dues:

Balance, January 1, 2000	$95,389,027
Additions:	
Membership dues received	3,348,953
Earnings on invested assets	3,213,071
Gain on sale of investments	13,394,855
Total	19,956,879
Distribution of membership dues:	
National Headquarters	8,684,813
Local Chapters	3,202,491
State Departments	2,565,001
Total	14,452,305
Decrease in unrealized appreciation of investments	(14,751,584)
Balance, December 31, 2000	$86,142,017

5. PENSION PLAN AND POSTRETIREMENT BENEFITS

DAV has a defined benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees. Benefits are based on years of service and employees' compensation. Contributions are intended to provide not only for benefits attributed to service to date but also for those expected in the future. In 2000, DAV funded amounts in excess of the recommended actuarially determined contribution amount. Contributions to the plan are based on the Projected Unit Credit Actuarial cost method.

DAV provides certain health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees and their spouses. Substantially all of DAV's employees may become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for DAV.

Summarized information for the plans is as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
As of December 31, 2000:		
Projected benefit obligation	$ 61,228,427	
Accumulated postretirement benefit obligation		$ 31,525,000
Fair value of plan assets	54,946,747	209,000
Funded status	(6,281,680)	(31,316,000)
Prepaid (Accrued) benefit cost recognized in the statement of financial position	3,464,537	(25,888,261)

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
For the year ended December 31, 2000:		
Benefit cost (including pension settlement cost of $3,996,000 related to lump sum payment option under the Plan)	$ 5,952,829	$ 3,881,000
Employer contribution	6,460,000	1,246,000
Plan participants' contributions		78,000
Benefits paid	(13,929,621)	(1,387,000)
Weighted-average rate assumptions used for the December 31 valuation:		
Discount rate	7.75 %	7.75 %
Expected return on plan assets	8.75 %	7.25 %
Rate of compensation increase	4.50 %	

The provisions of SFAS No. 87, "Employers' Accounting for Pensions," required the DAV to recognize a minimum liability with an offsetting reduction of net assets of $11,152,609 at December 31, 1999. This liability represented the amount by which the accumulated benefit obligation exceeded the sum of the fair market value of plan assets and prepaid amounts previously recorded. In 2000 the fair market value of plan assets exceeded the accumulated benefit obligation so no minimum liability is required. This resulted in an increase in net assets of $11,152,609 for the year ended December 31, 2000.

The accumulated postretirement benefit obligation and related benefit cost are determined through the application of relevant actuarial assumptions. DAV anticipates the increase in its health care cost trend rate to slow from 9.5% in 2001 to 5.5% in 2019, after which the trend rate is expected to stabilize.

DAV also maintains a defined contribution Salary Savings and Investment Plan for its employees. For qualified employees electing to participate in the Plan, DAV contributes a percentage of the employees' base salary. DAV's contributions in 2000 were $822,132 and are included in employee benefits expense in the accompanying statement of functional expenses.

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation - The accompanying financial statements do not include the net assets (or changes therein) of the Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation ("Foundation") which are held by the Foundation and available to DAV only through appropriation by the Foundation's Board of Directors. The National Service Foundation is a separate entity from DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Based upon audited financial statements at December 31, 2000, net assets of the Foundation were $27,414,561. During 2000, DAV provided the Foundation with the use of DAV personnel, facilities and equipment. For the personnel services, DAV charged the Foundation $116,744. Facilities and equipment are provided by DAV at no charge. Additionally, in 2000, DAV contributed $500,000 to The Colorado Trust, a temporarily restricted fund established by the Foundation to provide funds for the service programs of needy DAV state departments and local chapters. At December 31, 2000, the Foundation owed $58,828 to DAV which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust - Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust ("Trust") is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt entity which was established in 1986. The Trust is a separate entity from DAV, operating under its own bylaws. During 2000, DAV provided the Trust with the use of DAV personnel, facilities and equipment. For the personnel services, DAV charged the Trust $36,483. Facilities and equipment are provided by DAV at no charge. The DAV also provides fundraising support to the Trust at no charge. At December 31, 2000, the Trust owed $38,521 to DAV which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

* * * * * *

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 2000 and Independent Auditors' Report

Deloitte & Touche LLP
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Deloitte
& Touche

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

National Finance Committee,
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters:

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters (the Auxiliary) as of December 31, 2000 and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Auxiliary's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. The prior year summarized comparative information has been derived from the Auxiliary's 1999 financial statements and, in our report dated March 13, 2000, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Auxiliary as of December 31, 2000 and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Deloitte & Touche LLP

March 30, 2001

Deloitte
Touche
Tohmatsu

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2000 WITH COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS FOR 1999

ASSETS	2000	1999
GENERAL ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2)	$ 2,291,182	$ 4,325,042
Investments at fair market value (Note 2)	3,217,011	898,352
Accrued interest receivable	40,907	26,721
Materials and supplies	121,268	115,687
Prepaid expenses	15,780	10,663
Other assets	36,560	23,804
SERVICE PROGRAM ASSETS - Cash and cash equivalents (Notes 2,5)	259,811	225,623
DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM ASSETS - Cash and cash equivalents (Notes 2,5)	8,463	8,363
EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAM ASSETS:		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS (NOTES 2,5)	973,862	916,865
CHANE IN NET ASSETS	170,486	172,745
LIFE MEMBERSHIP ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents (Notes 2,4)	48,084	749,468
Accrued interest receivable	62,618	67,371
Investments at fair market value (Notes 2,4)	7,926,450	7,478,948
TOTAL	$ 15,172,482	$ 15,019,652

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2000	1999
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable - DAV National Headquarters	$ 200,483	$ 330,195
Contributions distributable to state departments	193,460	148,576
Accrued vacation and sick leave pay	4,140	100,323
Deferred membership fees (Note 2)	534,359	555,798
Other	6,469	6,136
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues (Note 4)	8,037,152	8,295,787
Total liabilities	8,976,063	9,436,815
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted - General (Note 3)	4,783,797	4,259,241
Temporarily restricted - Service Program (Note 5)	259,811	225,623
Temporarily restricted - Disaster Relief Program (Note 5)	8,463	8,363
Permanently restricted - Education Loan Program (Note 5)	1,144,348	1,089,610
Total net assets	6,196,419	5,582,837
TOTAL	$ 15,172,482	$ 15,019,652

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000 WITH COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS FOR 1999

	2000					
	Unrestricted General	Temporarily Restricted - Service Program	Temporarily Restricted - Disaster Relief Program	Permanently Restricted - Education Loan Program	Total	1999 Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:						
Membership fees and mandates	$ 368,682	$ 6,915		$ 7,771	$ 383,368	$ 457,016
Life Membership dues (Note 4)	727,836				727,836	724,170
Contributions (Note 2)	274,042	23,239	$ 100	16,886	314,267	315,223
Contributed facilities (Notes 2,7)	25,300				25,300	25,300
Sale of membership items, less related direct costs of $40,308	(2,974)				(2,974)	(4,731)
Conference and meetings	13,665				13,665	13,940
National convention	18,260				18,260	17,875
Interest income	330,912	8,926		30,081	369,919	287,515
Net assets released from restrictions	4,658	(4,658)				
Other	20,161	(234)			19,927	20,477
Total revenues	1,780,542	34,188	100	54,738	1,869,568	1,856,785
EXPENSES:						
Salaries and wages	396,162				396,162	398,117
Employee benefits (Note 6)	81,613				81,613	112,255
Distributions to state departments	165,251				165,251	146,877
Fundraising expenses	101,846				101,846	129,946
Payroll taxes	35,162				35,162	29,542
Conferences and meetings	56,378				56,378	54,254
Expenses of national convention	79,029				79,029	75,806
Printing, stationery and office supplies	64,167				64,167	42,765
Expenses of National Commander and officers	18,908				18,908	14,833
Contributed facilities (Notes 2,7)	25,300				25,300	25,300
Postage	51,520				51,520	57,032
Travel	33,615				33,615	32,044
Professional fees	15,400				15,400	14,800
Service program benefits	4,658				4,658	4,445
Disaster relief program benefits	-				-	3,000
VAVS, memberships and other awards	10,401				10,401	10,089
Other	71,284				71,284	54,564
Total expenses	1,210,694	-	-	-	1,210,694	1,205,669
EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES:	569,848	34,188	100	54,738	658,874	651,116
CHANGE IN UNREALIZED DEPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	(45,292)	-	-	-	(45,292)	-
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	524,556	34,188	100	54,738	613,582	651,116
NET ASSETS, Beginning of year	4,259,241	225,623	8,363	1,089,610	5,582,837	4,931,721
NET ASSETS, End of year	$ 4,783,797	$259,811	$ 8,463	$ 1,144,348	$ 6,196,419	$ 5,582,837

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000 WITH COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS FOR 1999

	2000	1999
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	$ 613,582	$ 651,116
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to cash provided by operating activities:		
Permanently restricted contributions and interest income	(54,738)	(47,466)
Decrease in unrealized appreciation in investments	45,292	-
Change in assets and liabilities:		
Accrued interest receivable	(9,433)	35,692
Materials and supplies	(5,581)	9,540
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(17,873)	24,283
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(225,895)	63,994
Contributions distributable to state departments	44,884	34,748
Deferred membership fees	(21,439)	(59,834)
Reserve for life membership dues	(259,797)	(253,304)
Other liabilities	333	(1,425)
Total adjustments	(504,247)	(193,772)
Net cash provided by operations	109,335	457,344
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Decrease (increase) in general fund investments	(2,363,950)	196,574
Decrease (increase) in Life Membership investments	(446,341)	534,701
Education loans	(33,000)	(32,900)
Collections from repayment of education loans	35,259	32,944
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(2,808,032)	731,319
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES -		
Permanently restricted education fund contributions and interest income	54,738	47,466
NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(2,643,959)	1,236,129
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS:		
Beginning of year	6,225,361	4,989,232
End of year	$3,581,402	$6,225,361

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000

1. ORGANIZATION

The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters (DAV Auxiliary) is a not-for-profit membership and service organization organized under the provisions of the National Constitution of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). The DAV Auxiliary and its membership are organized for the betterment and improvement of the nation's disabled veterans and their families and for cooperation with all patriotic organizations and public agencies devoted to this purpose through volunteer work at veterans' hospitals, community service, educational assistance, legislative action, and encouraging good citizenship and patriotism. The DAV auxiliary is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Statements - The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

The accompanying financial statements include certain prior year information summarized from DAV Auxiliary's 1999 financial statements. Such information does not include sufficient detail, and is not intended, to constitute a presentation in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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.

Cash and Cash Equivalents - For the purpose of reporting cash flows, the DAV Auxiliary considers all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash and cash equivalents.

Investments - The DAV Auxiliary records investments at fair (market) value. The fair value of the DAV Auxiliary's investments is determined based on the quoted market price of the related securities. Gains and losses resulting from the sale of securities are recognized at the time of disposition and are computed using the specific identification method.

The cost and market value of investments in securities and the net unrealized gain (loss) at December 31, 2000 are summarized below:

	Cost	Market Value	Unrealized Net Gain/ (Loss)
Money market investments	$ 369,043	$ 369,043	$ -
Corporate bonds	4,448,218	4,531,512	83,294
U.S. Treasury obligations	4,762,889	4,758,292	(4,597)
Equity mutual fund	1,645,817	1,484,614	(161,203)
Total	$11,225,967	$11,143,461	$ (82,506)

Deferred Membership Fees - The DAV Auxiliary accounts for membership fees by deferring fees received in advance of the membership year (July 1 to June 30) and amortizing them to income ratably during the membership year for which they are paid.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and 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. FREEDOM FOUNDATION

The DAV Auxiliary has designated $22,991 of unrestricted funds for the purpose of providing financial aid to elementary and secondary school teachers attending annual summer teaching seminars held at the Freedom Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

4. RESERVE FOR FUTURE DISTRIBUTION OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES

Under its by-laws life membership in the DAV Auxiliary is available to any person eligible for senior membership. Amounts paid 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 (DAV Auxiliary) per capita dues for life members. Generally, Life Membership assets for national per capita dues are transferred to the general assets of the DAV Auxiliary at the beginning of the membership year (July 1), and deferred and recognized as income in the statement of activities over the course of the membership year. The per capita dues are distributed to units and departments at the beginning of the membership year.

The following summary represents the changes during 2000 and 1999 in the reserve for future distribution of dues:

Balance, January 1, 2000	$8,295,787
Additions:	
Membership dues received	215,185
Earnings on invested assets	462,436
Total	677,621
Deductions:	
Dues to National Headquarters	727,836
Dues to Local units	74,430
Dues to State Departments	114,303
Change in unrealized depreciation of investments	(1,161)
Investment fee	20,848
Total	936,256
Balance, December 31, 2000	$8,037,152

5. DONOR RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Education Loan Program - Donations from individuals and amounts received from each unit (local chapters) as a mandate for educational loans are recorded as permanently restricted assets from which loans are made to students in accordance with the by-laws of the DAV Auxiliary. The maximum amount of an education loan is $1,500 per year for a maximum of four years per student; the loan bears no interest and is to be repaid in seven years beginning 90 days after the student's graduation or withdrawal from school.

Disaster Relief Program - Donations from units and individuals are recorded as temporarily restricted net assets which are used for members of the DAV Auxiliary who are in need of temporary financial assistance due to natural disaster, such as flood, earthquake, etc. Benefits are paid directly to the individual.

Service Program - Donations from individuals and amounts received from each unit as a mandate for the Service Program are recorded as temporarily restricted net assets which are used for persons eligible for the DAV Auxiliary who are in need of temporary financial assistance in accordance with the by-laws of the DAV Auxiliary. The total amount of assistance is limited to $500 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.

6. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

All employees of the DAV Auxiliary are covered by Disabled American Veterans Retirement Plan, a defined benefit pension plan. The benefits are based on years of service and the employee's compensation during the last three years of service. Contributions are intended to provide not only for benefits attributed to service to date, but also for those expected in the future. In 2000, DAV charged the DAV Auxiliary $81,613 for its share of the retirement plan cost.

DAV provides certain health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees and their spouses. All employees of the DAV Auxiliary may become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for the DAV Auxiliary. In 2000, DAV did not charge the DAV Auxiliary for these benefits.

7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The DAV Auxiliary occupies space in the DAV National Headquarter's building and also uses certain office equipment owned by the DAV. No fees are charged for such usage. The value of these contributed facilities is estimated to be $25,300 in 2000, and is included as revenue and expense on the accompanying statement of activities.

Certain costs are paid by DAV National Headquarters on behalf of the DAV Auxiliary. Such costs are reimbursed by the DAV Auxiliary.

* * * * * *

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: At this time I will call on Duke Hendershot, Committee Chairman of the General Resolutions and Membership.

MR. LEROY HENDERSHOT: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on General Resolutions was called to order for its first business session on July 30, 2001, by the Committee Advisor, Rick Surette.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee Chair. Duke Hendershot was nominated for the Chair. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed, and Duke Hendershot was elected Chair.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of a Secretary. Shirley Schofield and James Tanner were nominated. Shirley Schofield was elected as Secretary of the Committee.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted, and I will now report to you on the resolutions recommended for adoption by the National Convention.

For the purpose of saving time, I will read only the number and purpose of the resolutions:

Resolution 037, Condemn public desecration of the flag of the United States;

Resolution 035, Supporting a strong national defense;

Resolution 036, Encourage all disabled veterans to become registered voters and vote;

Resolution 067, Oppose HR-62, Election day takes the place of Veterans Day as national holiday in presidential election years;

Resolution 081, Ensure military blood supply is adequate and properly tested for contaminants;

Resolution 217, Construct a monument to commemorate the sacrifices of America's disabled veterans;

Resolution 236, Appreciation to all who are responsible for the success of the 80th National Convention;

Resolution 237, Appreciation to the Fontainebleau Hilton Resort for the success of the 80th National Convention;

Resolution 238, Expressing appreciation to the National Commander, Armando C. Albarran.

WHEREAS, Armando C. Albarran, in service to his nation, was severely wounded when he triggered an enemy explosive device during field operations in the Republic of Vietnam in August of 1966; and

WHEREAS, despite the devastating loss of both his legs and a long, slow, painful and difficult recuperation, Mr. Albarran refused to succumb to the incapacitating effects of his extensive, traumatic injuries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Albarran, through extraordinary determination, successfully completed a course of rehabilitation in which he not only prepared himself to be a productive member of society, but engaged in a challenging career through which he could encourage and aid in the rehabilitation of others suffering from disabilities; and

WHEREAS, he has thereafter devoted his entire working and personal life to helping others, particularly disabled veterans, cope with and overcome disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in the course of his many activities to assist disabled persons in his dedicated participation as a member of the Disabled American Veterans, he exhibited natural and exceptional leadership abilities; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his acumen, steadfastness, and wisdom as a leader, his comrades in the Disabled American Veterans called upon him to serve in numerous chapter, state and national offices; and

WHEREAS, during our 79th National Convention, our members unanimously elected him to our organization's highest office, the Office of National Commander; and

WHEREAS, he served in that exalted position with distinction and honor and brought the highest degree of integrity and respect to that office; and

WHEREAS, the positive effects of his leadership and contributions will last well beyond the tenure of his office; and

WHEREAS, our members deeply desire to convey affectionate and admiring gratitude to Commander Albarran for his selfless service to the Disabled Veterans and our organization;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28 through August 2, 2001, expresses its members' sincere appreciation to Commander Albarran for his exceptional contributions to our members, their families, and the DAV; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we also extend our special appreciation to Commander Albarran's wife, Tilly, and their three children, Adam, Angela and Amy, for their support and sacrifices during his year as DAV'S National Commander.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee of the General Resolutions and I move the adoption of these resolutions.

(The above-mentioned resolutions follow.)

RESOLUTION NO. 035—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE

WHEREAS, the United States military forces are responsible for the defense of this Nation and its interests abroad; and

WHEREAS, the United States has recently been called upon to intervene in various conflicts; and

WHEREAS, a strong national defense led to the defeat of Communism in Eastern Europe; and

WHEREAS, U.S. interests continue to be challenged throughout the world, requiring our military forces to be deployed in protection of world freedom; and

WHEREAS, we can never let down our guard; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, goes on record urging Congress to provide adequate funds for the defense of our Nation both at home and abroad.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 036—LEGISLATIVE

ENCOURAGE ALL DISABLED VETERANS TO BECOME REGISTERED VOTERS AND VOTE

WHEREAS, members of the Disabled American Veterans served their country during time of war in order to preserve the rights and privileges of life in this land of the free; and

WHEREAS, one of the most precious of those rights is the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress and the President's Administration have failed to fulfill their obligation to our Nation's disabled veterans, providing inadequate funding for veterans' benefits and health care; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress and the President's Administration have targeted veterans' programs for unwarranted spending cuts and reductions under the mistaken and misguided theory that veterans do not base their vote on veterans' issues; and

WHEREAS, the failure of all disabled veterans to register and vote will result in the perpetuation of this theory; and

WHEREAS, because of their disabilities, disabled veterans have more difficulty than their nondisabled peers in complying with some of the more strict requirements in voter registration laws; and

WHEREAS, there exists an urgent need for veterans, their families and all Americans concerned about veterans' issues to make their voice heard by becoming registered voters and exercising their vote in local, state, and federal elections; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, encourages 100 percent of our members to become registered to vote and thereby strengthen our organization's

ability to preserve and improve our system of veterans' benefits and services; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Disabled American Veterans Departments and Chapters initiate and operate voter registration drives targeted at increasing voter registration among veterans and their families; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Disabled American Veterans Departments, Chapters, and members are encouraged to ensure that all veterans and their family members are able to get to polling locations to vote.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 037—LEGISLATIVE

CONDEMN PUBLIC DESECRATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court, by a 5-4 decision, has ruled that public desecration of the American Flag, as a form of free speech and expression, is legal and permissible; and

WHEREAS, the American Flag—"Old Glory"—is our National Ensign, the proud and beautiful symbol of our country's precious, free heritage; and

WHEREAS, this symbol, in the form of our irreplaceable "Stars and Stripes," has been carried and defended in battle, revered and cherished by its citizens and viewed as a beacon of hope and fulfillment by all the world since it was first unfurled at the birth of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Constitutional First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech was not intended by our Founding Fathers to enable individuals—who do enjoy unfettered freedom to express their views, no matter how abhorrent, in both oral and written form—to publicly and contemptuously desecrate our beloved flag; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, goes on record as condemning any individual or group who shall at any time publicly and willfully desecrate the flag of the United States.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 067—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE MOVING AND MERGING VETERANS DAY
WITH ELECTION DAY

WHEREAS, the people of the United States have set aside November 11 as a special day to honor American veterans of all wars; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Day is a day of great historic and patriotic significance to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, to pay proper tribute to America's veterans and appropriately recognize them for their patriotism, service, and sacrifices, we focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day by solemn ceremonies, moments of silence, and dedication of this day solely to those who have given so much for their Nation and their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, this is a day of reflection, a time for remembrance, and a period reserved for thankfulness and the hope of continued peace; and

WHEREAS, pending legislation and recommendations would move Veterans Day to Election Day in presidential election years to facilitate making Election Day a Federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, the special character, special significance, and special purpose of Veterans Day cannot be preserved and our Nation's veterans cannot be properly honored if Veterans Day is moved to Election Day as an expedient way to make Election Day a Federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, such action will seriously diminish the prestige, blur the distinction, and detract from the significance of one of our country's most revered and meaningful holidays; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans

in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28–August 2, 2001, opposes any action to move Veterans Day or merge it with Election Day.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 081—ADMINISTRATIVE

CALL UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE MILITARY BLOOD SUPPLY IS ADEQUATE AND FREE OF CONTAMINANTS

WHEREAS, the Pentagon Inspector General has reported that "casualties of a major conflict might receive blood that is up to 21 years old and has not been screened with the latest HIV test"; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration considers blood older than 10 years "expired," yet in 1996, approved the use of blood up to 21 years old for wartime transfusions, if it carries a "caution" I label; and

WHEREAS, the Army Surgeon General, who administers the overall Armed Services Blood Program, said it would cost about $7 million once new technology is available, to make widespread replacements; and

WHEREAS, most major items of equipment cost more than $7 million; and

WHEREAS, America's sons and daughters, when placed in harm's way, should not have the additional worry of receiving HIV tainted blood; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, calls upon the government to demand that the necessary funds be made available, and require the Department of Defense to make sure that the military blood supply is adequate and free of contaminates.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 217—LEGISLATIVE

CONSTRUCT A MONUMENT TO COMMEMORATE THE SACRIFICES OF AMERICA'S DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, it has been three decades since Americans were involved in a large-scale ground war that resulted in large numbers of significant, combat-related casualties; and

WHEREAS, though the public's reaction to veterans in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War was exceptionally warm, even the high feeling associated with Operation Desert Storm dissipated long ago; and

WHEREAS, the memory of smaller military actions at the Khobar Towers Barracks in Saudi Arabia, and in Grenada, Beirut, Panama, and Somalia faded with shocking rapidity, dying away even as combat-disabled veterans were still undergoing initial treatment of their wounds; and

WHEREAS, even as Americans daily face the threat of hostile action in spots around the world, some of them coming home wounded, awareness of their sacrifices among the American people remains distressingly low; and

WHEREAS, the extent of this forgetfulness can only increase as the number of veterans in the population as a whole inevitably declines as a result of the passing of those who served during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, other than the ultimate sacrifice of life itself on the field of battle, no one has given more for the freedom of our Nation and her people than the veterans disabled in all of America's wars and armed conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the circumstances above demonstrate a pressing need for permanent, high-profile action to bring the immense sacrifices of disabled veterans to a deeper level of public consciousness; and

WHEREAS, commemorative structures have been placed in distinguished locations throughout Washington, D.C., in order to commemorate causes and persons of great merit and the sacrifices of

disabled veterans deserve at least as much attention as any of these; and

WHEREAS, a statue or commemorative structure on the Washington Mall or in another very prominent location in our Nation's Capital would be extremely useful in permanently reminding the American people of the sacrifices made by disabled veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, seeks the necessary approval and private financial support for the construction and maintenance of a monument honoring the sacrifices of those veterans disabled while in military service to their country and that such monument be placed in a prestigious location in the Nation's Capital, with a strong recommendation that it be placed on the Washington Mall.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 236—ADMINISTRATIVE

APPRECIATION TO ALL WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 80TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the success of the 80th DAV National Convention convened in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, depends on the total cooperation and unselfish devotion of the State, county, and local officials; and

WHEREAS, the success of this National Convention is also attributed to the Department and local Chapters and Units of the DAV and DAVA, particularly to Convention Chairman Ed Barnshaw; and

WHEREAS, we wish to commend all the news media for their encouragement and assistance at all of our Convention activities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, 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 Miami Beach, Florida, our deepest gratitude for their personal interest in our great organization; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we wish to extend our appreciation to all of the distinguished guests who participated in our convention and support the ideals and principles of our great organization; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we extend our gratitude to the Convention Chairman, Ed Barnshaw, and his entire Committee for providing personalized assistance to our friends and delegates during our Convention stay.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 237—ADMINISTRATIVE

APPRECIATION TO THE FONTAINEBLEAU HILTON FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 80TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the assistance and cooperation of the Fontainebleau Hilton was essential to the success of the 80th DAV National Convention, convened in Miami Beach, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the responsiveness of the hotel's employees to the requirements of the Convention was beyond compare, meriting the gratitude of the DAV's officers, delegates and staff; and

WHEREAS, the courtesy of the hotel staff to the delegates and guests at the Convention was superb throughout the entire course of the National Convention; and

WHEREAS, everyone associated with the hotel exhibited the highest degree of professionalism in all areas of their association with the National Convention; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, expresses its sincere gratitude to the

Fontainebleau Hilton and all of its employees for their exceptional assistance in making the convention a tremendous success.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 238—ADMINISTRATIVE

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO NATIONAL COMMANDER ARMANDO C. ALBARRAN

WHEREAS, Armando C. Albarran, in service to his Nation, was severely wounded when he triggered an enemy explosive device during field operations in the Republic of Vietnam in August 1966; and

WHEREAS, despite the devastating loss of both his legs and a long, slow, painful, and difficult recuperation, Mr. Albarran refused to succumb to the incapacitating effects of his extensive traumatic injuries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Albarran, through extraordinary determination, successfully completed a course of rehabilitation in which he not only prepared himself to be a productive member of society but engaged in a challenging career through which he could encourage and aid in the rehabilitation of others suffering from disabilities; and

WHEREAS, he has thereafter devoted his entire working and personal life to helping others, particularly disabled veterans, cope with and overcome disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in the course of his many activities to assist disabled persons and in his dedicated participation as a member of the Disabled American Veterans, he exhibited natural and exceptional leadership abilities; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his acumen, steadfastness, and wisdom as a leader, his comrades in the Disabled American Veterans called upon him to serve in numerous chapter, state, and national DAV offices; and

WHEREAS, during our 79th National Convention, our members unanimously elected him to our organization's highest office, the office of National Commander; and

WHEREAS, he served in that exalted position with distinction and honor and brought the highest degree of integrity and respect to that office; and

WHEREAS, the positive effects of his leadership and contributions will last well beyond the tenure of his office; and

WHEREAS, our members deeply desire to convey their affectionate and admiring gratitude to Commander Albarran for his selfless service to disabled veterans and our organization; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, expresses its members' sincere appreciation to Commander Albarran for his exceptional contributions to our members, their families, and the DAV; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we also extend our special appreciation to Commander Albarran's wife, Tillie, and their three children, Adam, Angela, and Amy, for their support and sacrifices during his year as DAV's National Commander.

* * *

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: You heard the report on General Resolutions and Membership from Duke Hendershot. I now entertain a second to accept his report. Mike 3.

MR. CAMILLO BALSAMO: Camillo Balsamo, Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda, Chapter 82, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. You heard the motion and the second. All in favor to accept the report, say aye; all against, say nay. The aye's have it; so ordered. Thank you, Duke.

At this time, we will have the first reading of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws by the Chairman, Ken Musselmann. Ken.

MR. MUSSELMANN: Thank you, Commander. Delegates, this will be the first reading of the Constitution and Bylaw changes recommended by the Constitution and Bylaws Convention Committee.

National Commander, the National Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws was called to order for its first business session on July 30, 2001, by the committee advisors, Kenneth Musselmann and Fred Bristol.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman. Kenneth Musselmann was nominated for Chairman. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed, and Kenneth Musselmann was elected Chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of a secretary. Thomas Daley was nominated and elected Secretary of the Committee.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted, and I will now conduct the first reading of the resolutions recommended for adoption. There will be no discussion on these resolutions today.

Resolution 226: RESOLVED, to amend Rules of the convention to omit Rule 22, Page 17, in its entirety and to renumber the remaining rules, which we did earlier in this business session.

Resolution 227: RESOLVED, to amend the indicated sections of the National Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans by adding or omitting the text as follows: Article 8, Section 8.3, Paragraph 1, Page 34, to add the words: "A state commander may not serve as adjutant or treasurer."

Resolution 228: RESOLVED, to amend the indicated sections of the National Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans by adding or omitting the text as follows: Article 8, Section 8.4, Paragraph 1, Page 34, to omit the words: "All money must be deposited in the name of the state department" and substitute the following sentence: "All assets of the department must be titled or held in the name of the Department. Fixed assets, such as buildings, land, and equipment, must be maintained in a manner that will prevent waste and abnormal deterioration. All other assets, except for minimal amounts of cash on hand, must be safeguarded or deposited in a manner appropriate to the asset and consistent with sound business practice."

Resolution 229: RESOLVED, to amend the indicated sections of the National Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans by adding or omitting text as follows: Article 9, Section 9.2, Paragraph 1, Page 38, to add the words: "A chapter commander may not serve as chapter adjutant or treasurer."

Resolution 230: RESOLVED, to amend the indicated sections of the National Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans by adding or omitting text as follows: Article 9, Section 9.3, Paragraph 1, Page 39, to omit the words: "All money must be deposited in the name of the chapter" and substitute the following sentence: "All assets of the chapter must be titled or held in the name of the chapter. Fixed assets, such as buildings, land and equipment, must be maintained in a manner that will prevent waste and abnormal deterioration. All other assets, except for minimal amounts of cash on hand, must be safeguarded or deposited in a manner appropriate to the asset and consistent with sound business practice."

Resolution 231: RESOLVED, to amend the indicated sections of the National Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans by adding or omitting text as follows: Article 10, Section 10.2, Paragraph 1, Page 41, to omit in the second sentence the words: "an independent public accountant" and substitute the words "a certified public accountant."

Resolution 232: RESOLVED, to amend the indicated sections of the National Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans by adding or omitting text as follows: Article 10, Section 10.2, Paragraph 2, Page 41, to omit the second sentence which reads: "All money received must be deposited in the name of the organization or subordinate unit" and substitute the words: "All assets of the subordinate unit must be titled or held in the name of the unit. Fixed assets, such as buildings, land and equipment, must be maintained in a manner that will prevent waste and abnormal deterioration. All other assets, except for minimal amounts of cash on hand, must be safeguarded or deposited in a manner appropriate to the asset and consistent with sound business practice."

Resolution 233: RESOLVED, to amend the indicated sections of the National Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans by adding or omitting text as follows: Article 12, Section 12.2, Page 52, to

add a new paragraph 11, as follows. Paragraph 11: "The hearing and procedures provided by Section 12.2 will not apply if the discharge is subject to a mandatory arbitration policy implemented under Section 12.1, Paragraph 1. The protections afforded under Section 12.2 shall be unimpaired."

Resolution 234: RESOLVED, to amend the indicated sections of the National Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans by adding or omitting text as follows: Article 15, Section 15.4, Paragraph 2, Page 63, to omit the words: "and the DAV National Executive Committee."

The Committee also recommended that the Interim Committee on Constitution and Bylaws consider adopting language to prevent the National Commander from serving as National Adjutant also, and that will be forwarded to the Interim Committee.

Comrade Commander, that completes the first reading of the changes to the constitution and bylaws.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. In order with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish read? Hearing none, thank you, Ken, for that report. (Applause)

At this time, I would like to entertain a motion that the list of delegates and alternates selected by the 21 National Districts and the National Blind Veterans Chapter to serve on Convention Committees be admitted into the record of the proceedings of this convention. Mike 2.

MR. ROBERT PETUCCI: Bob Petucci, Chapter 185, New York District 2, makes that motion.

MR. TANNER: Jim Tanner, Chapter 10, Massachusetts, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: You heard the second. All in favor, say aye; all against. The aye's have it; so ordered.

2001 NATIONAL CONVENTION, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

District	Name (Delegate and Alternate)	Chapter No. and State

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

01	Frank J. Drogo, Jr.	Massachusetts 029
(Alt)	John F. Gilpin, Jr.	Massachusetts 050
02	Allan Boudreau	New York 126
(Alt)	Theodore Barbuto	New York 030
03	Louis T. Folcarelli	Rhode Island 001
(Alt)	Roger P. Brunelle	Maine 001
04	Richard E. Manners	New Jersey 014
(Alt)	Mary J. Bencivenga	New Jersey 024
05	Peter Rivera	Pennsylvania
06	Sloan H. Hoopes	Virginia 003
(Alt)	Melvyn L. Marks	Maryland 004
07	Kim Virgil	Florida 029
(Alt)	Roger L. Sullivan	Florida 087
08	William M. Newby	Tennessee 086
(Alt)	Donald L. Samuels	Tennessee 003
09	Julius Small, Jr	Georgia 001
10	Russell Spalding	Michigan 020
(Alt)	Roy A. Redmond	Michigan 002
11	Douglas E. Lay	Ohio 142
(Alt)	Barry J. Roberts	Ohio 142
12	Norman J. Resner	Illinois 042
13	Loran Rutledge	Indiana 045
(Alt)	Louis M. Logue	Kentucky 001
14	James N. Olson	Minnesota 002
(Alt)	Rebecca A. Lhotak	Minnesota 025
15	Harold G. Benoit	Kansas 034
(Alt)	Gregory C. Kulm	Nebraska 002
16	Patrick J. Carroll	California 012
(Alt)	Maggie L. Christensen	California 058
17	Susan J. Nagle	Colorado 007
(Alt)	Harold R. Duran	New Mexico 003
18	Chad E. Moos	Arizona 008

2001 NATIONAL CONVENTION, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA - Continued

District	Name (Delegate and Alternate)	Chapter No. and State
(Alt)	Tamara K. Scrogham	Arizona 001
19	Dwayne W. Adams	Oregon 001
(Alt)	Daryl L. Testone	Oregon 001
20	Mario Melchor, Sr	Texas 128
(Alt)	German W. Biedenfeld	Texas 009
21	Bill Terry, Jr	Arkansas 010
(Alt)	Thomas J. Davis, Jr	Oklahoma 056
Blind Vets		
	Richard D. Holden	Blind Veterans 001

Advisors: Michael J. Walsh and Edward G. Galian

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

01	Thomas J. Daley	Massachusetts 049
(Alt)	Rodney A. Zablan	Massachusetts 082
02	John J. Skyler	New York 113
(Alt)	Dennis L. Krulder	New York 190
03	Kenneth J. Kooyman	Rhode Island 017
(Alt)	Al Rathbun	Rhode Island 017
04	Maurice E. Ames	Connecticut 048
(Alt)	Robert A. Dic	Delaware 001
05	Kathryn I. Scherlek	Pennsylvania 067
(Alt)	Alfonso Roberts	Pennsylvania 008
06	David L. Tannenbaum	Virginia 015
(Alt)	Bruce E. Kaplan	Virginia 014
07	John C. McCarthy	Florida 004
(Alt)	Charles C. Perkins	Florida 144
08	Wilbur L. Trahan	Mississippi 005
(Alt)	Isaac Coleman III	Mississippi 005
09	Elbert T. Townsend	North Carolina 011
(Alt)	James E. Helms	South Carolina 030
10	Morris Penermon	Michigan 001
(Alt)	George J. Zoscsak	Michigan 002
11	Leo O. Barnaby	Ohio 042
(Alt)	Charles H. Clements	Ohio 001
12	George M. Isdale, Jr	Illinois 022
(Alt)	Werner J. Schalow	Wisconsin 001
13	Roger D. Logsdon	Kentucky 149
(Alt)	Kenneth Ray Brandle	Kentucky 004
14	Van D. Karg	Minnesota 037
(Alt)	Milen L. Speckman	Minnesota 015
15	Jerome W. Fitzsimons	Iowa 020
(Alt)	Kenneth Ketchum	Kansas 007
16	Kenneth G. Musselmann	California 019
(Alt)	James J. Perciavalle	California 005
17	Norbert W. Wenthold	Colorado 002
(Alt)	Caroline D. Mason	Colorado 021
18	Darrell Carey, Sr	Arizona 008
(Alt)	Teather Hopkins	Arizona 004
19	Daniel Memmesheimer	Washington 005
(Alt)	Joseph M. Grabowski	Oregon 045
20	John T. Listenbee	Texas 021
(Alt)	Teresa A. Johniken	Texas 084
21	Wadley A. Deere	Oklahoma 032
Blind Vets		
	Joseph F. Wallace	Blind Veterans 001
	Harold E. Humphrey	Blind Veterans 001

Advisors: Kenneth G. Musselmann and Fred R. Bristol

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT

01	Leo St. John Alves	Massachusetts 039
(Alt)	Owen W. Emery	Massachusetts 006
02	Alvin Lee Burks	New York 076

2001 NATIONAL CONVENTION, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA - Continued

District	Name (Delegate and Alternate)	Chapter No. and State
(Alt)	Fiona P. Greenwood	New York 126
03	Stephen C. Moffitt, Sr.	Rhode Island 006
(Alt)	Ronald W. Reilly	New Hampshire 004
04	Herbert G. Henn	New Jersey 032
(Alt)	Barry J. Bernier	Connecticut 010
05	Kirby C. Lindsey	Pennsylvania 075
(Alt)	Vincent P. Darcangelo	Pennsylvania 055
06	Michael J. Piper	Maryland 021
(Alt)	Daniel T. Miller	Virginia 058
07	Ernie F. Hartman	Florida 094
(Alt)	G. Joseph Peck	Florida 004
08	Jimmie P. Tartt, Jr.	Mississippi 026
(Alt)	Jimmy R. Reece	Mississippi 056
09	Charles W. Ryder	North Carolina 020
(Alt)	Denella Brown	South Carolina 004
10	Rolly D. Lee, Sr.	Michigan 105
(Alt)	Alfonso Todd	Michigan 000
11	Frank D. Williams	Ohio 013
(Alt)	Jack P. Moga	Ohio 116
12	Sidney Bick	Illinois 047
(Alt)	Jeffrey C. Hall	Illinois 042
13	Juanita F. Dooley	Indiana 016
(Alt)	Daniel R. Parker	Kentucky 089
14	Delbert J. Foster, Jr.	South Dakota 001
(Alt)	Victor C. Hass	North Dakota 004
15	Larry E. Daniels	Missouri 048
(Alt)	David W. Brader	Kansas 005
16	James C. Bogan	California 085
(Alt)	Mariana M. Raba Dr.	California 006
17	Terry D. Schow	Utah 004
(Alt	Douglas K. Wells, Jr.	Utah 006
18	Phillip R. Seward	Arizona 011
(Alt)	Gerald G. Wilson, Jr.	Nevada 001
19	Michele L. Vickery	Washington 002
(Alt)	Carroll C. Saucier	Oregon 001
20	Jose T. Garcia	Texas 014
(Alt)	Margarito Vasquez	Texas 001
21	Alan Huddleston	Oklahoma 060

Advisors: Louis N. Stamas and Edward R. Reese

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND DUES

01	Arthur J. Cushing	Massachusetts 017
(Alt)	Donald R. Burning	Massachusetts 004
02	Anthony L. Mirando	New York 145
(Alt)	Gerald L. Jenkins	New York 126
03	Russell R. Tanguay	New Hampshire 001
(Alt)	Alwin C. Cox	Maine 022
04	Albert E. Church II	Connecticut 005
(Alt)	Albert Wm Doak	Connecticut 012
05	Joseph Randall, Jr.	Pennsylvania 131
06	Carl E. Bethke	Maryland 033
(Alt)	Ronald L. Smith	Maryland 023
07	Salvatore Stanzione	Florida 149
(Alt)	Robert J. Auchu	Florida 078
08	Neal R. Schultz	Alabama 012
(Alt)	Hollis O. Bridges	Alabama 026
09	Wesley D. McKelvey	North Carolina 046
(Alt)	Ernest H. Stroud	South Carolina 014
10	Roger L. Jansen	Michigan 014
(Alt)	James E. Bruney	Michigan 002
11	Harlan F. Plummer	Ohio 071
(Alt)	David C. Uetterling	Ohio 036
12	Jon C. Price	Wisconsin 001
(Alt)	Brenda L. Davis	Illinois 055

2001 NATIONAL CONVENTION, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA - Continued

District	Name (Delegate and Alternate)	Chapter No. and State
13	Fred A. Sutton	Indiana 009
(Alt)	Kerry L. Baker	Kentucky 155
14	Jerome G. Krejci	North Dakota 002
(Alt)	Michael S. Stamper	Minnesota 001
15	Paul W. Janecek	Iowa 002
(Alt)	Jack W. White	Missouri 010
16	Joel C. Devenish	California 043
(Alt)	Henri Opas	California 073
17	John L. Richard	New Mexico 003
(Alt)	Silverio Joe Armijo	New Mexico 003
18	W. D. Brzezinski	Nevada 011
(Alt)	James C. Bennett, Sr	Nevada 011
19	Donald Sanders	Washington 033
(Alt)	John P. Murnane	Oregon 011
20	Thomas J. Kickler	Texas 114
(Alt)	Jack R. Hunter	Texas 005
21	Robert W. Ellis	Arkansas 007
(Alt)	Robert D. Cohoon	Oklahoma 039

Advisors: Bradley S. Barton and Richard E. Patterson

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

01	James H. Tanner	Massachusetts 010
(Alt)	George F. Fincel	Massachusetts 074
02	Robert N. Petucci	New York 185
(Alt)	Selton James	New York 126
03	Frederick J. Moore, Jr	Maine 022
(Alt)	Roger A. Bourgery	Vermont 003
04	Evelyn E. Dick	Delaware 001
(Alt)	Clarence Brown	New Jersey 016
05	Wilbert O. Neill, Jr	Pennsylvania 061
(Alt)	Jeffrey A. Buckel	Pennsylvania 076
06	Enid B. Zysk	Virginia 014
(Alt)	B. Perez-Cumpiano	Puerto Rico 006
07	Albert M. Sorrentino	Florida 030
(Alt)	Silva E. Royer	Florida 093
08	William J. Lane	Louisiana 030
(Alt)	Edmund J. Janet	Louisiana 045
09	Coy W. Hennis	North Carolina 020
(Alt)	Alvin Z. Collins	Georgia 001
10	Alfred L. Hindes	Michigan 003
(Alt)	Harvey D. Slotman	Michigan 002
11	Calvin R. Hall	Ohio 001
(Alt)	Ralph W. McClure	Ohio 003
12	Robert Jansky	Illinois 022
13	Johnny F. Garlic	Kentucky 003
(Alt)	Gregory L. Dearborn	Kentucky 003
14	Alice Jean Faulstich	Minnesota 001
(Alt)	William L. Faulstich	Minnesota 001
15	Gregory R. Holloway	Nebraska 007
(Alt)	Eric E. Bertrand	Iowa 015
16	Dennis W. Weber	California 040
(Alt)	Thomas L. King II	California 022
17	A. James Rivers	New Mexico 032
(Alt)	Marion U. Pockrus	Utah 006
18	Gerald L. Ogle	Nevada 012
(Alt)	Floyd W. Buell	Nevada 012
19	Shirley M. Scofield	Idado 028
(Alt)	Ted E. Coltrin	Idaho 002
20	Leroy Hendershot	Texas 005
(Alt)	William P. Brown	Texas 009
21	Robert E. Lougee	Oklahoma 007
Blind Vets	Floyd O. Britting	Blind Veterans 001

Advisors: Rich Surratt

2001 NATIONAL CONVENTION, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA - Continued

District	Name (Delegate and Alternate)	Chapter No. and State

COMMITTEE ON HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES

01	Robert E. Daltry	Massachusetts 089
(Alt)	Ralph D. Hesselton	Massachusetts 082
02	Raymond B. Desmond, Sr	New York 019
(Alt)	Leo Ortiz	New York 005
03	Raymond S. Sanchas	Rhode Island 013
(Alt)	Clifford P. Workman	Maine 015
04	Charles A. Carroll	New Jersey 004
(Alt)	Elwood A. Lechausse	Connecticut 017
05	Jake Balardo	Pennsylvania 014
(Alt)	Darlene Bielecki	Pennsylvania 073
06	Robert T. Reynolds	Virginia 010
(Alt)	Marjorie A. Paugh	West Virginia 036
07	Herbert A. Lewis, Jr	Florida 013
(Alt)	Salvator E. Uccello	Florida 042
08	Harold J. Hicks	Alabama 051
(Alt)	Willie A. Pruitt	Alabama 000
09	William L. Coward, Sr	Georgia 040
(Alt)	Prince Tucker, Jr	South Carolina 055
10	Joseph Parys	Michigan 051
(Alt)	Freeman Shazel, Jr	Michigan 113
11	Jesse R. Stefanics	Ohio 009
(Alt)	George P. Hellwig	Ohio 009
12	Laveral R. Pieper	Wisconsin 003
(Alt)	Desmond Fortner	Illinois 024
13	William T. Caywood	Indiana 060
(Alt)	Bill D. Bottom	Indiana 019
14	Wayne W. Blue	Minnesota 001
(Alt)	Richard C. Amos	South Dakota 001
15	Frederick F. Herman	Nebraska 002
(Alt)	Carl Vleck	Nebraska 002
16	David M. Diehl	California 012
(Alt)	Gary Crossland	California 000
17	Stephen H. Spitzer	New Mexico 003
(Alt)	Edwin G. Cooke	New Mexico 029
18	Gary F. Metzger	Arizona 008
(Alt)	John P. McNeil	Arizona 020
19	Emelda C. Henson	Idaho 002
(Alt)	Laurence J. Koger	Idaho 003
20	Tillman J. Rutledge	Texas 005
(Alt)	Emery C. Wall	Texas 058
21	Frances Liotta	Oklahoma 032
(Alt)	David W. Spurgin	Arkansas 046

Advisors: Elwood Lechausse and Edward E. Hartman

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION AND VETERANS RIGHTS

01	James E. Bixby	Massachusetts 029
(Alt)	Daniel P. Stack	Massachusetts 004
02	Samuel Danial	New York 030
(Alt)	William Novak, Jr	New York 005
03	Norman R. Michaud	Maine 001
(Alt)	Jerry A. Elwell	Maine 001
04	Ginny McAleer-Hujber	New Jersey 032
(Alt)	Anthony Carpiniello	New Jersey 003
05	Charles G. Ofiesh	Pennsylvania 034
(Alt)	James E. Uckele	Pennsylvania 092
06	Jacob N. Stafford	West Virginia 056
(Alt)	Michael D. Sweeney	West Virginia 032
07	Richard E. Giese	Florida 028
(Alt)	Philip J. Condon	Florida 004
08	Roy E. Curran	Louisiana 030
(Alt)	Roy J. Benoit	Louisiana 017
09	Stephen C. Combs	Georgia 009

2001 NATIONAL CONVENTION, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA - Continued

District	Name (Delegate and Alternate)	Chapter No. and State
(Alt)	James R. Murray	North Carolina 012
10	Dennis N. Emery	Michigan 129
(Alt)	Richard Straub III	Michigan 002
11	Thomas K. Keller	Ohio 103
(Alt)	Albert G. DeBliss	Ohio 116
12	James P. Kelly	Wisconsin 001
(Alt)	Farris S. Smith	Illinois 002
13	Joseph S. Carroll	Indiana 052
(Alt)	Ryan C. Pavlu	Indiana 060
14	James V. Hamann	Minnesota 001
(Alt)	Wilson W. Spence III	Minnesota 003
15	Paul E. Cornelius	Kansas 028
(Alt)	John P. Hughes	Missouri 002
16	Delphine Metcalf	California 021
(Alt)	Brandan A. Blackburn	California 007
17	Kenneth B. Wright	Utah 008
(Alt)	Richard Bowman, Jr	Wyoming 002
18	Lyle D. Monson, Sr	Arizona 008
(Alt)	Darl G. Packer	Arizona 008
19	L. A. Stringer, Sr	Idaho 022
(Alt)	Tammy Little Pearson	Oregon 008
20	Jay E. Johnson	Texas 128
(Alt)	Carmen Hix	Texas 009
21	Kevin R. Grantier	Oklahoma 007
Blind Vets	Rubin Martinez	Blind Veterans 001

Advisors: Joseph A. Violante and Thomas L. Tomlinson

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

01	Joseph A. Costa	Massachusetts 056
(Alt)	Thomas J. Daley	Massachusetts 049
02	Sidney Siller	New York 023
(Alt)	Abraham Wolkofsky	New York 023
03	Beth A. Greenwood	Rhode Island 017
(Alt)	Thomas J. Priest	Rhode Island 017
04	Salvatore Lo Sauro	New Jersey 015
(Alt)	Anthony C. Giantonio	New Jersey 032
05	Jim Wyatt	Pennsylvania 115
(Alt)	Craig D. Strauss	Pennsylvania 076
06	Joseph Reeves	Virginia 041
(Alt)	David W. Thomason	Virginia 003
07	Dennis A. Joyner	Florida 104
(Alt)	Albert H. Linden, Jr	Florida 090
08	Joseph D. Weatherford	Tennessee 003
(Alt)	Lisa M. Duncan	Tennessee 095
09	Wallace E. Tyson	North Carolina 046
(Alt)	James E. Phagan	Georgia 001
10	T. A. McMasters III	Michigan 129
(Alt)	James D. Boozer	Michigan 020
11	Verne Nygaard	Ohio 020
(Alt)	Joseph R. Lenhart	Ohio 073
12	Donald Lee Savage	Wisconsin 043
(Alt)	Randy A. Bunting	Illinois 103
13	Michael A. Whelihan	Indiana 052
(Alt)	Willie Williams	Indiana 052
14	Gene A. Murphy	South Dakota 001
(Alt)	Joseph M. Litzinger	North Dakota 002
15	Mick Jones	Missouri 017
(Alt)	Lyle J. Dean	Iowa 010
16	Michael W. Tempesta	California 001
17	Robert N. Moffett	New Mexico 013
(Alt)	Billy O. Hightower	Colorado 025
18	William R. Green	Arizona 002
(Alt)	Jack Franqui, Jr	Arizona 001

District	Name (Delegate and Alternate)	Chapter No. and State
19	Raymond P. Selken	Oregon 001
(Alt)	Helen H. Barkley	Alaska 002
20	Bruce W. Burgess	Texas 005
(Alt)	Rex A. Lloyd	Texas 009
21	Wayne L. Douglass, Sr.	Arkansas 005
(Alt)	Irvin D. Eddy	Oklahoma 057
Blind Vets	Robert H. Dawson	Blind Veterans 001

Advisors: Gene A. Murphy and William E. Leach

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Ladies and gentlemen, please rise, and I will ask National Chaplain to lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN BROWN: Let's bow our heads. Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us unto Him, to His glory and in God throughout all ages and the world without end. May God continue to bless the DAV and the DAVA. Let us say Amen together. Amen.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. The Convention stands in recess until one o'clock.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:25 o'clock a.m., July 30, 2001.)

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

July 30, 2001

The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 80th National Convention convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Fontainebleau Hilton Resort, Miami Beach, Florida, Monday afternoon, July 30, 2001, and was called to order at 1:15 o'clock p.m. by Commander Armando C. Albarran.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: The Convention will please come to order now. Please join me in a salute to the flag.

(Hand salute)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I will now ask Chaplain Brown for prayer.

CHAPLAIN BROWN: We thank Thee, Almighty Father, for permitting us to gather here again today. Bless and keep our absent ones and help each one of us to so live that the world may be a better place for having our lives.

Bless and keep our disabled veterans and help fit each for a long and a useful life. May we, with Thy help, ever be ready to lend a helping hand to each other and everybody of the need. Let us say Amen together. Amen. Thank you.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Chaplain Brown. Intelligence, experience and wise leadership are the hallmark of our organization's management team, and DAV Washington Headquarters Executive Director Dave Gorman certainly embodies all those qualities and more.

Dave has been with the DAV for more than 30 years, making worthy contributions to our mission while gaining valuable experience in both our National Service and National Legislative Departments before assuming his duties as Executive Director of our DAV Washington Headquarters in 1995.

Truly a man of all seasons, Dave Gorman is responsible for the day-to-day performance of our Service, Legislative, and Volunteer Operations and now, here's Dave Gorman to present his report to the convention. Mr. Gorman. (Applause)

MR. DAVID W. GORMAN: Thank you, Commander. Good afternoon. National Commander Albarran, distinguished guests and delegates to the 80th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

As Executive Director of the DAV's National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, it is truly an honor and a privilege to present this annual report to the 80th National

Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

First, I would like to thank National Commander Armando Albarran for his leadership and his dedication to the DAV and our mission to build better lives for this nation's disabled veterans and their families.

Over the past year Commander Albarran has been a forceful advocate for veterans as our National Commander. He has earned the respect of government officials in Washington, D.C., and the admiration of countless people all across this great country of ours.

There's no question about it, ladies and gentlemen. Armando has been a tremendous asset for our cause, and all 2.3 million service-connected disabled veterans and their families have benefited from his efforts on our behalf, and his achievements reflect our mission of service to this nation's veterans.

It has been a great year, Commander, and please accept our sincere thanks and appreciation for all that you have done. We appreciate it. (Applause)

I also want to express my deep gratitude and abiding respect to our National Adjutant, Art Wilson. I can't say enough about how important Art's guidance, his wise counsel and his unwavering support have been for me personally and the rest of us in our efforts to serve you and your families.

Art's vision, his dedication and his commitment have kept DAV's financial house in order, and our programs of service are the model others want to follow.

What's more, he has the unique ability to combine sound business practice with a constant commitment to our mission of compassion and service to veterans.

Under Art's leadership, we have never, in our history, been in better shape to carry on with the work we need to do on behalf of our nation's disabled veterans. We thank you, Art. (Applause)

At Washington Headquarters, our team of Service, Legislation and Voluntary Services and Communications, professional and support staffs alike, all work together toward our shared goal, and that is fulfilling our mission of service and hope for disabled veterans and their families.

I'd like to take a moment and ask those members of the Washington staff who are here and aren't doing other business or with other meetings to please stand and be recognized. (Applause) Thank you.

I also want to acknowledge a very valued member of our very fine team at Washington Headquarters, Executive Secretary Polly Yesuras, who is invaluable in keeping things running smoothly. My heartfelt thanks to Polly and the entire support staff for the tremendous job they do and their dedication to our mission.

None of what we have been able to accomplish in Washington would be possible without the terrific work carried out by National Headquarters Executive Director Rick Patterson and his great staff and our employees in Cold Spring, Kentucky.

Clearly, we would not be nearly as effective in our mission of service without the Auxiliary and all the effort they put forth, and I want to thank them personally for that.

As you know, our National Service Program, under the expert leadership and direction of Ken Wolfe, our National Service Director, is the mainstay of the DAV. It is the finest, the most professional program of its type in the world, second to none.

The National Service Program is the very foundation of the DAV's well-earned reputation as the foremost advocate for disabled veterans and their families.

To make sure that your NSOs continue helping the DAV meet the many challenges we face now and into the future, we make sure they receive only the very best training right from the start of their careers.

We also make sure that they continue to receive advanced training and experience so that the quality of our service programs keeps improving as well.

Since this time last year, 24 NSO trainees from Class 10 of our National Service Officer Training Academy have successfully completed their initial training and have started their on-the-job

training for their careers representing veterans.

Another 21 members of Class 11 began their training on April 23rd of this year and are scheduled to graduate on August 17th. I'm also pleased to inform you that with National Adjutant Wilson's concurrence and authorization, Class 12 will begin January 14th of 2002, followed by Class 13, which will begin June 17th of 2002.

Sometimes we have to take our services to veterans who can't come to us for the help that they need. Last year I reported, as National Adjutant Wilson did this morning, on two new service initiatives, the Mobile Service Office Program and the Transition Service Program.

Both are products and outgrowths of our strategic plan, and I am pleased to inform you that they have met with tremendous success, thus far.

Our fleet of 12 MSOs, staffed by chapter, department and national service officers, have logged nearly 200,000 miles, bringing DAV service to veterans in 667 small communities and towns nationwide.

Let me just tell you a couple of the statistics and results from only the first four months of this program. Over 16,000 interviews have been conducted, more than 6,000 power of attorneys have been secured, nearly 14,000 claims for VA benefits have been filed, and nearly 600 new DAV members have been recruited through the MSO program, and that's not bad for four months' work.

Also this year we trained and deployed 25 highly skilled Transition Service Officers to military installations throughout the country to assist separating active duty personnel making the transition to civilian life.

Also, in the past four months our TSOs have conducted 320 transition presentations to over 14,000 participants. Our TSOs also have interviewed over 6,300 service members, reviewed nearly 5,200 service medical records, obtained nearly 2,700 new power of attorneys in favor of the DAV and have generated nearly 4,000 new claims for VA benefits, and this is before the service member is even released from active duty. We anticipate that this valuable program will continue to grow in the coming year due to its proven success.

The Mobile Service Officer Program and the Transition Service Officer Program are just two examples of our continuing commitment to deliver outreach services. We are providing these veterans with claims assistance, and we are increasing our membership as well.

What's more, we are creating greater public awareness of the DAV and our mission of service.

While we're talking about the National Service Program, I do particularly want to recognize and extend a very special thank you to the governing bodies of the National Service Foundation and the Charitable Service Trust, whose continued commitment and support for our National Service Program have contributed so very much in making it possible for us to keep taking care of veterans.

Of course, our work to assist to you in providing the very best of service would not be possible without the unwavering support of the National Finance Committee. My deepest thanks and appreciation to them also.

If you read DAV magazine, and I know you do, you already know about the many challenges disabled veterans face. Right in the middle of that battle to protect your benefits are Joe Violante and your DAV Legislative Team.

We all owe these folks a great deal of thanks for their efforts to protect our rights. (Applause) Year after year we're faced with the deliberate attacks on veterans' programs, not the least of which continues to be a less than adequate budget for veterans' health care for the coming year.

Congress has passed a budget resolution calling for an increase of just over $1 billion in the VA budget. It sounds like a lot of money, but it's simply not enough. It's not enough because it falls short of what is needed to maintain current service levels and make improvements in critical areas where VA has fallen behind in the past several years.

I say it all the time -- and I mean it -- advocacy is a team effort. The lifeblood and the strength of the DAV's advocacy lies

at the grassroots.

It is there, in your departments and chapters, that the light of our cause burns the brightest. Each and every one of you who are involved in our Grassroots Program should be as proud of yourselves as we are of you.

Please, when you return home, pass on our thanks and appreciation to all the others who have joined in our fight for justice for veterans.

But we must keep up the pressure on Congress and the Administration. They've got to understand that the veterans are expecting them to do the right thing, and that we're watching to see that they do when the time comes for them to stand up for veterans.

One true measure of an individual in an organization can be found in the degree of commitment to a mission or a cause and the degree to which we carry out that commitment. I can stand up here now, today, before you and say that when it comes to volunteers and giving to others, no one does it better than DAV.

Under the leadership of National Director of Voluntary Services, Jerry Steelman, our Voluntary Service Department and our Hospital Service Coordinator Program and the DAV Transportation Network continue to be the envy of the veterans' community, and there's only one reason; each and every one of you and the thousands of DAV and DAV Auxiliary volunteers all across this country who give so much of themselves and yourselves to help improve the lives of your fellow disabled veterans and their families.

The DAV's nationwide transportation program continues to be an indispensable resource for veterans. Across the nation nearly 7,000 volunteer drivers logged more than 26.8 million miles just this last year, taking nearly 800,000 veterans to and from VA medical facilities.

Many of these veterans rode in vans that the DAV has donated to their local medical facility. The VAVS Program, which for more than 56 years now has involved so many of you, is the largest of our volunteer initiatives.

DAV volunteers bring hope and light into the lives of hospitalized veterans and their families every single day, providing needed services in this nation's VA medical facilities.

In fact, we are clearly the unquestioned leader in the VAVS volunteer program. Under our program, more than 8,200 DAV volunteers donated more than 2 million hours over this past year.

This was augmented by a very active corps of nearly 2,000 Auxiliary volunteers who donated another 300,000 hours. Together, the DAV and Auxiliary provided nearly two and a half million hours of voluntary service over the past year in VA medical facilities.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is equivalent to the VA having an additional 1,100 plus full time equivalent employees. Just yesterday, three of our VAVS volunteers were honored for their compassionate and selfless service to hospitalized veterans.

We can be proud of people like this year's Seal Award winners because they are truly dedicated DAV and Auxiliary members who have put disabled veterans first in their lives. They have far exceeded the call to duty to help disabled veterans and we all should be immensely proud of what they do. They are a credit to all of us.

The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, Miracles on a Mountainside, continues to have a profound impact and changes the lives of severely disabled veterans, giving them the self-reliance they need to meet the day-to-day challenges of their disabilities in a positive way.

They learn that barriers and obstacles can be overcome, a valuable and welcomed realization as they prepare to face the realities of everyday life. Just as these veterans have met the personal challenges they confront, so has the DAV as an organization.

We have met the challenges of continuing to provide unparalleled service and claims representation by a corps of highly trained and committed National Service Officers.

Your Legislative team, in partnership with DAV members all across the country, have joined together to surmount the barriers

that could do harm and grave injustices to the health care and benefit services we have earned by virtue of our military service.

And our volunteers, they continue to give of themselves so others in less fortunate situations can have just a little easier go of it, brighten their day a bit and lift their spirits and enhance their quality of life.

The programs that we have in place clearly position the DAV to continue our mission of building better lives for disabled veterans.

This doesn't come easily or without a lot of hard work by a team of very dedicated individuals, and we have a very strong and focused strategic plan to guide us along the way.

Add this to all of you, our members, who know the realities of sacrifice and the resulting life-long disabilities incurred in service to our nation, what emerges from all this is an organization, your organization, the DAV, that is not only prepared, but equipped to meet the future head on with a determination to achieve but a single goal, to accomplish what is right and just for veterans.

Teamwork between chapters, departments and the national organization makes this a reality well within our reach. The DAV is widely recognized as the very best in advocacy and representation.

Members of Congress, the VA and other influential policy makers in Washington listen when the DAV speaks. They may not always agree with us and not do what we want them to do, but they do listen.

That's because your Washington staff has earned its reputation as top-notch professionals, determined and committed to protecting and preserving the rights of our fellow disabled veterans.

Your program directors and their staffs have spent years themselves as advocates and NSOs representing veterans on a daily basis.

They also have some added credibility that others who represent particular groups don't have. They are all service-connected disabled veterans themselves.

To be sure, the staff at National Service and Legislative Headquarters have done an outstanding job for you, providing the very best services to you and your families.

But in spite of everything else, we in Washington would not be able to accomplish all that we have without you, our membership, and that's just a clear fact.

Let me end my report where I began it. Commander, thank you for this year. We have enjoyed and we have respected your presence.

Believe me, sir, you have made a huge impact and a positive difference in countless lives of disabled veterans. And to Art Wilson, Art's constant vision to the future has positioned DAV as a recognized leader in the veterans' community when it comes to providing advocacy and service to veterans.

His leadership and his unwavering commitment and demand for excellence are clearly the driving force behind our success. The result is that we are revolutionizing the manners and the method of providing service and we will continue to do so.

So, on behalf of the entire Washington Headquarters staff, I want to thank you for making it possible and giving us the honor to represent you.

We couldn't do it without each and every one of you and the faith and support you provide us as we carry on the DAV's proud mission of service and hope for America's disabled veterans and their families. Thank you so very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Mr. Gorman, for a very informative report. I will now entertain a motion to accept Mr. David Gorman's report. Mike 3.

NEC 12TH DISTRICT DEMPSEY: Ray Dempsey, 12th District NEC, so moves that we accept the outstanding report from our Executive Director of the Washington Headquarters, Dave Gorman.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. Mike 2.

MR. NORMAN J. RESNER: Norm Resner, Chapter 42, Department of Illinois, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. You heard the motion and the second. All in favor, say aye; against. The aye's have it. So moved.

(The following written annual report was submitted by Mr. Kenneth D. Wolfe, National Service Director:)

The Essence of Achievement

It gives me great pleasure to report to you the current accomplishments of the National Service Department. As part of DAV's Strategic Plan we began the rollout of twelve new Mobile Service Offices (MSOs). These MSOs hit the highways, byways and back roads of America following the initial southern tour kick-offs in California, Florida and Texas in March of this year. In May 2001, these MSOs moved north for kick-off ceremonies in New York, Illinois and Washington. Armed with the latest technology, to include remote dial up access to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Internet, these MSOs are truly National Service Offices on wheels.

As of this report the MSOs including the Chapter, Department and National Service Officers assigned to them have logged nearly 200,000 miles while visiting 667 locations. Those assigned to the MSOs have conducted over 17,500 interviews, secured over 6,600 Powers of Attorney while generating nearly 15,700 claims for VA benefits and recruiting nearly 600 new members. Those seeking assistance are given professional advice and are assisted with their applications for benefits from the VA, Social Security Administration and other government agencies. These MSOs have made their way across rural America in an effort to bring the best available service to veterans and their families.

As I commented earlier this year, DAV is revolutionizing the way we provide service; marking the beginning of the most extensive initiative in the history of our organization. It is a fine example of the DAVs foresight and commitment to the men and women who served and sacrificed for our nation. The major aim and focus of the MSOs are to provide services to veterans and their dependents in remote rural communities.

The program is also a way to revitalize Chapters and Departments through shared participation and interest in this outreach initiative. This program's success has required all elements of DAV and DAV's Auxiliary involvement.

The first quarter of this year revealed another first for DAV. The Transition Service Officer (TSO) Training Academy was held at the Veterans Benefits Administration Training Academy at Baltimore, Maryland. We provided classroom instruction consisting of specialized training in veterans benefits, public speaking, medical terminology, VA regulations and other essential job-related skills.

This class of 19 highly skilled TSOs is now deployed throughout the United States at various military installations. The TSO provides assistance and advice to separating active duty service members concerning veterans benefits including VA disability compensation, education, health care and insurance.

TSOs conduct and participate in transition briefings, review service medical records and confer with VA rating specialists, physicians and others involved in the discharge process. Although TSOs assist claimants in applying for VA related benefits, they do not initiate or perfect appeals, reopen claims, request or conduct personal hearings or present written argument in support of claims for veterans benefits.

These areas will remain the responsibility of DAV's professionally trained National Service Officers (NSOs). In late June of this year DAV hired and professionally trained an additional four TSOs to assist in our pre-discharge initiative. The collective effort of the TSOs, over the past four months, has resulted in 320 presentations to over 14,000 participants.

Of those, our TSOs individually interviewed over 6,300 service members, reviewed nearly 5,100 service medical records, secured over 2,600 new Powers of Attorney and generated nearly 3,700 new claims for VA benefits. We anticipate this valuable program expanding in the coming year due to its proven success.

These two programs are a testament to DAV's commitment to "Building Better Lives for America's Disabled Veterans." Theodore Roosevelt once said in part, **The credit belongs to those who know the great enthusiasms, the great devotion to a worthy cause and who know the triumph of high achievement.** I am happy to say we are in the arena working for the most worthy of causes, **you, the veteran.** The credit belongs to those who take the initiative and fulfill the need of our claimants.

The credit also belongs to those who put forth the extra effort to make these programs of service a reality, and I am pleased to report they are a tremendous success.

National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson along with the support of the National Finance Committee has authorized funding for upgrading our next generation of computers. This will enhance service to and improve satisfaction among our veteran claimants. This upgrade will make our computers faster, more reliable and efficient, in keeping with our commitment of providing the best service available.

On October 12, 2000, our nation was shocked to hear of the cowardly and tragic act of terrorism against the men and women of the USS Cole. As a result of this tragedy 17 crew members lost their lives and another 39 were injured. This year DAV found it only fitting to recognize the crewmembers and their families for their commitment and sacrifice in defense of this great nation.

On March 13, 2001, a delegation of the USS Cole attended ceremonies marking the 25th anniversary of DAV's National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C. During the ceremony, National Commander Albarran and National Adjutant Wilson presented a plaque from the DAV honoring the officers and crew of the USS Cole to Lt. Dennis Gaines, while other crewmembers had the distinct honor of raising our nation's flag near the building's front entrance.

On and around Memorial Day several of our Supervisory NSOs presented 17 flags with display cases to the next of kin of those crewmembers whose lives were tragically taken in the attack on the USS Cole. The flag and display cases are to serve as a permanent reminder that their sacrifice has not gone unnoticed. We gratefully commend all hands of the USS *Cole* for their courageous and heroic efforts.

Last year, I reported to you the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC or Court) decision in ***Morton v. West*** and the Court's misguided interpretation of the regulations concerning the VA's "duty to assist" claimants in the development of their claims. I am pleased to report that with the expertise of our Judicial Appeals Office, DAV's Legislative Staff and the extraordinary grassroots efforts by our membership, we were able to persuade lawmakers to correct this erroneous holding of the Court. **The system failed, and we righted it.**

This again is a reflection of DAV's **achievements** and is best reflected in the words of an anonymous author who said, **"Those who preserve their integrity remain unshaken by the storms of daily life . . . It is their roots . . . it is strength that exists deep within them."** We have weathered the storm and our roots are stronger than ever. We will remain strong in our struggle for quality and the timely processing of claims and for fair compensation for all of America's wartime disabled, their dependents and survivors.

As a result of our collective efforts, the VA is now required to revisit approximately 98,000 claims in conjunction with the "duty to assist" and the Veterans Claims Assistance Act of 2000 or (VCAA). This changed the manner in which VA assists veterans. The current backlog of 500,000 claims has led newly appointed Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi to establish a Claims Processing Task Force to address the issues of quality and timeliness in claims processing.

This Task Force was established under special charter signed by Secretary Principi and is headed by retired Navy Vice Admiral Daniel L. Cooper. It consists of corporate leaders, individuals familiar with and those not so familiar with the VA's adjudication process and, of course, DAV. A final report from the commission is

due on August 16, 2001. You may rest assured this report will contain recommendations to reduce the VA's current backlog while ensuring quality and timeliness. We must ensure this country lives up to its moral obligation to all disabled veterans, their families and survivors.

NSO TRAINING ACADEMY

It seems like only yesterday that I appeared before you and announced a new training initiative for NSOs, the DAV National Service Officer Training Academy. Class I began on November 4, 1994, and graduated 23 National Service Officer Trainees. Here we are some seven years later and I am proud to announce 21 members of Class XI began their training on April 23, 2001, and are scheduled to graduate on August 16 of this year.

I am also pleased to announce that National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson has authorized Classes XII and XIII with classes scheduled to begin January 14th, and June 17th, 2002, respectfully.

NATIONAL AREA SUPERVISORS

On January 6, 2001, with the concurrence of National Commander Armando C. Albarran, National Adjutant Wilson and the National Finance Committee, DAV announced the selection of nine National Area Supervisors. These newly created positions encompass an increased level of oversight through leadership and responsibility.

The primary goal of the National Area Supervisors is to enhance the overall level of service nationwide. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, assisting National Service Offices as an extension of the National Service Director and his staff.

The National Area Supervisors will focus on quality, productivity and morale in evaluating the effectiveness of recently promoted supervisors and assistant supervisors. They will work to ensure DAV's Structured and Continuing Training Program is administered efficiently and effectively. They will assist office supervisors with coordinating out-of-office activities, including the MSO Program, Transition Service Program and other outreach initiatives and will help to oversee recruitment efforts of potential National Service Officer Trainees and Transition Service Officers.

Our new National Area Supervisors are: Daniel P. Stack, Area #1 (Boston, MA); Donald R. Crull, Area #2; (Detroit, MI); Ronald L. Smith Area #3; (Washington, D.C.); Ronald F. Hope Area #4; (Winston-Salem, NC); Andrew H. Marshall; Area #5; (St. Petersburg, FL); Lawrence W. Bouska Area #6; (Sioux Falls, SD); Dennis Nixon, Area #7; (Waco, TX); Hector D. Salgado Area #8; (Albuquerque, NM) and Barry A. Jesinoski, Area #9, (San Diego, CA). Please join me in offering congratulations to these exceptional senior National Service Officers and wish them well in their new positions.

DAV STRUCTURED AND CONTINUING TRAINING PROGRAM

DAV National Service Officers are the catalysts in fulfilling our ongoing mission of providing service to our wartime disabled and their families. Therefore, it is even more essential that training reflect the changes in the laws and regulations affecting veterans benefits.

The DAV's Structured and Continuing Training Program is designed for use by all NSOs and Trainees who have either completed a 16 month on-the-job training program prior to 1994, or graduated from DAV's National Service Officer Training Academy.

The program incorporates extensive training in areas of anatomy, physiology, pathology, medical terminology, communications, legal research and writing, VA laws and regulations, and interpretation of precedent decisions from the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC).

This comprehensive course was developed for the purpose of ensuring effective job-related skills, involving paralegal and paramedical principles necessary in representation of veterans before various levels of the VA, at VA Regional Offices (VAROs), VA

Medical and Regional Office Centers (VAMROCs), the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) and before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Additionally, this training is inherent to representation of active duty military personnel before Medical Evaluation Boards and Physical Evaluation Boards.

Students are instructed by tenured Supervisory NSOs with subject matter expertise. National Service Staff at National Service and Legislative Headquarters administers and monitors the program and the instructors. NSOs are required to pre-test for Parts I and II; successfully completing each training module and through testing following the completion of each of the 32 modules. Full completion of the program requires post-testing of Parts I and II of the program. DAV administers computer-based testing through an Internet service provider and the National Service Staff is issued a weekly computer-generated report of each NSO's progress.

Upon successful completion of the course of instruction the NSO will be able to describe the basic structures and functions of the major human body systems; describe pathophysiological and neuropsychiatric conditions, define related medical terms, employ research methodology necessary to interpret and evaluate and apply VA laws, regulations and court decisions relating to provisions of benefits administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

The Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA or Board) is the highest appellate level of the VA responsible for entering the final decision concerning appellate review for entitlement to veterans benefits. About 90 percent of the claims before the Board involve disability compensation issues. DAV's highly skilled National Appeals Officers (NAOs) provide an invaluable service to appellants in the preparation of informal hearing presentations and conducting formal hearings for BVA review. DAV maintains the largest staff of any advocacy group, representing 32.5 percent of all cases decided by the BVA in 2000.

The DAV's NAOs presented 8,572 formal and informal hearing presentations to the BVA for appellate review. This total continues to reflect that DAV represents the majority of appeals considered by the Board. From those cases considered by the BVA, 529 issues of service connection were favorably resolved; 1,190 issues of increased ratings were allowed; 1,064 miscellaneous issues were established; and 6,571 cases were remanded to VA Regional Offices for additional development. These figures reflect the DAV's continued commitment in providing quality representation to our nation's wartime disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors.

Because of the change in law brought about by the Veterans Claims Assistance Act, a large number of pending cases are being remanded to the Regional Offices for compliance with the duty to assist provisions contained in the new law. Since it would be potentially prejudicial to the appellant to proceed without local review of the issues, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims is also remanding many cases to the Board for further review and application of the VCAA.

The NAOs have been involved in numerous special assignments providing transition assistance services to generals and flag officers of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. They have also provided instruction at DAV's National Service Officer Training Academy and performed itinerant coverage at various National Service Offices. The National Appeals Office has also been involved in the training of National Service Officers attending a two-week comprehensive training program, in part, at the Board of Veterans Appeals. The entire staff is also involved with providing assistance during the DAV's Annual Mid-Winter Conference and other events in our nation's capital.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

The DAV increased its already leading position among veterans service organizations over the past 12 months. The Judicial

Appeals Office not only continues to represent more veterans in appeals to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims than any other service organization, but also increased the number of new appeals filed by more then 25 percent. One hundred fifty-six appeals were filed during the 12 months ending June 30, 2000. However, for the 12 months ended May 31, 2001, 218 new appeals were filed. The Judicial Appeals Office continues to achieve outstanding results for veterans and other claimants.

The CAVC either reversed or vacated and remanded the decision of the Board of Veterans Appeals 110 times in DAV cases during this reporting year. The Board's decision was affirmed only four times during this same period. The DAV is successful in its representation of veterans more than 96 percent of the time. Effective representation is the hallmark of the DAV before the CAVC.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT

Last year I reported that the DAV had become more active before the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (Federal Circuit). That effort bore fruit this year. In *Disabled American Veterans v. VA,* the DAV challenged the VA's new rules governing claims of clear and unmistakable error in prior, final decisions of the Board of Veterans' Appeals. The Federal Circuit agreed with DAV that 38 C.F.R.§ 20.1404(b) as adopted was invalid because it conflicted with the statutory requirement that the Board decide all motions for clear and unmistakable error review on the merits.

In *Barela v. West,* the CAVC held that where a veteran has a service-connected disability and becomes alcohol or drug dependent as a secondary consequence of that disability, i.e., a veteran who uses alcohol for relief from symptoms of chronic pain syndrome or post traumatic stress disorder, the veteran was not entitled to any additional disability compensation based on the disabling effects of the alcohol or drug abuse. The CAVC followed its *Barela* precedent when DAV appealed on behalf of a veteran. The Judicial Appeals Office took a further appeal to the Federal Circuit and a three-judge panel of the Federal Circuit reversed the CAVC's *Barela* decision. This reversal by the Federal Circuit is expected to have far-reaching consequences for veterans.

AUTOMATIC REVIEW OF BOARD DECISIONS

Services provided by the DAV extend to proactively seeking to identify decisions of the Board that should be appealed to the Courts. The Judicial Appeals Office reviews all decisions of the Board in which the DAV represented the appellant and the Board denied benefits. All such Board decisions are automatically referred to the Judicial Appeals Office where they are reviewed for the purpose of determining whether a further appeal to the CAVC should be taken. The Judicial Appeals Office reviewed several thousand such Board decisions during the most recent twelve-month period for which statistics are available. The DAV is one of the few organizations that take this initiative to ensure that wrongful denials are overturned.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Military affairs encompass a host of services provided by NSOs. This past year NSOs represented 104 former service members before the Discharge Review Boards and 212 before the Board of Correction of Military Records.

NSOs also provided counsel and representation for 167 active duty service members during their transition through the military's Disability Evaluation System (DES), which primarily consists of Medical Evaluation Boards (MEB) and formal hearings before Physical

Evaluation Boards (PEB).

For those enlisted soldiers, sailors and airmen as well as officers making the all-important transition back to civilian life, the DAV offers formal Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and Disabled Transition Assistance Program briefings (DTAP). Based on the needs of the community and the military bases being serviced, these seminars range from short oral presentations to others consisting of full VA benefit descriptions, VA medical record reviews and filing of VA claims for disability and educational benefits.

This past year the DAV conducted 277 transition presentations serving more than 180,912 separating veterans. We view these programs and the delivery of DAV services to these separating new veterans as absolutely critical, and we hope to expand and collocate DAV services along with the VA at all military pre-discharge/separation sites.

Our National Appeals Office at the BVA has also initiated a Career Awareness Program (CAP) in the Washington, D. C., area for generals and flag officers of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. We participate by providing these officers with information and assistance, prior to their retirement, on a full range of benefits and services available following their many years of honorable service to our nation.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment is the primary concern for most veterans making their transition to civilian life. A veteran without suitable employment is at a high risk of becoming a veteran in a state of perpetual crisis. A veteran with suitable employment is a veteran in a position to create his or her own solutions, forging a new life as a civilian.

Disabled veterans have historically fared far worse than healthy veterans and other workers in the job market. DAV has spent countless hours devoted to programs aimed at assisting disabled veterans in the job market. The primary goal is to seek legislation to enhance programs and services provided by the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs, the Small Business Administration, the Office of Personnel Management and other government agencies.

DAV believes it is essential to ensure the employment and training rights of all veterans are protected and enhanced. We continue to support adequate funding for Veterans Employment and Training (VETS) including the National Veterans' Training Institute, Small Business Administration, Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program, Local Veterans' Employment Representative and Homeless Programs.

From the National Service Staff, we would like to thank the veterans employment representatives for their untiring efforts. We appreciate your commitment and dedication to disabled veterans. For the record these are the following recipients of the 2001 National Commander's Awards: Richard M. Romley, William Epps Jr., Deloris Waller, Edmund E. Hughes III, Trudy Nelson, Nathan Brown and Ted R. Scribner.

HOMELESS VETERANS

Today the number of homeless male and female Vietnam era veterans is greater than the number of service persons who died during that war—and a small number of Gulf War veterans are also appearing in the homeless population.

Homeless veterans are our ***Nation's Tragedy.*** Homelessness has been a constant presence in America's cities, towns, and rural areas for many years. In the 21st century our nation must fulfill its moral obligation to those who commit themselves to America's defense. A VA report on homeless veterans, issued in May 2000, reflects there were an estimated 345,000 homeless veterans in 1999, an increase of 34 percent above the 1998 estimate of nearly 257,000 homeless veterans.

On June 14, 2001, many of our National Service Officers and

volunteers participated in Stand Down 2001. This was a joint effort of DAV, VA and community-based organizations to bring public awareness to the tragic fact that men and women who served to preserve our nation's freedoms are homeless.

Last year the VA in collaboration with DAV and other community-based organizations participated in an ambitious goal to host 200 stand-down events in 47 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. This goal was part of VA's Millennium Initiative Stand Down 2000, recognized by the White House Millennium Council, serving tens of thousands of homeless veterans and their families.

The VA has recognized the DAV Homeless Veterans Initiative for its outstanding programs to provide food, clothing and access to medical treatment and counseling to tens of thousands of homeless veterans. The DAV has donated more than $1 million to local programs designed to help America's homeless veterans break the cycle of poverty and isolation and move from the streets to self-sufficiency.

DISASTER RELIEF

When a natural catastrophe strikes, misfortune falls on everyone in the affected area. During these trying times, DAV NSOs and our Chapters and Departments go to the areas, search out disabled veterans and provide assistance where needed. So very often, this fund has made the difference for disabled veterans who needed temporary shelter, food and clothing. This past year we have provided 43 disaster relief grants to veterans and their families totaling $21,500. This is evidence of how the National Organization, Chapters and Departments work together to assist our disabled veterans in the midst of a crisis. We must ensure we continue to take care of disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors.

WOMEN VETERANS

Today women make up 14 percent of our armed forces. By the year 2010, women will comprise well over 10 percent of the veteran population. Although increasing numbers of women are choosing military service they still use VA health care and other earned benefits at lower rates than their male counterparts.

In an effort to be more responsive to women veterans, the VA has developed a number of programs and services to meet their unique health care needs. Still, much more needs to be done. DAV continues to be concerned about the quality of care women veterans receive at VA facilities, including privacy and safety issues and continued research on women's health issues. We continue to monitor women veterans' ability to access counseling and treatment for sexual trauma, appropriate gender specific medications, maternity and infertility care, treatment programs for substance-abuse disorders, PTSD and homelessness.

DAV fully supports a model of integrated quality health care services designed to enhance the physical and mental well being of women veterans. Therefore, we are concerned about the decrease in the number of clinics dedicated to women's health care and the trend to mainstream women's care into primary care clinics. Increasing numbers of women are enrolling and using the VA health care system. The system must be responsible and accommodate their specific needs. We continue to advocate for women veterans' equal access to primary, gender-specific and preventative health care in a safe and private setting.

Equally important is the role of VA Women Veterans Coordinators as advocates and outreach specialists. Medical centers and regional offices need to have full-time Women Veterans Coordinators to assure women's awareness and access to health care and other needed services. They are important monitors of disparities in women's health care services provided throughout the system. Additionally, community-based outpatient clinics must have necessary medical and psychological services available for women veterans. Providers of care to women veterans must be clinically competent to provide gender-specific care.

Unfortunately since May 2001, there has been a vacancy of the Directorate at the Center for Women Veterans. We are hopeful that VA Secretary Principi will expeditiously fill this void in leadership. The Center plays a pivotal role in ensuring women veterans' issues are addressed and that they receive benefits and services on par with male veterans.

The Disabled American Veterans has always recognized the contributions and sacrifices women veterans have made for our country. The DAV is continuing its advocacy and outreach for women veterans through its own women veterans advisory committee, made up of women veterans from DAV's membership and through its representation on the VA Advisory Committee for Women Veterans.

GULF WAR

The DAV remains committed to ensuring that Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from illnesses related to their military service are provided appropriate health care and compensation for their disabilities. Unfortunately, a decade after the start of the Gulf War, many veterans still suffer from a variety of maladies, chronic multi-symptom ailments and undiagnosed illnesses, many of which remain unexplained.

In January 2001, over 300 medical and scientific researchers met in Alexandria, Virginia, for the fifth annual gathering of experts studying the illnesses of Gulf War veterans. The conference was sponsored by the Research Working Group of the Military and Veterans Health Coordinating Board, established in 1994 to plan and coordinate Gulf War-related research projects. Researchers, clinicians and government officials concerned with the health consequences of the Gulf War shared information and presented study results during the three-day event. To date, the federal government has sponsored 192 Gulf War-related research projects costing $155 million.

On January 17, 2001, then Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Hershel W. Gober announced the latest medical research does not justify granting presumptive service connection for illnesses affecting veterans after serving in the Gulf War. The VA based its decision on the Institute of Medicine (IOM) study released in September 2000, which looked at more than 10,000 published scientific studies related to four potential causes of Gulf War illnesses, including depleted uranium, sarin (a nerve gas), vaccines and pyridostigmine bromide (a medication used to protect troops from nerve gas). The only significant findings from the study were a link between some medical problems and exposure to high levels of sarin gas. However, VA said that there was no evidence that U.S. troops were exposed to *high* levels of sarin during the Gulf War.

Since November 1996, the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses has published numerous case narratives, information papers and environmental exposure reports. However, it cannot confirm that any one exposure source is responsible for the health problems of Gulf War veterans. In 2001, the Department of Defense (DoD) established a new position to advise the Secretary of Defense on the health aspects of deployments. The former Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses, Dr. Bernard Rostker, was appointed Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments.

The DAV continues to monitor and provide feedback to the VA and DoD committees dealing with Gulf War research and health-related issues. We also continue to keep Gulf War veterans advised of scientific findings concerning research projects, health study outcomes and health consequences resulting from exposure to toxic substances.

RETIREMENTS

Our experienced professional NSOs who have retired this past year will forever denote a successful page in the DAV's history. These men and women served their country in her hour of need and returned home, many with deep scars of war, to serve their comrades

as advocates for fair and equitable benefits. From the National Service Staff, we wish each of these NSOs good health and happiness during retirement. We appreciate their commitment and dedication to our cause. For the record those who retired this past year are: Daniel Barry, David Baxter, Patricia Bracciale, Jack Corson, James Gray, Michael Kiser, Philip Kreisa, George Martin, Michael Mastrean, David McCord, Kenneth Warr, and Mark Winn.

DEATHS

The ranks of our departed comrades who provided services to so many and changed the quality of life for scores of disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors increases. We shall recall and preserve the legacy of the following departed NSOs: Benny Dunakoskie, Ronald Moschella, James Combs, and Henry Veillette.

CONCLUSION

At this time I would like to recognize and appreciate the professionalism, leadership, commitment, and personal sacrifice made by our elected National Commander Armando C. Albarran and all of the National Line Officers, members of the National Executive Committee, National Finance Committee, and all of the Officers and Board of Directors for both the National Service Foundation and Charitable Service Trust. We extend our thanks and salute them for a job well done.

I would like to thank National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson and National Headquarters Executive Director Richard E. Patterson and his staff for the support provided to the National Service Department. And I thank Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman for his steadfast guidance, direction and active involvement in helping to manage the National Service Department. I also thank National Legislative Director Joseph A. Violante, National Director of Voluntary Services Jerry P. Steelman, National Director of Communications Gary C. Weaver; National Director of Human Resources Gregory M. Jackson, National Director of Charitable Programs Nancy L. O'Brien, National Membership Director Michael J. Walsh, and all of their staffs for the assistance they have provided the National Service Department.

Appreciation is also extended to former National Service Director for Employment, Anthony L. Baskerville, currently the Deputy Director of Human Resources, Assistant National Service Director Robert P. Plante, Assistant National Service Director Edward R. Reese, Jr., Associate National Service Director Brian E. Austin, and to our devoted Service Support Staff Specialists.

To the spirit of cooperation with the DAV Auxiliary and assistance from the Chapters Service Officers, Department Service Officers, Hospital Service Coordinators and Transition Service Officers, thank you for your support that has greatly contributed to our success. Last, but most important of all, we thank our loyal and dedicated professional corps of National Service Officers and support staff who advocate on behalf of veterans, their dependents and survivors, who deliver the service mandated by DAV's chartered purpose.

Let us continue this march together, securing the rights of those who fought to preserve our freedom and those who are currently serving in hostile environments. Now, it's our turn to preserve their freedom. It's our mission of "Building better lives for all our nation's disabled veterans and their families."

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
Recapitulation of Service Activities
July 1, 2000 Through June 30, 2001

Office: Montgomery, Alabama

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	398
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,092
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,004
4.	PENSION	258
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	91
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	2
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	379
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	81
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	32
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	37
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	16
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	3,391
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,036,953.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$37,685,270.87
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$39,722,223.87
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	2,704
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,547
22.	INTERVIEWS	2,995
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,148
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	6
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,939
27.	MEMBERSHIP	111

Office: Phoenix, Arizona

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	656
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,716
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	846
4.	PENSION	248
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	77
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	451
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	82
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	70
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	8
13.	INSURANCE	1
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	42
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	4,199
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$3,000,510.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$45,294,235.19
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$48,294,745.19
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	3,109
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,814
22.	INTERVIEWS	3,359
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,160
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	273
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	4,092
27.	MEMBERSHIP	206

Office: Little Rock, Arkansas

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	328
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	947
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,326
4.	PENSION	415

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	50
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	2
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	565
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	92
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	70
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	73
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	83
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	3,951
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,345,847.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$33,729,522.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$36,075,369.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	11,639
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,183
22.	INTERVIEWS	4,342
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	10,165
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	389
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	35
26.	NEW CLAIMS	5,241
27.	MEMBERSHIP	92

Office: Los Angeles, California

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	932
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,669
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,495
4.	PENSION	405
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	218
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	736
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	190
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	118
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	65
13.	INSURANCE	10
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	138
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	5,976
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$3,194,498.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$60,785,477.24
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$63,979,975.24
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	9,609
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,321
22.	INTERVIEWS	4,435
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,495
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,560
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	3,048
27.	MEMBERSHIP	140

Office: San Francisco, California

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	958
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,742
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,190
4.	PENSION	138
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	818
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	1
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	473
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	116
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	59
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	4

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	46
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	5,546
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$3,240,272.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$60,356,969.75
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$63,597,241.75
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	4,955
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,073
22.	INTERVIEWS	2,601
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,621
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	10
26.	NEW CLAIMS	2,632
27.	MEMBERSHIP	291

Office: Denver, Colorado

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	790
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,017
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	693
4.	PENSION	82
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	617
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	1
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,065
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	104
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	48
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	125
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	28
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	4,570
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,724,689.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$39,118,065.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$41,842,754.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	3,594
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,565
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,793
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,583
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	60
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	3
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,469
27.	MEMBERSHIP	218

Office: Hartford, Connecticut

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	89
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	324
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	245
4.	PENSION	19
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	26
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	231
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	7
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	12
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	0
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	959
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$528,308.10
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$9,010,221.89
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$9,538,529.99
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	849

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	257
22.	INTERVIEWS	355
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	629
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	443
27.	MEMBERSHIP	32

Office: VA Regional Office Washington, D.C.

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	319
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	789
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	693
4.	PENSION	64
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	595
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	426
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	54
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	49
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	8
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	15
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	52
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	3,066
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,219,249.11
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$36,686,872.86
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$38,906,121.97
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	2,188
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	689
22.	INTERVIEWS	3,169
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,363
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	864
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	4
26.	NEW CLAIMS	956
27.	MEMBERSHIP	63

Office: St. Petersburg, Florida

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,666
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	3,553
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,285
4.	PENSION	466
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	124
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,242
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	122
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	189
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	62
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	178
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	10,887
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$6,779,739.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$108,482,581.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$115,262,320.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	13,613
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,886
22.	INTERVIEWS	6,377
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	10,087
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	7,005
27.	MEMBERSHIP	302

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

Office: Atlanta, Georgia

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	390
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,024
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	853
4.	PENSION	214
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	56
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	333
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	16
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	45
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	53
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	45
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	3,029
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,017,721.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$33,646,939.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$35,664,660.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	3,003
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,563
22.	INTERVIEWS	3,247
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,778
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,277
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,823
27.	MEMBERSHIP	53

Office: Honolulu, Hawaii

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	175
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	244
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	259
4.	PENSION	7
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	8
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	13
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	5
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	10
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	0
13.	INSURANCE	2
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	23
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	746
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$560,117.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$11,259,704.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$11,819,821.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	822
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	358
22.	INTERVIEWS	851
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	733
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	372
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	601
27.	MEMBERSHIP	80

Office: Boise, Idaho

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	183
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	576
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	321
4.	PENSION	94
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	119
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	12

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	273
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	7
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	12
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	6
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	3
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	1,607
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$1,068,809.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$14,176,115.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$15,244,924.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	1,231
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	708
22.	INTERVIEWS	2,412
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,231
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,036
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	32
26.	NEW CLAIMS	2,809
27.	MEMBERSHIP	75

Office: Chicago, Illinois

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	531
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	886
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	732
4.	PENSION	307
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	209
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	291
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	106
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	46
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	43
13.	INSURANCE	3
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	63
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	3,217
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$1,807,301.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$26,260,895.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$28,068,196.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	3,560
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,140
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,952
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,202
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,281
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	2,285
27.	MEMBERSHIP	136

Office: Indianapolis, Indiana

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	339
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	983
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	577
4.	PENSION	290
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	130
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	375
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	228
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	54
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12.	DEATH PENSION	46
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	8

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,034
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$1,894,004.15
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$21,793,990.80
19. FULL AMOUNT	$23,687,994.95
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,560
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	621
22. INTERVIEWS	1,248
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,076
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	8
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,477
27. MEMBERSHIP	89

Office: Des Moines, Iowa

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	27
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	277
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	539
4. PENSION	142
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	130
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	94
8. MISCELLANEOUS	15
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	14
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	13
13. INSURANCE	4
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	8
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,363
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$1,184,725.69
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$15,107,289.45
19. FULL AMOUNT	$16,292,015.14
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	938
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	579
22. INTERVIEWS	518
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,785
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	810
27. MEMBERSHIP	64

Office: Wichita, Kansas

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	87
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	346
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	347
4. PENSION	53
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	264
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	159
8. MISCELLANEOUS	30
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	28
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	46
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	53
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,415
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$770,141.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$11,857,574.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	$12,627,715.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,322
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	792
22. INTERVIEWS	1,910
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	965

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	2,363
27.	MEMBERSHIP	14

Office: Louisville, Kentucky

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	453
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,184
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,149
4.	PENSION	951
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	110
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	89
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	45
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	65
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	7
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	173
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	16
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	4,242
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,676,822.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$47,799,447.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$50,476,269.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	4,277
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,093
22.	INTERVIEWS	2,132
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,689
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	254
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	5,457
27.	MEMBERSHIP	101

Office: New Orleans, Louisiana

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	204
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	895
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	861
4.	PENSION	241
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	131
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	1
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	316
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	50
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	22
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	27
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	4
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	2
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	2,754
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$3,242,168.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$27,086,568.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$30,328,736.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	3,116
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	695
22.	INTERVIEWS	2,106
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,632
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	3
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,952
27.	MEMBERSHIP	87

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

Office: Togus, Maine

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	158
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	465
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	312
4.	PENSION	24
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	11
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	144
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	1
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	17
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	0
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	13
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	1,147
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$936,686.15
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$12,310,659.28
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$13,247,345.43
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	1,364
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	413
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,724
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	817
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,172
27.	MEMBERSHIP	162

Office: Baltimore, Maryland

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	211
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	522
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	284
4.	PENSION	63
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	292
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	276
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	41
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	17
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	2
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	18
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	1,726
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$1,024,719.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$14,543,240.20
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$15,567,959.20
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	1,856
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	343
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,315
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,034
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,026
27.	MEMBERSHIP	36

Office: Boston, Massachusetts

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	473
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,389
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	877
4.	PENSION	129
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	34
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	384
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	22
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	44
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	11
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	42
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	3,406
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,299,290.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$36,760,267.20
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$39,059,557.20
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	6,545
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,339
22.	INTERVIEWS	4,263
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,618
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	3,099
27.	MEMBERSHIP	355

Office: Detroit, Michigan

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	240
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	783
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	631
4.	PENSION	435
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	419
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	264
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	97
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	87
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	112
13.	INSURANCE	4
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	214
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	3,286
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$1,736,767.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$27,425,334.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$29,162,101.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	6,630
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,575
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,061
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,261
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	5,511
27.	MEMBERSHIP	44

Office: St. Paul, Minnesota

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	605
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	864
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	769
4.	PENSION	168
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	53
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	370
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	34
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	55
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	73
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	32

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	3,025
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,348,806.82
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$34,338,995.28
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$36,687,802.10
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	4,252
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,463
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,163
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,891
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	3,340
27.	MEMBERSHIP	220

Office: Jackson, Mississippi

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	107
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	386
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	408
4.	PENSION	167
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	32
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	81
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	19
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	24
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	18
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	1,249
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$803,957.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$12,250,363.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$13,054,320.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	1,064
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	388
22.	INTERVIEWS	691
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	808
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,210
27.	MEMBERSHIP	38

Office: St. Louis, Missouri

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	615
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,225
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,574
4.	PENSION	313
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	120
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	550
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	84
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	68
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12.	DEATH PENSION	14
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	45
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	4,611
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$3,678,189.46
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$46,856,366.73
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$50,534,556.19
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	4,100
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,774
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,797

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,861
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	208
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	10
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,788
27. MEMBERSHIP	105

Office: Fort Harrison, Montana

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	69
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	215
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	115
4. PENSION	89
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	1
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	17
8. MISCELLANEOUS	1
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	4
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	9
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	522
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$342,717.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$5,600,107.50
19. FULL AMOUNT	$5,942,824.50
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,035
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	453
22. INTERVIEWS	1,526
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	559
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	382
27. MEMBERSHIP	57

Office: Lincoln, Nebraska

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	434
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	787
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	320
4. PENSION	77
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	53
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	142
8. MISCELLANEOUS	53
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	35
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	6
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	34
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,944
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$1,117,690.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$12,273,439.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	$13,391,129.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,010
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	466
22. INTERVIEWS	190
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,187
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	14
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	813
27. MEMBERSHIP	52

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

Office: Manchester, New Hampshire

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	106
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	375
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	379
4.	PENSION	22
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	28
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	142
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	5
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	12
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	1
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	1,071
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$782,440.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$10,369,513.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$11,151,953.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	869
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	182
22.	INTERVIEWS	778
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,027
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	8
26.	NEW CLAIMS	421
27.	MEMBERSHIP	51

Office: Newark, New Jersey

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	278
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	459
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	689
4.	PENSION	28
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	10
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	103
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	58
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	28
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	4
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	25
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	1,682
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$964,398.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$18,198,236.20
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$19,162,634.20
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	3,522
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,357
22.	INTERVIEWS	2,733
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,415
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	4
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,761
27.	MEMBERSHIP	89

Office: Albuquerque, New Mexico

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	465
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,074
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	516
4.	PENSION	177
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	253
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	2

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	253
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	35
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	37
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	21
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	24
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	25
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	2,882
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,192,058.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$33,780,985.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$35,973,043.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	2,965
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,239
22.	INTERVIEWS	3,581
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,797
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	16
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	45
26.	NEW CLAIMS	2,504
27.	MEMBERSHIP	228

Office: New York, New York

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	456
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,268
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,152
4.	PENSION	134
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	58
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	29
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	67
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	50
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	6
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	0
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	90
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	3,310
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,726,373.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$42,909,714.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$45,636,087.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	5,230
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,235
22.	INTERVIEWS	3,628
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,064
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	3
26.	NEW CLAIMS	2,169
27.	MEMBERSHIP	132

Office: Albany, New York

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINE	0
4.	PENSION	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	0
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	0
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$0.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$0.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$0.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	21
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	370
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,723
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	15
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	598
27.	MEMBERSHIP	110

Office: Buffalo, New York

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	251
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	652
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	727
4.	PENSION	49
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	269
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	1
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,126
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	13
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	32
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	4
13.	INSURANCE	1
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	25
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	3,150
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,025,219.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$28,677,663.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$30,702,882.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	6,077
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	473
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,567
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,396
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,455
27.	MEMBERSHIP	83

Office: Syracuse, New York

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4.	PENSION	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	1
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	0
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	1
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$524.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$70,694.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$71,218.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	217
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	360
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,581

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	12
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	5
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	16
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,681
27. MEMBERSHIP	64

Office: Winston-Salem, North Carolina

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	426
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,464
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,036
4. PENSION	205
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	632
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	716
8. MISCELLANEOUS	76
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	45
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	9
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	16
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,626
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$3,060,247.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$52,154,100.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	$55,214,347.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,594
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,515
22. INTERVIEWS	2,533
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,824
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	88
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	22
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,229
27. MEMBERSHIP	77

Office: Fargo, North Dakota

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	213
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	437
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	320
4. PENSION	119
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	113
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	228
8. MISCELLANEOUS	30
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	18
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	51
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	17
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,546
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$894,618.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$13,484,425.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	$14,379,043.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,063
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	572
22. INTERVIEWS	1,236
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	948
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,371
27. MEMBERSHIP	96

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

Office: Cleveland, Ohio

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	396
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,226
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,051
4.	PENSION	344
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	4,103
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	582
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	71
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	90
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	17
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	972
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	49
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	9,901
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$6,791,358.14
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$88,838,458.48
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$95,629,816.62
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	8,357
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,810
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,155
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,431
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	3,731
27.	MEMBERSHIP	69

Office: Cincinnati, Ohio

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4.	PENSION	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	1
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	0
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	1
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$1,345.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$16,140.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$17,485.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	67
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	731
22.	INTERVIEWS	713
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	33
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	372
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	3
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,420
27.	MEMBERSHIP	39

Office: Muskogee, Oklahoma

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	447
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	989
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	917
4.	PENSION	351
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	345
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	85
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	113
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	47
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	67
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	7
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	3,368
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,131,751.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$29,635,975.72
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$31,767,726.72
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	975
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,532
22.	INTERVIEWS	2,260
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,296
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,647
27.	MEMBERSHIP	134

Office: Portland, Oregon

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	191
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	789
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	487
4.	PENSION	271
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	96
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	427
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	35
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	21
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12.	DEATH PENSION	20
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	33
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	2,371
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,189,952.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$30,060,276.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$32,250,228.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	2,228
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	751
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,273
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,004
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,818
27.	MEMBERSHIP	91

Office: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	330
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,149
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	663
4.	PENSION	203
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	135
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	319
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	83
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	26
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	29
13.	INSURANCE	11
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	8

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	2,956
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$1,760,675.48
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$30,145,607.54
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$31,906,283.02
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	3,662
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,244
22.	INTERVIEWS	2,335
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,692
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,902
27.	MEMBERSHIP	125

Office: Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4.	PENSION	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	0
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	0
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$0.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$0.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$0.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	0
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	98
22.	INTERVIEWS	364
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	0
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	254
27.	MEMBERSHIP	0

Office: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	260
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	791
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	810
4.	PENSION	268
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	59
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	226
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	75
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	30
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	33
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	28
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	2,580
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$1,601,359.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$25,537,979.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$27,139,338.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	2,856
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	840
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,217

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,669
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,442
27.	MEMBERSHIP	196

Office: Providence, Rhode Island

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	141
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	483
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	201
4.	PENSION	40
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	11
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	144
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	4
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	27
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	6
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	26
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	1,083
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$897,190.56
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$13,289,543.56
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$14,186,734.12
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	1,638
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	379
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,539
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	717
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	814
27.	MEMBERSHIP	117

Office: Columbia, South Carolina

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	313
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	911
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	940
4.	PENSION	145
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	83
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	802
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	53
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	32
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	7
13.	INSURANCE	2
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	17
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	3,306
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,817,937.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$31,034,517.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$33,852,454.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	2,059
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	751
22.	INTERVIEWS	3,424
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,322
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	36
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	2,640
27.	MEMBERSHIP	144

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

Office: Sioux Falls, South Dakota

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	156
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	328
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	286
4.	PENSION	66
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	61
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	192
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	33
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	17
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	24
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	14
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	1,177
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$692,893.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$9,879,594.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$10,572,487.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	1,229
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	286
22.	INTERVIEWS	658
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	906
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,087
27.	MEMBERSHIP	192

Office: Nashville, Tennessee

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	347
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	955
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,039
4.	PENSION	365
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	151
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	421
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	72
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	40
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	52
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	32
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	3,477
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,147,367.47
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$32,642,542.18
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$34,789,909.65
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	3,043
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,689
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,319
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,125
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	16
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	6
26.	NEW CLAIMS	2,141
27.	MEMBERSHIP	76

Office: Waco, Texas

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	845
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,472
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,857
4.	PENSION	702
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	401
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,099
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	390
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	100
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	10
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	82
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	50
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	8,008
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$4,268,301.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$74,059,173.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$78,327,474.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	9,311
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,079
22.	INTERVIEWS	2,694
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,329
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,036
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	5,866
27.	MEMBERSHIP	197

Office: Houston, Texas

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	955
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,813
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,685
4.	PENSION	312
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	1,080
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	589
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	39
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	60
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	247
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	41
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	6,821
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$4,131,947.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$66,637,456.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$70,769,403.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	7,059
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,806
22.	INTERVIEWS	3,257
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,580
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26.	NEW CLAIMS	3,266
27.	MEMBERSHIP	152

Office: San Antonio, Texas

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	30
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	1
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4.	PENSION	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	0
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	71
16. TOTAL AWARDS	102
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$145,760.50
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$2,120,848.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	$2,266,608.50
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	275
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,326
22. INTERVIEWS	5,689
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	63
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	452
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,421
27. MEMBERSHIP	92

Office: Salt Lake City, Utah

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	266
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	406
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	494
4. PENSION	50
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	8
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	113
8. MISCELLANEOUS	6
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	10
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	4
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	7
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,364
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$1,032,792.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$14,462,876.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	$15,495,668.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,297
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	565
22. INTERVIEWS	950
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,747
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	998
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	712
27. MEMBERSHIP	57

Office: White River Junction, Vermont

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	73
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	208
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	154
4. PENSION	17
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	16
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	26
8. MISCELLANEOUS	1
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	8
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	2
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	506
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$416,340.76
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$5,811,240.97
19. FULL AMOUNT	$6,227,581.73
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,197
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	357
22. INTERVIEWS	3,039

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,906
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,961
27.	MEMBERSHIP	91

Office: Roanoke, Virginia

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	460
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	744
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	928
4.	PENSION	207
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	85
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	540
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	15
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	25
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	6
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	31
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	3,041
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,059,245.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$29,824,539.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$31,883,784.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	2,502
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	869
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,640
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,433
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	2,173
27.	MEMBERSHIP	178

Office: Seattle, Washington

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,348
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,360
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,103
4.	PENSION	139
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	67
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	522
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	26
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	38
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12.	DEATH PENSION	16
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	31
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	4,653
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,836,354.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$52,328,870.50
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$55,165,224.50
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	4,543
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,006
22.	INTERVIEWS	2,726
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,459
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	4,250
27.	MEMBERSHIP	69

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

Office: Huntington, West Virginia

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	241
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	554
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	397
4.	PENSION	198
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	80
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	141
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	66
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	8
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	16
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	13
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	1,714
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$1,328,075.04
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$17,940,176.25
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$19,268,251.29
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	1,659
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	390
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,417
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,480
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,152
27.	MEMBERSHIP	30

Office: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	340
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	933
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,053
4.	PENSION	293
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	204
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	1
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	600
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	60
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	120
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	39
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	170
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	3,813
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,561,680.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$32,823,487.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$35,385,167.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	3,829
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,464
22.	INTERVIEWS	2,031
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,454
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	3
26.	NEW CLAIMS	3,722
27.	MEMBERSHIP	136

Office: Cheyenne, Wyoming

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	59
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	96
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	115
4.	PENSION	37
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	104
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	109
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	11
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	5
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	9
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	546
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$302,919.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$4,038,340.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$4,341,259.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	576
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	207
22.	INTERVIEWS	546
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	385
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	415
27.	MEMBERSHIP	17

Office: Wilmington, Delaware

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	41
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	137
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	72
4.	PENSION	20
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	11
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	6
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	1
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	6
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	3
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	298
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$174,882.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$2,982,666.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$3,157,548.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	682
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	84
22.	INTERVIEWS	436
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	229
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	393
27.	MEMBERSHIP	4

Office: Dallas, Texas

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4.	PENSION	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	7
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	0
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	8
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$0.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$0.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$0.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	396
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	827
22.	INTERVIEWS	8,698
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	12
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	8
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,724
27.	MEMBERSHIP	12

Office: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4.	PENSION	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	0
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	0
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$0.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$0.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$0.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	18
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	591
22.	INTERVIEWS	1,914
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	0
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,168
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26.	NEW CLAIMS	866
27.	MEMBERSHIP	38

Office: San Diego, California

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,448
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	932
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	601
4.	PENSION	112
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	41
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	792
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	55
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	30
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	1
13.	INSURANCE	5
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	33
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	4,051
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$2,120,144.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$36,375,785.97
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$38,495,929.97
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	5,306
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,046
22.	INTERVIEWS	5,048

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,036
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	631
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	3,818
27.	MEMBERSHIP	255

Office: Reno, Nevada

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	227
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	587
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	361
4.	PENSION	120
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	65
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	268
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	43
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	9
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	5
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	14
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	1,699
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$1,126,768.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$15,989,594.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$17,116,362.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	1,097
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	637
22.	INTERVIEWS	984
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	887
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,031
27.	MEMBERSHIP	50

Office: Miami, Florida

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	5
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4.	PENSION	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	0
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	5
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$0.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$0.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$0.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	222
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	100
22.	INTERVIEWS	3,477
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	0
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	56
27.	MEMBERSHIP	17

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

Office: San Juan, Puerto Rico

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	54
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	296
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	490
4.	PENSION	145
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	336
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	328
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	17
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	22
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	101
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	4
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	1,794
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$1,743,893.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$18,340,516.16
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$20,084,409.16
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	1,693
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	778
22.	INTERVIEWS	2,258
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	930
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	26
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,006
27.	MEMBERSHIP	28

Office: Norfolk, Virginia

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4.	PENSION	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	0
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	0
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$0.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$0.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$0.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	300
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,397
22.	INTERVIEWS	618
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	0
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	4,290
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	1,068
27.	MEMBERSHIP	23

Office: NAS Miramar San Diego, California

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4.	PENSION	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	0

Recapitulation of Service Activities - Continued

7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12.	DEATH PENSION	0
13.	INSURANCE	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	0
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$0.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$0.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$0.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	0
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	0
22.	INTERVIEWS	0
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	0
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	44,873
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS	0
27.	MEMBERSHIP	0

Office: TOTAL NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE REPORT

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	22,706
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED	49,789
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	43,228
4.	PENSION	10,998
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED	13,693
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY	26
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS	20,667
8.	MISCELLANEOUS	3,262
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION	2,287
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	128
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	4
12.	DEATH PENSION	2,831
13.	INSURANCE	43
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1,994
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	123
16.	TOTAL AWARDS	171,779
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	$113,507,503.43
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	$1,706,958,042.77
19.	FULL AMOUNT	$1,820,465,546.20
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED	198,579
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS	77,041
22.	INTERVIEWS	142,571
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	141,990
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS	61,590
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	251
26.	NEW CLAIMS	141,728
27.	MEMBERSHIP	6,782

(The following written annual report was submitted by Mr. Jerry P. Steelman, National Director of Voluntary Services:)

NATIONAL COMMANDER ARMANDO C. ALBARRAN, NATIONAL OFFICERS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND DELEGATES TO THE 80th NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS.

Ours is an organization that will always remember the sacrifices of disabled veterans and for 56 years now we have demonstrated this through the DAV and Auxiliary VAVS programs.

Today I would like to take a moment to salute all of those DAV and DAV Auxiliary members who have made our organization and its programs the envy of the veterans' community. Although this report focuses on the past year's successes, let's also focus on the future.

While we can and should be proud of our achievements, we must also look ahead. Let us focus on innovation in volunteerism. Let us focus on where the DAV and Auxiliary will find new volunteers to

meet the growing needs of veterans, particularly those who are aging. If you're not already in the ranks of our volunteers, we need you.

We need your time, your sensitivities, your ideas, and your help in making certain that America's veterans get the care they deserve.

Our volunteer programs have withstood the test of time and will continue to soar to new heights in the years to come.

As you consider your own possible future role in our volunteer effort, please remember that there are more than enough opportunities to go around -- not only at VA medical centers but also in the communities where veterans live. Think of the unused skills and talents in our membership ranks!

Think of the services we could offer veterans if more of us became involved!

The following program descriptions present statistics totaling the money spent, the hours donated, and the number of people who participate in our volunteer effort. These figures can never fully represent the leadership and unselfish assistance provided by State VAVS Chairmen, Hospital Representatives, Deputies, and individual volunteers.

No one can put a price on programs like transportation to medical treatment, direct patient care, entertainment, and recreational and sporting activities. No one can place a monetary value on doing for older veterans what they can no longer do for themselves.

Nor could we place a dollar sign in front of the friendship one veteran extends to another...or the love an Auxiliary member holds out to a family much like her own. The statistics in this report merely measure what DAV members, DAV families, and DAV friends have done in accomplishing our organization's purpose. They cannot measure the gift our volunteers offer or the reward they receive in their own hearts.

DAV DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICES PROGRAM

The DAV VAVS program is the largest of the DAV's volunteer initiatives. Through it, DAV volunteers provide a broad array of services to veterans in our nation's VA medical facilities. Under this program, 8,208 DAV VAVS volunteers donated 1,973,995 hours in the 12 months ending March 31, 2001.

With a group this large and the huge number of assignments they perform, you can imagine the extensive management effort that's carried out on a local level by 12 State Chairmen, 145 VAVS Representatives, 31 Associate Representatives, 240 Deputy Representatives, and two Associate Deputy Representatives.

The DAV volunteer effort is enhanced by a very active corps of 1,951 Auxiliary volunteers who donated 288,423 hours last year. Together, DAV and Auxiliary volunteers provided 2,350,759 hours of VAVS service over the past year -- more than any other service organization. This is equivalent to the VA having an additional 1,130 full-time employees with an estimated value of $36,178,181.00 in hourly wages alone.

DAV HOSPITAL SERVICE COORDINATOR TRANSPORTATION NETWORK PROGRAM

Because so many sick and disabled veterans lack transportation to and from VA medical facilities for needed treatment, the DAV operates a nationwide Transportation Network. This program continues to show tremendous growth as an indispensable resource for veterans.

Across the nation, DAV Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCs) operate 185 active programs. They've recruited 6,746 volunteer drivers who logged 26,870,281 miles last year, taking 781,253 veterans to and from VA medical facilities. Many of these veterans rode in vans the DAV donated to VA medical facilities for use in the Transportation Network. DAV Departments and Chapters, together with the National Organization, have now donated 1,108 vans to VA

medical centers nationwide at a cost of $22,052,175.73.

At the DAV's 79th National Convention, Ford Motor Company donated 14 new passenger vans to the Disabled American Veterans Transportation Network, Homeless Veterans Initiative, and a new pilot respite care program. Nine of the vans will be turned over to Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs) in Decatur, Georgia; Salt Lake City; Utah (Outstationed: Idaho Falls); Wichita, Kansas; Salisbury, North Carolina; White City, Oregon; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Waco, Texas; and Sheridan, Wyoming. Four vans were assigned to homeless veterans programs in Florida, Maine, Michigan, and Virginia. The remaining van donated by Ford was used in a pilot respite care program at the Bay Pines, Florida VAMC.

As a further demonstration of its commitment to the DAV Transportation Network and the Homeless Veterans Initiative, Ford Motor Company is donating 18 new passenger vans. This will take place during the Opening Session at this National Convention. The VAMCs receiving these vans are Little Rock, Arkansas; West Haven, Connecticut; Honolulu Hawaii (outstationed in Maui); Shreveport, Louisiana (Outstationed at the Monroe Outpatient Clinic); Togus, Maine; Biloxi, Mississippi; Fort Harrison, Montana; Grand Island, Nebraska; Las Vegas, Nevada; Manchester, New Hampshire; Albuquerque, New Mexico; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Providence, Rhode Island and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Four vans were assigned to homeless veterans programs in Utah, Washington, D.C., Kentucky and Ohio.

This generous gift reflects Ford Motor Company's continued commitment to veterans. From the start, they showed great interest in the DAV's mission of service and transportation to the many veterans who have no other means of getting to their VA medical appointments. Ford's participation with us is a real boost to the DAV Transportation Network program.

THE GEORGE H. SEAL MEMORIAL TROPHY

The George H. Seal Memorial Trophy recognizes an outstanding DAV and Auxiliary VAVS volunteer each year, people whose volunteer activities closely reflect the values that characterized the life of the late National DAV VAVS Representative George H. Seal.

During the 24 years since its inception, this award has become one of the most esteemed honors presented at the DAV's annual National Convention. VA Medical Center Chiefs of Voluntary Services throughout the nation are each allowed to submit nominations for DAV and DAVA volunteers.

These nominations are then thoroughly evaluated by an independent committee of authorities in the field of voluntary service. The volunteers selected by the committee are brought to the DAV National Convention for the award presentation. After reviewing the nominations of DAV volunteers and Auxiliary volunteers, the committee chose as this year's winners:

DAV

Terry F. Rehder

Mr. Terry F. Rehder, a member of DAV Chapter 1 in Fargo, North Dakota, has put in 5,500 volunteer hours since 1995. He manages all travel services associated with the DAV Transportation Network and coordinates the activities of eight vans and 75 volunteer drivers. He also visits hospitalized DAV members and assists veterans any way possible.

Mr. Rehder is often asked to transport veterans hundreds of miles for medical appointments. Many times he goes to work at 5:00 a.m. to drive the 240-mile trip to the Minneapolis VA medical center and back, which involves some 10 hours of driving and two to three hours of assisting veterans.

In his 14 years of volunteering, Mr. Rehder has brought honor to the DAV and its mission to build better lives for disabled veterans and their families.

DAV Auxiliary Co-winners

Emma Preffer and Catherine Douckas

DAV Auxiliary members Emma Preffer and Catherine Douckas enjoy hair-raising adventures when they volunteer their services at the West Palm Beach, Florida VA Medical Center (VAMC). Mrs. Preffer and Mrs. Douckas jointly operate the barbershop at the VAMC offering haircuts and other services to veterans and their families.

Mrs. Preffer, 82, and Mrs. Douckas, 75, are members of DAV Auxiliary Unit 152 in Delray, Florida. They have operated the VAMC barber and beauty shop since it opened five years ago. A haircut costs only $5 and all the money goes to help sick and disabled veterans.

The funds raised provide comfort items to disabled veterans, helps pay bills, assists homeless veterans, and meets the emergency needs of veterans. Each year they use proceeds to sponsor one disabled veteran at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic sponsored by the DAV and VA.

Mrs. Preffer has donated 3,125 hours as a volunteer and Mrs. Douckas has logged 3,059 hours. They work side-by-side every Monday and Thursday in the shop and they often come in on weekends if they're needed. They've been friends since World War II when their husbands were in the service. Both ladies have been cutting hair since World War II and before.

This year's Seal Award winners are truly dedicated DAV and Auxiliary members who have put disabled veterans first in their lives. They have far exceeded the call of duty to help disabled veterans and we all should be immensely proud of what they do. They are a credit to the DAV and the Auxiliary.

Mr. Rehder, Mrs. Preffer, and Mrs. Douckas will be presented the George H. Seal Memorial Award during the opening session of the 2001 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Miami Beach, Florida.

The DAV can be proud of people like Mr. Rehder, Mrs. Preffer and Mrs. Douckas for the service and dedication they display every day. Whenever any of us wears the DAV emblem, we know that it is a symbol of greatness because of people like Terry, Emma and Catherine and all the others who each day, without fanfare or recognition, provide friendly service and compassionate support to disabled veterans. They are great people and they help make the DAV a great organization.

The selection committee once again stated that all of the nominees are very special volunteers, and it was a very, very difficult job to choose a winner. Each nominee has been awarded a certificate of merit for outstanding volunteer performance in meeting the needs of hospitalized veterans.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S YOUTH VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP

The National Commander's Youth Volunteer Scholarship (NCYVS) program was created last year to honor outstanding young volunteers who are active participants in the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service programs. The scholarships are awarded to deserving young men and women who have generously donated their time and compassion to sick and disabled veterans in their communities.

A generous donation from Ford Motor Company last year allowed us to expand the number of scholarships we award. The DAV is deeply appreciative of Ford Motor Company for helping DAV recognize the thousands of hours these outstanding students have donated to care for and comfort disabled veterans.

Candidates for the NCYVS must be age 21 or below and must have volunteered a minimum of 100 hours in a VA medical center during the previous calendar year. The scholarship will be available for any accredited institution of higher learning, to include universities, colleges, community colleges or vocational schools, etc.

In addition, the recipient must utilize the scholarship prior to reaching age 25. Employees of the DAV national organization and

their families are not eligible for this award.

NCYVS nomination forms were mailed to Chiefs of Voluntary Service at all VA medical centers across the country. The number of nominations received overwhelmed the selection committee chaired by National Commander Armando C. Albarran. The committee's job in selecting the scholarship recipients was very difficult considering the high caliber of nominees.

The winners of the 2001 DAV National Commander's Youth Volunteer Scholarships have widely divergent interests, but they have one thing in common - they honor those who defended our nation's freedom by donating their time to assist disabled veterans.

Scott C. Butcher -- $15,000

Scott Butcher, 18, who plans to attend the honors program at Arizona State University this fall, volunteered 634 hours last year and has been a volunteer at the Phoenix VA Medical Center for four years. He has supported a wide variety of community service projects including working as a "roving" volunteer in any area where needed.

Scott's enthusiasm and commitment to providing quality service is shown through his willingness to adapt and create new ideas to help disabled veterans. One of his more memorable projects was creating 4th of July cards for veterans. He and 20 other volunteers made hundreds of cards that were personally delivered to each patient.

Wendy Koegel -- $10,000

Wendy Koegel, 18, of Marion, Indiana, will attend Purdue University to major in hotel/restaurant management. Ms. Koegel last year donated 370 hours to the Marion VA Medical Center and has been a volunteer there for four years.

Working with psychiatric, dementia, geriatric, and HIV positive veterans, she has displayed an invaluable willingness to work with the most difficult cases. An avid gymnast, Wendy fondly remembers doing back springs down the hall of a patient unit. "The veterans gave me a perfect '10' and a big round of applause."

Ashley J. Kirstein -- $7,500

Ashley J. Kirstein, 17, a student at A.C. Reynolds High School in Asheville, N.C., has been volunteering at the Asheville VA Medical Center since she was 12. Last year Ashley volunteered 332 hours. She has accumulated nearly 1,000 hours of volunteer work and maintains a 4.25 grade point average. She is equally skilled at administering EKGs or working at the medical center information desk.

Ms. Kirstein and a couple of girls put together a small show like the USO honoring Korean War veterans. They created a three-minute dance routine in 1950's style with costumes. The veterans really loved it.

April M. Cross -- $7,500

April M. Cross, 18, of Lakewood, Washington, plans to attend Western Washington University to major in computer programming. She has volunteered at the Seattle VA Medical Center for four years and last year put in 293 hours.

April works in many areas of the VA Puget Sound Health Care System, including general medicine; surgical care clinic, mental health research service, and the canteen service. She feels great compassion for the veterans she serves, and the veterans respond to her caring personality in a positive and trusting manner.

Scott, Wendy, Ashley, and April are among 12 DAV National Commander's Youth Volunteer Scholarship winners this year.

The eight $5,000 scholarship winners are: Joseph W. T. McQuaid of San Francisco, California, Vicky Betchley of Tecumseh, Kansas, Phillip J. Merolle of Holbrook, New York, Christopher R.

Carnes of Summerville, South Carolina, Angela Holman of Aurora, Colorado, Melinda L. Chambless of Dublin, Georgia, Seth Opeil of Mountaintop, Pennsylvania, and Carrie Douglas of Togus, Maine.

The outstanding service provided by this dedicated group of young volunteers is inspiring to those veterans who are the recipients of their care and to the families of those veterans. They prove that our nation's youth cares about veterans and the service and sacrifice they made for our nation.

This year's group of scholarship winners are outstanding. They have proven their desire to help disabled veterans and they clearly have gained a great deal from their association with our veterans. It is a privilege to have these young men and women working to assist our sick and disabled veterans. The tremendous response we have received for the DAV National Commander's Youth Volunteer Scholarships is growing. In the future, it will encourage increased volunteerism to help our nation's veterans.

Scott Butcher will be presented with his scholarship during the opening session of the 2001 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Miami Beach, Florida.

SPORTS FOR THE DISABLED

Athletic programs for handicapped veterans have always been important to the DAV. We have a long, proud history of leadership in efforts that encourage athletic activity among disabled veterans of all ages. Working together with the VA, DAV leaders are committed to providing these men and women with opportunities to participate in sports which many thought would not be possible with their disabilities.

The Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation previously cited a study in which Kathy Stokes, Ph.D., reported that "the health care needs of those not involved in sports activities were three times higher than those involved in some type of sporting program." *Modern Healthcare Magazine* states that sports offer a better quality of life, improved self-confidence and self-esteem, and a way for many newly disabled people to adjust to their handicaps. Athletic activity provides a new and very necessary social outlet, while improving physical endurance and maintaining physical fitness.

More and more, doctors recognize it's not enough to stabilize patients medically and send them home. Without an introduction to sports or recreation, the hospital will see that person again and again. Disabled people involved in sports generally encounter fewer medical problems than those who aren't, therapists say. Athletics maintain cardiovascular conditioning, increase circulation to the extremities, and help avert skin breakdowns. Another advantage is that sports are community-based rather than hospital-based undertakings. The DAV believes disabled veterans should have the same opportunity as non-disabled individuals to participate in these activities.

The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic -- In March 2001, 350 disabled veterans from 39 states and Puerto Rico took part in the 15th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic at Snow Mass, Colorado. With more than 405 volunteers -- including 172 ski instructors, most of whom are certified in teaching the disabled -- it was the largest and best Winter Sports Clinic ever conducted. An annual event sponsored jointly by the DAV and VA, the clinic is open to veterans with visual impairments, spinal-cord injuries, certain neurological conditions, orthopedic amputations, or other severe disabilities. Veterans disabled in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, and Bosnia were represented. Our sponsors this year were:

HOST: Ford Motor Company

NATIONAL: AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; Bristol-Myers Squib; Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies; Sprint; Prince Bandar bin Sultan; The Coca-Cola Company and Veterans Canteen Service / Burger King.

GOLD: Baxter Healthcare Corporation; DAV California Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc.; DUOFOLD; Monark Sporting Goods, Inc./ELAN; Fifth Third Bank; First Consulting Group; The Fischer

Family; GORE-TEX; GRABBER Performance Group; HardCorps Sports, LLC; Eli Lilly & Company; Merck & Company, Inc.; MUSE; Mr. & Mrs. Edward A. Powell, Jr.; QTC Medical Services, Inc.; 3M; United Airlines and Wallace.

SILVER: Advanced Prosthetics & Orthotics, Inc.; American Board for Certification in O&P, Inc.; AMGEN; Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS); B. Braun Medical; Bayer; Boeri Sport USA; Bula; Carrera; Eastman Kodak Company; Federated Wholesale; GE Medical Systems; Leadership VA; Pfizer, Inc.; ROHO, Inc. and CROWN THERAPEUTICS, Inc.; Schiff, Kreidler-Shell, Inc.; The Taylor Family and Mary C. Thomas.

BRONZE: AMSUS-Sustaining Member Section; C. R. Bard, Inc.; Bowlers to Veterans Link; DAV Prescott, AZ Chapter 16; DAV Department of Colorado; Elks National Veterans Service Commission; Fox River; Genentech, Inc.; Gordini; DAV H.H. MacKenzie Chapter 3, Roanoke, Virginia; Mary E. Moore Family Foundation; Motorola; Radventures, Inc.; DAV State Commanders & Adjutants Association; Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals; Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 57 and the DAV Department of Virginia.

CONTRIBUTOR: Richard J. Gibbs; Joseph and Monica Fajans; John F. Heilman, Jr.; Mail-Well Envelope Company; Judy and Kevin Oliphant; Robert C. Thomas and United Voluntary Services.

SUPPLIER: Gene Taylor's Sporting Goods and M&M Mars.

The world's largest rehabilitation program of its kind, the clinic affords veterans the opportunity to learn new recreation activity skills and to sharpen existing ones. Veterans were introduced to skiing, rock climbing, self-defense and other activities.

The 16th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic promises to be better and bigger and will be held April 6-12, 2002 at Snowmass Ski Resort in Colorado.

DAV Freedom Award -- In 1992 we instituted the DAV Freedom Award at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. It is given each year to the veteran who makes the most progress during the week, showing outstanding courage and accomplishments in taking a giant step forward in his or her rehabilitation process. This annual award is sponsored by His Royal Highness Prince Bandar bin Sultan, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia.

The award's inscription reads: "Your accomplishments during the...National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic have proved to the world that physical disability does not bar the doors to freedom. We salute your desire to excel so that others may follow."

This year's recipient of the DAV Freedom Award is first-time participant James E. Sursely, a life member of DAV Chapter 16, Orlando, Florida. A native of Rochester, Minnesota, he was severely injured by an enemy land mine while serving with the U.S. Army Americal Division's 17th Armored Cavalry during the Vietnam War. The wounds he suffered resulted in the loss of both legs above the knee and his left arm above the elbow.

Golf for the Disabled -- Golf is one of the fastest growing and most popular sports in America, perhaps in the world. Recognizing this fact, the DAV and DAV Charitable Service Trust support two golf programs that promote rehabilitation and a more active lifestyle for disabled veterans:

National Amputee Golf Open Championships -- The DAV National Commander's Trophy honors the disabled veteran who puts in the best overall performance at the National Amputee Golf Association championship tournament. Additionally, it recognizes the contributions the winner has made in his or her own community in furthering the opportunities of disabled individuals. Last year's 52nd annual tournament at the Rancho Canada Golf Club, Carmel, California,
August 7-11, 2000, drew 110 entries, 49 of them veterans. The winner of the DAV National Commander's trophy was Paul L. Graves, Fayetteville, Georgia.

First Swing Golf -- This is the DAV's 12th year of involvement with the First Swing instructional golf program for the disabled. With support from the DAV Charitable Service Trust, this program provides therapists throughout the country with instruction on the

rehabilitation benefits of golf. Use of golf therapy at hospitals and rehabilitation centers has brought the game back into the lives of many who played before becoming disabled.

It has also introduced the sport to countless disabled people who never dreamed golf would be part of their lives. During 2000, 30 First Swing seminars and Learn to Golf Clinics were conducted. Participants included 239 therapists; 347 physically challenged people, 110 of whom were disabled veterans; 9 professional golf instructors, six minorities, eight male youth golfers and seven female youth golfers.

DAV CELEBRITY ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM

Continuing to provide a morale boost to hospitalized veterans, the DAV Celebrity Entertainment Program assures these patients that they are not forgotten...that the American people still appreciate what they have done for all of us.

We're truly fortunate to sponsor some very talented people with a great deal of compassion for these veterans, so many of whom face long and lonely stays in hospitals, often far from family and friends. Making more than 100 hospital visits last year alone, these wonderful people include Major League Baseball Umpires Larry Barnett and Jerry Layne.

The DAV is indeed honored that such outstanding celebrities want to be a part of the DAV Voluntary Service Program. We recognize the enormous demands they face, and we appreciate the gift of their valuable time. They have demonstrated that they care very deeply about the needs of disabled veterans.

CELEBRITY VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

This year DAV Voluntary Services was privileged to have a new face promoting DAV volunteer recruitment. Actor Paul Newman donated his time to film Public Service Announcements (PSA's) for the DAV.

Mr. Newman was in training to be a pilot when he discovered he was color-blind. He stayed in aviation serving as a radioman on a Navy torpedo bomber in the Pacific during WWII.

We are certain that these PSA's will be a very valuable asset in our efforts to recruit volunteers who will serve our nation's disabled veterans in every Department of Veterans Affairs medical center across the county.

IN CLOSING

It's been a tremendous year for DAV volunteer programs, and many deserve our thanks. If it were not for their support, the many programs mentioned in this report would not be possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jim Delgado, who heads up the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program, his staff, and the VAVS leadership teams across the nation for their devotion to volunteerism.

The Voluntary Services Department during this past year has been very fortunate to have the support of the DAV and Auxiliary National Commanders Armando C. Albarran and Carol A. Gray, and staff of the DAV and its Auxiliary; the National Line Officers, National Executive Committee, National Finance Committee, DAV Interim Hospital Committee, National Service Foundation, and the Charitable Service Trust. Their assistance and support was an essential ingredient of our 2000 success story. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of National Service and Legislative Headquarters led by Executive Director David W. Gorman, and the staff at National Headquarters in Cincinnati led by Executive Director Richard E. Patterson.

My personal thanks to Assistant National Director of Voluntary Services Edward E. Hartman, along with Voluntary Services Support Specialists Linda DeMartino and Linda Chester, for their invaluable assistance. We've experienced outstanding support from DAV's corps of National Service Officers. Hospital Service Coordinators have played a vital role in support of Voluntary Service Programs. The

success of those programs can in part be attributed to their participation and support.

The successes reflected throughout this report were not by chance. National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson has always been totally supportive of DAV's Voluntary Service Program and, on behalf of the Voluntary Services Department we wish to thank him for his leadership and guidance.

I would be remiss not to mention the true heroes; those people who care enough to make a difference in the lives of so many, the volunteer corps of the DAV and Auxiliary. On behalf of the DAV, I would like to thank all of you for your devotion, compassion, and commitment to DAV's mission of building better lives for America's disabled veterans.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE (VAVS)
April 1, 2000, through March 31, 2001

NUMBER OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED VAVS VOLUNTEERS	8,208
NUMBER OF HOURS BY REGULARLY SCHEDULED VOLUNTEERS	1,973,995
NUMBER OF ASSIGNMENTS BY REGULARLY SCHEDULED VOLUNTEERS	9,792
NUMBER OF VISITS BY REGULARLY SCHEDULED VOLUNTEERS	310,912
NUMBER OF HOURS BY OCCASIONAL VOLUNTEERS	88,341
NUMBER OF VISITS BY OCCASIONAL VOLUNTEERS	12,764
NUMBER OF HOURS BY ALL VAVS VOLUNTEERS	2,062,336
NUMBER OF VISITS BY ALL VAVS VOLUNTEERS	320,676

VAVS APPOINTED POSITIONS

NUMBER OF STATE CHAIRMEN	12
NUMBER OF STATE CHAIRMEN ALSO SERVING AS REPRESENTATIVES	19
NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES	146
NUMBER OF DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVES	240
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVES	31
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVES	2
NUMBER OF HONORARY REPRESENTATIVES	5
NUMBER OF APPOINTED POSITIONS	455
ANNUAL JOINT REVIEWS RECEIVED FOR THE YEAR	75

DAV TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
(January 1, 2000 -- December 31, 2000)

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOSPITAL SERVICE COORDINATORS (HSCs)	179
NUMBER OF VETERANS TRANSPORTED	781,253
TRANSPORTATION HOURS	1,397,558
TRANSPORTATION MILES	26,870,281

2000 NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK GRANTS

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK HSC PROGRAM GRANTS	$1,359,619.00
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK VAN GRANTS	$ 2,306,156.00

(102 vans purchased and delivered in 2000)

2000 Total National Grant Expenditures **$ 3,665,775.00**

(The following written annual report was submitted by Mr. Joseph A. Violante, National Legislative Director.)

NATIONAL COMMANDER ARMANDO C. ALBARRAN AND DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES:

On this occasion as I report to you once again on the events of a year, I do so as I do every year, with a strong sense of accomplishment but necessarily with less than total satisfaction because, by its nature, our work is never completed. As we do each year in this report, let us look back with a sigh to appreciate what we have accomplished.

Then, without dwelling on what is behind us but with the lessons learned, let us look forward with renewed enthusiasm, determination, and confidence at what lies ahead. The events of the past year provide insight into what we can expect in the upcoming year. One of the undeniable lessons of the DAV's history, reinforced by the events of the past year, is the great things we can accomplish when our people work together to advance the interests of disabled veterans.

It is with pride and pleasure that I recount for you this chapter in the story of our struggle and our success, our trials and our triumphs.

Our cause in the DAV is monumental, and our work can never be accomplished by one person or a single major act. Rather, we make steady progress through the everyday contributions of many in our organization, with measured steps forward and persistence day in and day out in pursuing our goals, fighting our fight.

This year, Commander Albarran and his fine group of National Officers led us in our quest to build better lives for America's disabled veterans. At the helm, National Adjutant Art Wilson, with the support of Washington Headquarters Executive Director Dave Gorman, continued to chart our course, steer us in the right direction, and keep us moving forward.

My staff members in the National Legislative Department make up the nerve center and the heart of our activities in the legislative arena. For their dedication and hard work, I extend my sincere thanks to Deputy National Legislative Director Rick Surratt and Assistant National Legislative Director Joy Ilem.

Just a couple of months ago, I welcomed Brian Lawrence to our staff as an Associate National Legislative Director. Brian has already proven his abilities as a veterans' advocate, and I'm proud to have him as a member of my staff. Brian replaced Dick Wannemacher, who retired after a long and distinguished career with the DAV.

Dick could not give up working for veterans, however. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tony Principi now has the good fortune to benefit from Dick's knowledge and expertise. I know you all join me in wishing Dick well in his new career. I look forward to a continued association with him in his new position on the Congressional Affairs staff at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Of course, I must also acknowledge the devotion and labors of Legislative Support Specialist Lisa Bogle, on whom we rely for so much in our daily toil at our Washington office.

Past National Commander Oliver Meadows continues to provide us with the benefit of his experience, insight, and wise counsel. My thanks go out to Oliver. I wish, in addition, to thank the members of the Interim Legislative Committee, Gene Murphy, Tommy Tomlinson, Al Linden, and Bruce Burgess for their participation and role helping shape the DAV's legislative agenda.

The National Legislative Department could not effectively press many of our organization's campaigns for or against legislation without the assistance of our DAV National Service Officers. From their hands-on daily experiences with veterans and their intimate knowledge of veterans' needs, the NSOs have insight and expertise unavailable from any other source. Often, we call on our NSOs to spearhead local grassroots activities.

Similarly, our Benefits Protection Team leaders are instrumental in leading our grassroots activities at the local level. I too am especially grateful for the strong support we receive from the officers of the DAV Auxiliary. They are valuable and reliable partners in our cause. Ultimately, however, it is our DAV and Auxiliary members that win the battles for veterans' rights.

To enhance the effectiveness of our grassroots lobby, many of them have joined our DAV "Commander's Action Network" ("DAV CAN") where they stand ready to swing into action when they receive legislative alerts and calls to action from the National Legislative Staff. We currently have 4,436 members in this special group of veteran activists. To all of these essential players, I convey my deep gratitude.

Now, let us look at what this premiere team confronted and accomplished in the year since last year's National Convention. In the later part of the year 2000, the 106th Congress enacted several veterans' bills which the DAV had pushed or supported.

One of the DAV's priorities has been legislation to authorize the construction of a memorial in the Nation's Capital to honor America's disabled veterans. At several successive National Conventions, our members have adopted resolutions to construct a memorial to commemorate the sacrifices of disabled veterans. Through the DAV's efforts, bills were passed in both the House and Senate, and H.R. 1509 was enacted as Public Law 106-348 on October 24, 2000 to authorize construction of the memorial.

Early in 1999, we began pressing Congress to enact legislation to override the Court's decisions that VA had no duty to assist veterans until they first submitted, without VA assistance, evidence to preliminarily prove their claims. We used our grassroots network to bring awareness to members of Congress about the emergent need to remedy this problem with legislation. At our urging, bills were introduced in the Senate and House to correct this problem.

In addition, Senator John McCain inserted provisions in H.R. 4205, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, to restore the duty to assist. With this provision included, H.R. 4205 was enacted as Public Law 106-398 on October 30, 2000. This law also extended full medical care benefits for military retirees and their eligible family members after they convert to Medicare upon attainment of age 65.

The military health care program under TRICARE then becomes a Medicare supplement, which pays the costs not covered by Medicare, and beneficiaries pay no co-pays or deductibles. Because of budgetary constraints, the law added benefits effective October 1, 2001.

The law also allows Medicare-eligible military retirees and their eligible family members to obtain prescriptions at reduced costs through the mail order network and network retail pharmacy programs of the Department of Defense. This provision is already in effect. Other provisions in the law extended military medical and dental care to Medal of Honor recipients and their family members who are not otherwise entitled to such care under the military health care system.

While the Senate-passed version of H.R 4205 contained provisions for full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation, that provision was dropped from the bill in the conference agreement between the Senate and House. The law corrected an oversight in prior law regarding entitlement to special compensation for severely disabled military retirees. Longevity military retirees with severe service-connected disabilities may receive special compensation under certain circumstances; however, military retirees with 20 or more years of service were ineligible for this benefit if their retirement was based on disability rather than longevity. This law extended eligibility for the special compensation to these disability retirees with 20 or more years of service. This provision will become effective October 1, 2001.

Although the VA's duty to assist claimants had already been restored in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year

2001, the Veterans' Affairs Committees continued work on several versions of their own bills addressing this issue. After much debate and several rewrites of these bills to address our concerns, the Senate-passed version of H.R. 4864 was enacted as Public Law 106-475 on November 9, 2000.

Provisions in this law made it supersede the duty-to-assist provisions previously enacted in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001. This legislation was a major victory for veterans, who had been greatly disadvantaged by the courts' nullification of the duty to assist, and a major triumph for the DAV, which had brought about its introduction and pressed for its passage.

In acknowledging the fundamental and dramatic changes this law brought to the VA claims process, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, said that this law, known by its popular name as the Veterans Claims Assistance Act of 2000, "could be the most far reaching Congressional enactment regarding claims adjudication since the Veterans' Judicial Review Act," which created the Court and authorized review of veterans' claims in Federal courts.

Despite the Court's characterization, this legislation was not revolutionary. It merely reaffirmed and reinstated basic rights and principles in VA law. It was a defining moment in veterans' legislation, nonetheless, because it was a test of whether Congress would passively embrace the erosion of veterans' rights brought about by erroneous court interpretations of the law or whether Congress would act to restore those fundamental rights in the face of strong VA opposition to their restoration. Undoubtedly, Congress heeded the strong arguments made by the DAV, with agreement from some of the other veterans' organizations.

During this same time, we also successfully took action to defeat legislation that would not have been in the overall best interests of veterans. Over our objections, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee reported, and the House passed H.R. 5109, with provisions included that would privatize a segment of veterans' health care. While allowing veterans to have their private health care subsidized by partial VA reimbursement would have been convenient for some, it would have undermined the VA health care system, diverted VA health dollars away from the VA system into the private sector, and set a precedent under which VA would have shifted part of the Government's obligation to treat veterans away from the VA to other sources.

Concluding that the small benefit to a few was far outweighed by the overall adverse effects for the majority of veterans, we strongly opposed the bill. The DAV, in collaboration with some other concerned veterans' organizations, was able to convince the Senate to stand firm in insisting that the Senate and House conference committee remove this provision from the bill.

Unfortunately, the proponents of this measure seem determined to revive it in future bills, so we will probably be confronted with it again.

A fierce battle for an adequate VA budget has now become a commonplace annual event. We fought our typical budget battle during the year 2000. With the leverage of our grassroots lobby, we succeeded in obtaining increased funding for several of VA's major programs and expenditures in the appropriations for fiscal year (FY) 2001.

Congress authorized $20.3 billion for medical care, an increase of $1.36 billion over FY 2000. Of the $1.05 billion for General Operating Expenses, $826.5 million was for the operation of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). This included an extra $73 million above the FY 2000 funding for VBA to hire additional personnel to improve claims processing.

Congress also increased funding for the National Cemetery System (NCS). The nearly $110 million authorized for NCS represented a $13 million increase over the prior year's amount. Funding for medical and prosthetic research was increased to $351 million, $30 million more than the prior year. The $100 million authorized for construction of state extended care facilities was $10 million more than the previous year and $40 million more than

the President requested in his budget.

Congress appropriated $66 million for major construction, as compared with $65.14 million for FY 2000. For minor construction, the bill provided $162 million, an increase of $2 million above FY 2000 funding. For benefits under the compensation and pension appropriation, Congress provided $22.77 billion, and for readjustment benefits, $1.6 billion. This appropriations bill, H.R. 4635, was enacted on October 27, 2000, and became Public Law 106-377.

Late in the year, Congress consolidated in S. 1402 several various provisions from veterans' bills. This bill was enacted on November 1, 2000, as Public Law 106-419, the Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000. This law included several major provisions. It increased from $528 to $650 monthly the educational allowance under the Montgomery GI Bill for veterans enrolled in a full-time course of education and made other improvements in the program.

As we had urged in our April 2000 congressional testimony before the Benefits Subcommittee of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, this law increased from $485 to $588 the monthly educational allowance under the survivors' and dependents' educational assistance ("Chapter 35") program and provided for automatic annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) in future years, along with earlier effective dates for commencement of eligibility under certain circumstances.

It made improvements in pay and employment policies for VA health care providers. Consistent with our support in our April testimony, this law authorized service connection of strokes and heart attacks suffered by reservists while performing inactive duty for training and special monthly compensation for the service-connected loss of one or both breasts by a female veteran. It increased the estate limitation for incompetent institutionalized veterans without dependents from $1,500 to the amount which is five times the monthly rate in effect for compensation at the 100% level of disability.

It provided vocational rehabilitation, health care, and disability benefits for female Vietnam veterans' children who suffer from birth defects. It required that employers grant leaves of absence for reservists participating in honor guards at veterans' funerals. In addition, this legislation made a number of other technical changes and improvements in the benefit programs, health care programs, VA construction programs, and real property management activities of VA.

On November 1, 2000, the bill providing for an annual COLA in compensation was enacted as Public Law 106-413. This legislation increased compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation, and the clothing allowance by 3.5%.

This legislation represents all the bills containing major veterans' provisions that were enacted in the second session of the 106th Congress. Thus far in the 107th Congress, only two veteran-related bills have been enacted into law.

On Memorial Day 2001, President Bush signed legislation directing the expeditious construction of the National World War II Memorial on the Mall in Washington, between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. The DAV has been a strong supporter of this project since its inception. In April of this year, the DAV weighed in again. We sent out a call to action on the DAV website, and many of you contacted your members of Congress urging them to support legislation to move the process forward without further delay.

Because opponents had mired the project in bureaucratic proceedings, technicalities, and court challenges, Congress stepped in with unusually swift and bipartisan action to overcome these impediments through legislation to circumvent the administrative process and judicial challenges.

The other veterans' legislation enacted this year is H.R. 801, which became Public Law 107-14. The principal provision of interest to veterans in H.R. 801, was its extension of full medical care benefits under the CHAMPVA program to veterans' dependents who convert to Medicare coverage at age 65. The National Defense

Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 had extended full medical care coverage to military retirees and their dependents who converted to Medicare at age 65 by making TRICARE a supplement to Medicare and thereby continuing the same level of benefits after age 65.

However, that law did not give veterans' dependents entitled under CHAMPVA the same benefit. Public Law 107-14 makes CHAMPVA a supplement to Medicare for veterans' dependents in the same manner that TRICARE is a supplement to Medicare for military retirees and their dependents, so that none of these beneficiaries will suffer a reduction in health care benefits at age 65. Unfortunately, provisions in the House-passed version of H.R. 801 to increase burial and plot allowances, increase the automobile and adaptive equipment grants, increase specially adapted housing grants, and other provisions were dropped from the final bill. We continue to lobby for passage of these provisions in other bills, however.

This year, we continue to press for veterans' legislation in several areas. As in every year, an adequate budget for veterans' programs for next year, FY 2002, demands great attention and effort. The massive tax reduction enacted this year took the budget surplus and left little to use for other purposes, such as increased funding for veterans' programs. This situation presents a major challenge for us.

In lobbying for increased VA funding during the process leading to passage of the concurrent budget resolution, we scored some interim victories just to have them negated by subsequent congressional actions. As finally passed, the budget resolution called for an increase of approximately $1 billion in the VA budget. This falls short of what we have argued that VA needs to maintain current service levels and make improvements in critical areas where VA has fallen behind in recent years.

The budget battle is far from over, however. While the budget resolution is important because it can be relied upon to justify providing inadequate levels of funding, it is only a broad plan to set overall government spending and leaves the appropriations committees with some leeway to authorize higher appropriations for some and lower appropriations for other government programs and functions. In our informal contacts with appropriators, and other members of Congress, we have already set the stage for continuing the fight for higher levels of funding for veterans' programs.

At the forefront this year, is our campaign for legislation to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation. This injustice has gone unremedied for too many years. Congress has not yet mustered the will to enact the legislation, presumably because of its substantial cost.

Large numbers of Senators and House members have cosponsored and endorsed the legislation in principle, but the lack of passage of legislation is the true test and unfortunately reveals that too many of these politicians are signing on the concurrent receipt bills year after year merely to give the illusion of support. This year, despite the most intensified and unified efforts ever undertaken by veterans' and military organizations, Congress has so far sidestepped the matter and attempted to evade responsibility for their inaction.

At the beginning of the 107th Congress, the DAV made a firm decision to throw more of its time and resources into the fight for concurrent receipt legislation. We invited the interested veterans' and military organizations to our Washington Service and Legislative Headquarters to form an informal coalition, to rouse passions among the organizations, and to develop a strategy for forceful, concerted action. Once set in motion, we led the campaign to get action on this legislation. We mobilized our grassroots, ran full-page appeals in advertisements in Capitol Hill publications, met with key legislators and congressional leadership, provided postcards with preprinted concurrent receipt messages for our members to send to Congress, and kept veterans and interested parties informed of the developments. The failure of Congress to include funding for this legislation in the budget

resolution adds more difficulty to the challenge we face in getting this legislation enacted this session of Congress, but it has not weakened our fortitude or resolve in the DAV.

Inextricably embodied in the DAV's creed is the principal that its members work for the benefit of fellow comrades rather than for their own self-serving goals. Consequently, one of the DAV's unique and foremost strengths is the willingness of its members to work for legislation regardless of whether the legislation will benefit them personally. That way, the whole membership is behind every legislative effort, and that makes us more effective and more likely to succeed.

We have seen large numbers of our members take up the cause of concurrent receipt legislation—far greater numbers of our members than merely those who would themselves benefit from the legislation. Over the past 6 months, more than 34,000 e-mail messages on this issue have been sent to members of Congress from the DAV website alone. Obviously, this number represents only a part of the total contacts made by letter, e-mail, faxes, telephone calls, and personal visitations.

As we say in our rallying cry on this issue: "It's a matter of simple justice." Our members are moved, compelled, and driven by matters of simple justice. I call upon all of you to continue to vent to your members of Congress your indignation about their failure to act on this matter of simple justice and their failure to heed the desires of their constituents. If your elected representatives have not been sincere and truly supportive in the effort to pass this legislation, let them know that their failure to right this wrong is indefensible and easily detected by veterans.

Let them know veterans recognize words, unmatched by actions, as thin political veneer exposing a lack of commitment to pay the debt we owe these veterans who devoted their lives to our Nation's defense. Do not let them tell you our Government is too poor to afford justice for veterans. Remind them of the multi-trillion dollar tax cut they just enacted, and point out that a miniscule fraction of that money would have paid for concurrent receipt legislation. Ask them what steps you can expect to see them personally take to ensure real action to remedy this unacceptable injustice.

Because this is a big fight, its outcome will be a big win or a big loss for the veterans' community. We all have a stake in it. Support your comrades and the DAV's efforts. Contact your House member and Senators now to get this issue moving forward.

In addition to concurrent receipt legislation, we are calling on Congress to enact a range of worthy legislation consistent with the resolutions you adopted at last year's DAV's National Convention. However, Congress typically delays final action on veterans' legislation until near the end of the legislative session in the last part of the year. We will keep you informed of progress on these bills in the *DAV Magazine*, the legislative bulletins we publish, and the DAV's Internet website. On the DAV's website, you can view summaries of the most important bills that have been introduced.

The legislative resolutions you devise and adopt and grassroots lobbying are your means to influence public policy for veterans. Testimony before congressional committees is one of the prominent ways in which the DAV legislative staff influences Congress on veterans' issues. Your legislative staff takes particular care and pride in providing congress with well-informed and well-stated advice and information on budgetary needs, VA performance, veterans' legislation, and other veterans'matters.

This is where we play a very involved role in helping secure the resources necessary to meet veterans' needs, alerting Congress to problems and informing it how effectively and efficiently VA is using its resources and administering veterans' programs, and shaping legislation to create new benefits to assist veterans or improve existing programs to make them better serve veterans.

In September 2000, we presented testimony to the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Benefits, to inform the Subcommittee on the accomplishments of pilot programs in which

veterans' military occupational qualifications are accepted for entry into comparable civilian jobs without necessity to retrain to meet licensure and certification requirements.

While we applauded the success of the several pilot programs, we informed the Subcommittee that more must be done to ease the transition of highly trained and qualified servicemembers into civilian careers. We told the Subcommittee that this can be accomplished only if nationwide action is taken to reduce the barriers presented by licensure and credentialing requirements in occupations that involve the same job functions and skill levels as comparable military specialties.

In January of this year, our Executive Director of the Washington Office, David Gorman, presented testimony to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee in support of the nomination and confirmation of Anthony Principi as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Pointing to the magnitude of the problems in VA, the formidable challenges facing VA's leadership and future agency head, the sheer size, scope, and complexity of VA programs, and the wide geographic dispersion of its many offices and thousands of employees, we told the Committee that the next Secretary must be a person who possesses exceptionally strong management abilities and a combination of knowledge, skill, and experience in the area of veterans' programs.

In addition to acknowledging Mr. Principi's impressive record and credentials, we voiced our confidence that he is a person who meets those requisite qualities, who has the personal drive and determination to set VA on the right course, and who has an appreciation for and positive philosophy about the merits of the benefits and services the citizens of our grateful Nation want veterans to receive.

In March of this year, we testified at several congressional hearings. On March 6, we testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to offer our views on the President's proposed budget for FY 2002 and resource needs of VA as calculated by the *Independent Budget* (*IB*) prepared by the DAV, AMVETS, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. As the principal author of the sections of the *IB* dealing with benefit programs, general operating expenses, and the courts that review VA decisions, we focused on those areas of the budget and policy in our presentation to the Committee.

Although our arguments were analytical, our overall message was simple and straightforward. We told the Committee that the level of funding the President requested for VA falls far short of what is necessary to maintain adequate delivery of benefits and services for veterans. We strongly opposed proposals to convert temporary budget deficit reduction measures to permanent law.

These budget reconciliation measures include such things as rounding down compensation COLAs and user fees for home loans. We noted that veterans have borne a substantial part of the burden of deficit reduction. Now that we have no deficit, no justification whatsoever exists for permanently imposing these burdens upon veterans. We presented to the Committee the proposals included in the *IB* for legislation to improve benefits or establish new ones. We told the Committee that the budget should include increased appropriations to cover the cost of adding 830 new VA employees to the claims processing system.

To make the judicial appeals process more accessible and meaningful to veterans, we recommended changes in the standard of review for factual questions in the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and changes in the jurisdiction of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

On March 13, we appeared before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee where we testified again on the FY 2002 budget for VA. That same day, we testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to give the DAV's views on H.R. 811, the Veterans' Hospital Emergency Repair Act. We related our concern about neglect of VA's health care facilities to the point they have suffered deterioration and have become outdated in some instances.

We cited studies from outside experts that concluded VA has devoted far too few resources to maintenance, improvement, and

modernization of its facilities. Observing that H.R. 811 would establish emergency measures to begin rehabilitation of these facilities before they fall further into decline and make problems even more costly to correct, we supported the bill and its requirement of careful prioritization and a measured, systematic approach to making critical improvements.

Our National Commander's presentation on March 14, 2001, to the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees covered a range of issues of importance to disabled veterans. In an overview, the National Commander spoke of challenges facing all three of VA's administrations, the Veterans Benefits, Health, and Cemetery Administrations. He reiterated our admonishments about the need for higher levels of funding for VA programs under each of these administrations.

He charged the Committee members with the responsibility to lead the fight for an adequate VA budget. He echoed our calls to enact concurrent receipt legislation and other meritorious veterans' legislation. He counseled the Committees not to act on proposals to allow the Government to discharge itself from all future liabilities by payment of compensation in a lump sum and on suggestions to privatize veterans' health care. Throughout, his message was emphatic and direct, and squarely placed the primary responsibility to act in the best interests of veterans upon the Committees.

Many of you also carried the DAV's message to Congress during our Midwinter Conference. You enlightened your elected representatives on such issues as the need for higher appropriations for the VA, the injustices that would be remedied with concurrent receipt legislation, and the emergent need to devote more effort and resources to defeating homelessness in our veterans' population. Your personal visits brought these issues to the forefront and heightened congressional awareness and interest regarding the Nation's solemn obligation to care for its disabled veterans and their families.

On March 15, 2001, we testified before the Benefits Subcommittee of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in support of the provisions in H.R. 801, part of which were later enacted as Public Law 107-14, which I discussed previously. Our testimony also addressed the VA's implementation of the veterans' transitional housing provisions in Public Law 105-368, the Veterans Programs Enhancement Act. We informed the Subcommittee that, although nearly 3 years had passed since Congress enacted Public Law 105-368 to make affordable housing accessible to formerly homeless veterans who have broken the cycle of poverty and isolation of homelessness, the VA had yet to implement the program. These revelations brought to light in a congressional oversight hearing should call attention to VA's undue delay and spur action to proceed in a more timely manner.

On March 22, we appeared before the VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee to provide that Subcommittee with the DAV's views on the President's FY 2002 budget and our own alternative budget recommendations for the portions of the budget that require the Subcommittee's action.

On April 3, 2001, we testified before the Subcommittee on Health of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to set forth our views on the current state of VA health care and the challenges facing VA's health care delivery system. We informed the Subcommittee that the system is experiencing serious difficulties in meeting current demands for veterans' health care. We discussed several areas in which VA is not providing quality and timely care and specialized services to all who seek it. We pointed to inadequate budgets as the primary cause for these deficiencies and urged the Subcommittee to support higher appropriations in the veterans' health care budget.

On June 7, we provided to the Benefits Subcommittee of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee the DAV's views on H.R. 1291, the 21st Century Montgomery GI Bill Enhancement Act. We fully agreed with the bill's purpose of making the Montgomery GI Bill a more meaningful form of financial assistance for veterans seeking higher educations.

We therefore supported the increases in the education allowance that the bill would authorize. We also encouraged the Subcommittee to enhance benefits for training and rehabilitation under Chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, to better assist disabled veterans transition from military to civilian life.

On June 28, we testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on 14 separate Senate bills: S. 131, S. 228, S. 409, S. 457, S. 662, S. 781. S. 912, S. 937, S. 1063, S. 1088, S. 1089, S. 1090, S. 1091 and S.1093. Among these bills were several provisions of interest to disabled veterans.

We supported provisions in S. 409 to extend the presumptive period and make clarifications to provisions for service connection of undiagnosed illnesses suffered by Persian Gulf War veterans. We supported S. 457, which would authorize the presumption of service connection for hepatitis C; S. 662 which would remove the current restriction that authorizes VA to provide headstones and markers only for unmarked graves; and S. 912 which would increase burial and plot allowances.

We testified in support of S. 1090, which would increase effective December 1, 2001, the rates for disability compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation, and the annual clothing allowance. We urged the Committee to reject recommendations that temporary provisions in current law to round down increases to the nearest whole dollar be made permanent. We supported S. 1091, which would (1) remove the requirement in current law that a respiratory cancer must manifest within 30 years following service to be presumed service connected based on Agent Orange exposure; (2) reinstate the presumption that all veterans who served in Vietnam were exposed to Agent Orange; and (3) extend the period for adding new diseases to the list of diseases that may be presumed service connected due to Agent Orange exposure.

We supported provisions in S. 1093 that would exclude life insurance proceeds and other non-recurring income from countable income for purposes of entitlement to nonservice-connected pension, but we advised the Committee that it should revise the bill to exclude these items from the net worth calculation also. We supported a provision in the bill that would remove the requirement that a death pension application must be filed within 45 days of the veteran's death to qualify for an award of death pension effective the month of the veteran's death, but we advised the Committee that it needed to replace the language that the bill would remove from the law with other language that would authorize benefits beginning the month of death if the application is filed within one year following death.

We supported provisions that would permit persons receiving pension to continue receiving the same rate of pension until the end of the year, rather than the end of the month, when an increase in income requires a reduction or discontinuance of pension. In place of some of the vague technical amendments in the bill regarding the applicability of new duty-to-assist provisions in the Veterans Claims Assistance Act passed last year, we recommended that all claims denied on the basis of the courts' misinterpretation of prior law on the duty to assist be eligible review under the new law.

We also recommended that the Committee add a provision to authorize a veteran to waive provisions of the new law when not in to his or her benefit in order to prevent the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims from using the new law as an excuse to remand the case and not decide the errors alleged by the appellant. We cautioned the Committee that a section in the bill that would extend provisions for discontinuing compensation to incarcerated veterans to cover veterans incarcerated before enactment of the law now in existence might be impermissible under the constitutional prohibition against ex post facto laws.

We opposed another of the bill's provisions insofar as it would prohibit payment of benefits to a veteran's dependents when the veteran is a fugitive felon evading law enforcement authorities. We opposed provisions that would place less favorable time constraints on the use of educational benefits by eligible survivors. We supported removal of the limitation on the number of

veterans that may enroll in the VA's program to provide independent living services to service-connected disabled veterans who are too seriously disabled to be rehabilitated for employment. We supported provisions to increase the maximum amount of the VA home loan guaranty from $50,750 to $63,175, which would have the effect of increasing the maximum VA home loan from $203,000 to $252,000.

We are continuing to work with select congressional members who are veterans' advocates to get important legislation introduced and acted upon. We will continue our use of the DAV's impressive grassroots network to call upon elected representatives to support an adequate budget for veterans' programs and beneficial legislation.

We are also continuing to expand our grassroots lobby. Since we initiated the DAV CAN early last year, we have enlisted nearly 4,500 members. These DAV CAN members respond rapidly to our calls to action on legislative issues. We are looking for new ways to add to this list of core participants to make the network even more effective. We must shake more veterans out of their complacency and enlist them in our grassroots army.

Those of you who already know the challenges we regularly face can aid in recruitment by spreading the word among your comrades and their family members. I encourage all of those who are not members of DAV CAN to join by either signing up on the DAV's website at **www.dav.org** or by sending me a note indicating your wish to join, which includes your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address if you have one.

We are capitalizing on the capacity for easy and instantaneous communication available over the Internet. Often, we receive very short advance notices of impending congressional actions on veterans' matters. The Internet allows us to inform thousands of you immediately and allows you to contact your elected representatives easily and immediately. We are encouraged that DAV Departments are using this technology to create their own electronic network for grassroots action.

The tools available to us enhance our ability to be an effective advocate for veterans, but it is our members' selfless devotion to their fellow disabled veterans and their firm belief in our noble cause that has accounted for our success from our organization's beginnings in 1920. In the future, that solid inner belief that radiates from the heart and soul of our members will be the fuel that drives us and the bond that holds us together as a unified force fighting for veterans' rights.

We have the dedication and conviction to carry on. We must frame the debate in our terms, echo our themes, and press our issues. We must continue to use road-tested strategies, but remain flexible to deal with every new slight of hand they throw at us. To win, we must understand the game, and use our skill, but at minimum, we must play. Our conviction and our determination ensure we will always be in the game and will always be our most essential assets, however.

We exist and we persevere because we cannot expect government or anyone else to tell our story and champion our cause. We assume the responsibility for promoting our cause. We have formidable challenges; we will face them squarely. We have ambitious goals, but in our strategic plan, we have a blueprint for unified effort, and in our legislative objectives, we have a sound agenda for progress. We have never been timid in our advocacy because we know that, if we set our goals low enough to ensure we achieve them, we would never accomplish the meaningful things. If any of this were easy, we would have no necessity for organizations like the DAV to fight the battles.

When we look at the future, we look at what we can and must achieve. We look at the future with great expectations and tremendous optimism; we are on the march and we have momentum. In every thing we have done this year, we have set the stage for an even better year next year.

As one who has the privilege of toiling alongside you in this endeavor, I am profoundly grateful for your past work and charge you to be a part of our future battles. If we all do our best, the best is yet to come. Let us embrace the mission and travel the

journey together as comrades.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I will now introduce our National Service Director, Ken Wolfe, for the presentation of Employment Awards. Mr. Wolfe.

MR KENNETH WOLFE: Thank you, Commander. It's truly my privilege and honor to be here today and recognize some individuals that have made a tremendous difference in the lives of literally thousands of veterans, allowing them the ability to feed, clothe, and house their families.

The DAV takes very seriously our commitment to helping in employment issues, particularly for those who are disabled veterans.

I'd first like to introduce Disabled Veteran Outreach Program specialist Edmund E. Hughes, III, of the New Bern, North Carolina, Employment Security Commission. He is being honored for his exemplary accomplishments in improving employment opportunities for disabled veterans.

The DAV is grateful for the dedicated and heartfelt services provided by this outstanding employment specialist. He goes far beyond what is necessary to provide suitable, fulfilling jobs to veterans and has found that employing veterans ensures success.

Mr. Hughes has been a Disabled Veteran Outreach Program specialist for North Carolina Employment Security Commission for nearly 3 years. During that period he has interviewed 1,064 veterans, and more than 200 were placed in meaningful jobs.

He has also assisted more than 700 veterans preparing to leave the service through the Transition Assistance Program and an equal number attending separation and retirement briefings from Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station.

Mr. Hughes is a member of DAV Chapter number 40 in New Bern. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Edmund Hughes, III. (Applause)

At this time, I would also like to ask DVOP Manager Trudy Nelson to join us. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Mr. Hughes, the plaque says: "The Disabled American Veterans proudly recognizes the contributions made by Edmund Hughes, III, for outstanding accomplishment and dedication in assisting disabled veterans obtain employment and training opportunities and for the contributions to disabled veterans' outreach programs."

Mr. Hughes, congratulations in being the DVOP of the year. (Applause)

MR. EDMUND E. HUGHES, III: I'd like to thank the members of the DAV for this recognition. I'd also like to thank my office manager, Trudy Nelson, and my LVER Tim Scott for creating the atmosphere in that office that allows me to do my job.

I want each of you to know that it continues to be an honor to be able to serve America's veterans and especially to serve the DAV and the disabled veterans.

It gives one a heartfelt feeling when you get a call back from any vet who says thank you for the job they were able to get. It really means a lot. Thank you very much. (Applause)

MS. TRUDY NELSON: I would like to thank you for this award, but I would especially like to thank Ed for all the hard work he does in New Bern, North Carolina, at our Employment Security Commission for the veterans in our area. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. WOLFE: The next award winner, William Epps, Jr., of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations in Opelika, Alabama, has been selected the Outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative.

Mr. Epps has an enviable performance record in assisting veterans, particularly homeless veterans, at the Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Shelter and Domiciliary in Tuskeegee, Alabama, and veterans preparing to enter the work force from Tuskeegee VA Medical Center.

Mr. Epps has provided services to nearly 1,600 veterans, including about 200 disabled veterans in the mostly rural Opelika area. He has helped find jobs for 40 percent of the registered veterans and 40 percent of the disabled veterans.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Epps and the Local Veteran Employment Representative Manager, Deloris Waller. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Bill, congratulations. It is an honor to present you this award and it reads: "The Disabled American Veterans proudly presents the National Commander's award to the nation's Outstanding Local Veteran Employment representative for his outstanding dedication and distinguished employment assistance to our nation's service-connected disabled veterans and other veterans, June 30, 2001." Congratulations. (Applause)

MR. WILLIAM EPPS, JR: I wanted to bring the better half, because she's been a very important part of the team, and, Commander, I feel very blessed today.

I feel very blessed today to be here, Commander, and it's also an honor and a privilege for me. On behalf of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations and especially the Opelika Department staff, I would like to especially thank the DAV for recognizing our team, because without their support we wouldn't be standing before you today.

It is truly an honor for us all to be recognized by you. The only regret that we have is that we just don't feel that we may have done enough.

You read off some numbers, but the numbers, to me, are meaningless. I get my satisfaction in seeing vets go to work and be able to take care of their families, just as I'm able to take care of mine.

With your continued support and with the blessing of God, we hope that we can continue to tear down some of the barriers that you are facing and enable you to continue on. We thank you and may God continue to bless you. (Applause)

MS. DELORIS WALLER: Leave it to Bill to thank the team. He always does. You know, when you manage a person as dedicated as Bill Epps and the rest of my staff is, it makes my job tremendously easy.

We are dedicated in our area to making sure that we provide our veterans and all of our citizens, especially our disabled veterans, with every possible job opportunity, training opportunity that we can find.

We thank you so much for honoring us for doing our jobs. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. WOLFE: This next award is being presented to the small employer. I would say it's a small employer with a great big gold heart.

Lear Seigler Services, Incorporated, of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, is the Outstanding Small Employer of the Year for its efforts to employ disabled veterans. Lear Seigler Services, Incorporated, counts 26 disabled veterans among its staff of 79 employees.

Site Manager Nathan Brown said that veterans bring a wealth of experience to the job and they're groomed in loyalty and integrity. He also said, "The jobs we have are geared around the military, and I've been successful using disabled veterans."

Lear Seigler Services, Incorporated, employs more than 4,000 people at more than 80 locations worldwide, providing management services and aircraft and vehicle maintenance, logistics, transportation, engineering and communications.

Here to accept the award on behalf of Lear Seigler Services Incorporated is Site Manager, Mr. Nathan Brown.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Mr. Brown, it is, indeed, an honor and a privilege to present to you the Small Employer Award.

It reads: "The Disabled American Veterans National Commander's Award is presented to the Outstanding Small Employer of the Year for conspicuous and meritorious effort in providing employment opportunities for disabled veterans.

Further, that such consistent and noteworthy efforts will serve as an inspiration and a challenge to other employers. June 30, 2001." Congratulations, Mr. Brown. (Applause)

MR. NATHAN BROWN: Good afternoon, everyone. I want to thank the DAV for awarding this award.

I'm not a speaker, but I'd like to say something here for a minute. Since I retired out of the military, when I started with the veterans, it's been a success because I had good veterans around me.

Over the nine years I lost five comrades during my nine years working with Lear Seigler, and that's when I learned about the DAV and how they strong they were. The guys came and women came from everywhere to support their families. That made me feel good to know that, so after I got the first award, I came up with a plan.

I called the CEO and I told him, "In processing, we need to talk about the DAV," and like you said earlier, the company has got 2,000 to 4,000 members, and most of the employees are veterans and disabled veterans.

So, I hope that across the board that would make a big impact and we are doing something to contribute. I want to thank you all again. (Applause)

MR. WOLFE: The final award this afternoon goes to the large employer. PRC, Incorporated, of Fort Hood, Texas, has been selected to receive the Outstanding Large Employer of the Year for 2001.

PRC, Incorporated, has made a special effort to recruit and hire qualified veterans, giving them meaningful employment that utilizes their skills.

PRC, Incorporated, is a contractor providing armored vehicle, tank and helicopter firing range operations to the U.S. Army at Fort Hood.

They employ 56 disabled veterans among its 223-person staff at Fort Hood. PRC uses the local employment office as the sole resource for hiring. Of its work force, 80 percent are veterans, 32 percent are Vietnam era veterans and 22 percent are disabled veterans.

Here to accept the award on behalf of PRC, Incorporated, is Project Manager Mr. Ted R. Scribner. Please welcome him. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Mr. Scribner, again, it's an honor to present this award as the Large Employer and it reads:

"The Disabled American Veterans National Commander's Award is presented to the Outstanding Large Employer of the Year, PRC, Incorporated, Fort Hood, Texas, for conspicuous and meritorious effort in providing employment opportunities for disabled veterans. Further, that such consistent and noteworthy effort would serve as an inspiration and a challenge to other employers. July 30, 2001." Congratulations again. (Applause)

MR. TED R. SCRIBNER: Thank you. Well, first of all, on behalf of PRC, Incorporated, I would sincerely like to thank the DAV for this recognition.

Personally, I'd like to thank the DAV for having the opportunity to come down and accept it. We do work with the local Texas Work Force Commission Office there in Colleen, Texas, and they have been a real boon to us.

We started up this large contract a little over a year ago, and they went of their way to help us. The Veterans Coordinator there, a gentleman named Jerry Fitzgerald, and in fact is the gentleman who wrote up the nomination for this award, has been an invaluable resource for us.

The veterans, including the disabled veterans, that I have in my operation -- and by the way, we're up to about 240 now, above that 223, and I would say the percentages are about the same as far as veterans and disabled veterans, but they provide the stability for my work force.

I do have some turnover. My turnover, for the most part, is not amongst my veterans or disabled veterans. They're the stability. They allow us to do the mission; and when we do the mission, the Fort Hood training mission gets done.

And just a final note, the day before I came up here, one of my employees came over to see me, and he had the latest edition of the DAV Magazine opened up to the article where it talks about these awards, and I could tell that he was proud that even indirectly he was in the national magazine because he was one of the employees that it was talking about.

Once again, thanks very much to the DAV for this honor. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I will now call on Bill Brzezinski, Chairman of the Committee on Finance and Dues, for his report.

MR. W.D. BRZEZINSKI: Comrade Commander, delegates, the National Convention Committee on Finance and Dues was called to order for its first business session on July 30, 2001, at 7:30 by the Committee Advisors Bradley Barton and Richard E. Patterson.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee Chairman. Bill Brzezinski was nominated for the chairmanship. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed, and Bill Brzezinski was elected Chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of the secretary. Arthur Cushing was nominated and elected as Secretary of the Committee.

The Committee had not received any resolutions for consideration. The Committee next reviewed the proposed 2002 budget with the Committee Advisors and with the assistance of Comptroller Anita Blum.

The proposed 2002 budget was referred to the National Convention Committee on Finance and Dues by the National Finance Committee with a recommendation for adoption.

Following completion of the Committee's review, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the National Convention adoption of the proposed 2002 budget.

The Committee then expressed its thanks to the Committee Advisors, Bradley Barton and Richard E. Patterson, who were aided by Comptroller Anita Blum, for their assistance in performing the work of this important committee.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Finance and Dues, and I hereby move for the adoption of the report and ask that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Bill. I will now call for a second on that motion, please. Number 3, please.

MR. SIDNEY BICK: Sidney Bick, Past Department Commander, Chapter 47 of Illinois, proudly seconds the motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you will wish to be read?

Hearing none, all in favor, say aye; all against say nay. The aye's have it; so moved. Thank you.

I will now call Rob Reynolds, Chairman of the Committee on Hospital and Volunteer Services, for his report.

MR. ROBERT T. REYNOLDS: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Hospitals and Voluntary Services was called to order for its first business session on July 30, 2001, by Committee Advisors Ed Hartman and Elwood Lechausse.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee Chair. Robert Reynolds was nominated for chair. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed, and Robert Reynolds was elected Chair.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of Secretary. Elwood Lechausse was nominated and elected as Secretary of the Committee.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted, and I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this national convention. For the purpose of saving time, I will read only the number and purpose of the resolutions.

Resolution 125, Increase the limitation for fee-based care;

Resolution 082, Ensure that timely and adequate health care resources be provided to wartime, service-connected disabled veterans;

Resolution 122, Support legislation which provides service-connected veterans priority within VA health care systems;

Resolution 123, Support enhancement of long-term health care to veterans;

Resolution 124, Support additional funding for CBOCs, now and in the future;

Resolution 126, Support the provision of comprehensive VA health care services to enlisted veterans;

Resolution 159, Support for VA paying its fair share of the cost of caring for veterans residing in state veterans' homes;

Resolution 177, Support legislation to extend CHAMPVA entitlement until graduation of full-time students;

Resolution 202, Require VA pharmacies to print both benefits and side effects on all prescription drugs issued to veterans;

Resolution 203, Support a National Commander's Youth Volunteer Scholarship Program;

Resolution 218, Support repeal of co-payments for medical care and prescriptions provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Resolution 219, Oppose recommendation that military retired veterans be prohibited from receiving health care from both Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs facilities;

Resolution 220, Support the provision of emergency health care in non-VA facilities to veterans enrolled in VA's health care system;

Resolution 221, Oppose third-party payments for service-connected disability;

Resolution 222, Support equal medical services and benefits for women veterans;

Resolution 223, Reorganize VISNS to be responsive to geographic accessibility and diverse needs of veterans;

Resolution 224, Urge the VA to impose guidelines to preclude inappropriate use of non-physicians for disability examinations;

Resolution 225, Support competitive salary and pay levels for VA physicians, pharmacists, dentists, and nurses;

Resolution 235, Amend Title 38, United States Code, to include dental care and treatment to all enrolled veterans with the VA Health Care System;

Resolution 239, Extend appreciation to the Miami Medical Center for the success of the 80th National Convention; and

Resolution 240, Extend appreciation to the Electric Mobility Veterans Assistance Division for the success of the 80th National Convention.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Hospitals and Voluntary Services, and I move the adoption of these regulations and that the Committee be discharged with thanks of the National Convention.

(The above-mentioned resolutions follow.)

RESOLUTION NO. 082—LEGISLATIVE

ENSURE THAT TIMELY AND ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE SERVICES BE PROVIDED TO WARTIME SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) formula for allocating medical care funding among its 22 Veterans Integrated Service Networks, known as the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA), funding is based only on the workload from service-connected conditions; and

WHEREAS, current law provides that all veterans, once enrolled for VA health care, are entitled to all benefits, regardless of their service-connected disability or nonservice-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, the VA Central Office is holding back a large contingency fund and is providing funds to those areas that have a higher concentration of nonservice-connected veterans using the facilities; and

WHEREAS, in areas of the country where there is a large percentage of service-connected veterans, there are long waiting times for medical service; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that timely and quality health care services be provided to wartime service-connected disabled veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 122—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS PRIORITY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Public Law 104-262 repealed section 1712 (i) of title 38, United States Code, which prescribed regulations to ensure that special priority be provided in furnishing medical services and any other outpatient medical care to service-connected veterans; and

WHEREAS, current law does not ensure that service-connected veterans will be given priority for medical services; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to provide that service-connected veterans will be given priority for Department of Veterans Affairs medical care unless compelling medical reasons indicate otherwise.

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RESOLUTION NO. 123—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM HEALTH CARE TO VETERANS

WHEREAS, many veterans use the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for their health care needs in post-acute and long-term care services; and

WHEREAS, VA long-term care is restricted and unevenly funded across the VA system; and

WHEREAS, demand for post-acute and long-term care services in the veteran population is increasing and predicted to grow by 13 percent over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, VA should invigorate and re-engineer the core of VA-operated services to meet new demand for long-term care; and

WHEREAS, long-term care should be afforded to any veteran in need of such care for a service-connected disability, and to any veteran who is in need of such care for any condition who has a service-connected disability rated at 50 percent or more; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a comprehensive program of extended care services for veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 124—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINICS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has seen fit to reform its health care delivery system, replacing much of its inpatient care with outpatient treatment; and

WHEREAS, VA has chosen to bring health care to veterans with its program of Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs); and

WHEREAS, such CBOCs are funded from current hospital operating budgets, thus reducing even further the VA's ability to adequately care for veterans at its hospital sites; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports additional and separate funding for the CBOC programs now and in the future.

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RESOLUTION NO. 125--LEGISLATIVE

INCREASE THE LIMITATION FOR FEE-BASED CARE

WHEREAS, when Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities are unable to provide specific treatment or cannot

provide treatment economically due to geographic inaccessibility, certain veteran patients may be authorized to receive treatment from non-VA health care providers at VA expense; and

WHEREAS, the program of providing such treatment is commonly referred to as the fee-basis program; and

WHEREAS, the amount payable by the VA has not kept pace with medical inflation and has remained constant for many years in spite of medical inflation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, calls for a regulatroy change to increase and maintain a realistic fee basis reimbursement probram to provide cost-effective health care delivery to the Nation's sick and disabled veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 126—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO ENTITLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, it is the position of the Disabled American Veterans that veterans should be afforded quality and timely health care services by the Department of Veterans Affairs because of their honorable service to our Nation; and

WHEREAS, it is the DAV's belief that quality health care for veterans is achieved when health care providers are given the freedom and resources to practice the most effective and scientifically proven medicine available; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration plays a critical role in the delivery of health care services to our Nation's sick and disabled veterans, is the largest direct federal provider of health care services, the largest clinical training ground for the health professions, and a leader in medical research; and

WHEREAS, for well over a decade, VA has been faced with the dilemma of ever-increasing demand for medical care and perennially inadequate, decremental budgets; and

WHEREAS, because of restricted appropriation levels, veterans are being forced to wait and are sometimes denied access to health care implicitly promised in connection with their military service; and

WHEREAS, the VA health delivery system must, at a minimum, achieve the following:

- Promote and ensure health care quality and value, and protect veterans in the health care system;
- Guarantee access to a full continuum of care, from preventive through hospice;
- Receive adequate funding through appropriations and third-party reimbursements;
- Fairly and equitably distribute resources to treat the greatest number of veterans requiring health care;
- Provide all medications, supplies, prosthetic devices and other over-the-counter medication necessary for the proper treatment of service-connected disabled veterans;
- Preserve VA's mission and role as a provider of special services in areas such as blindness, amputation, spinal cord injury, 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 entitled veterans;
- Maintain a strong and veteran-focused research program; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation that embodies the concepts and principles enumerated above and establishes entitlement to clearly-defined VA health care services for veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 159—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PAYING ITS FAIR SHARE OF THE COST OF CARING FOR VETERANS RESIDING IN STATE VETERANS HOMES

WHEREAS, state veterans homes were founded for Civil War veterans in the late 1800s and have served veterans for over 100 years; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of title 38, United States Code, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized to make aid payments to states maintaining state veterans homes subject to the provisions of section 18.13 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations; and

WHEREAS, there are state veterans' homes in most states throughout the United States, with more being added annually; and

WHEREAS, the VA State Veterans Home Program has proven to be a cost-effective provider of quality care services to the Nation's veterans who require domiciliary, nursing home, and hospital care; and

WHEREAS, VA promotes the care and treatment of veterans in state veterans homes as one means to attain the goal of developing and maintaining the highest possible quality of patient care for eligible veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA has stated its commitment to increase VA's share of state home per diem to 33 1/3 percent of the national average cost of providing care in a state veterans home; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, authorizes the State Home Construction Grant Program, which is funded by VA at 65 percent of total costs for construction of new state veterans homes and renovation of existing facilities; and

WHEREAS, VA has not kept pace with states' grant applications for construction of new state veterans homes and renovation projects; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, authorizes VA to make per diem payments for veterans residing in state veterans homes, and the State Veterans Home Program is recognized as the lowest cost alternative among all nursing care alternatives used by VA; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the growing long-term health care needs of older veterans, the State Veterans Home Program will continue to be a vital health care provider and the lowest cost alternative for veterans needing long-term nursing care; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, fully supports the legislative objectives of the National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH) to receive from VA a per diem payment that equals 33 1/3 percent of the national average cost of providing care in a state veterans home; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans urges the Congress of the United States to fully fund state veterans home construction grants Priority One projects for fiscal year 2002; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans supports a ranking system whereby state home construction grant requests would be prioritized, in the year they are received, utilizing current VA needs criteria, with grant requests received in future years prioritized in the same manner, with the understanding that they will not receive funding until projects submitted in previous years are funded subject to automatic eligibility for funding for the first veterans' home in a state, regardless of the year the grant request is received; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans urges the President and Congress to pledge their full support to the State Veterans Home Program as it is the most cost-effective nursing care alternative used by VA.

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RESOLUTION NO. 177—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO EXTEND CHAMPVA ENTITLEMENT UNTIL GRADUATION OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS

WHEREAS, children of certain veterans are provided medical care under the CHAMPVA program; and

WHEREAS, a child's eligibility, which otherwise terminates at age 18, continues to age 23 when such child is pursuing an approved full-time course of education; and

WHEREAS, while attending school, these children generally continue to be dependent upon the veteran or surviving spouse and are unable to provide for their own medical care; and

WHEREAS, continuing medical care eligibility under CHAMPVA until graduation would further the goal of aiding a veteran's child while pursuing an education and alleviate financial hardship that might otherwise interrupt a child's education; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to extend eligibility to CHAMPVA until an eligible child's graduation from an approved course of full-time education.

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RESOLUTION NO. 202—LEGISLATIVE

REQUIRE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PHARMACIES TO PRINT BOTH BENEFITS AND SIDE EFFECTS ON ALL PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ISSUED TO VETERANS

WHEREAS, Congress authorized the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to care for the medical needs of our veteran population; and

WHEREAS, veterans' health care needs include medication and prescription drugs for veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA pharmacies fill these prescriptions for veterans; and

WHEREAS, in the past, the pharmacies have just filled prescriptions with no instructions informing veterans of the benefits and side effects of the drugs; and

WHEREAS, veterans have not been informed of the side effects when one or more prescription drugs are prescribed; and

WHEREAS, two or more drugs taken at the same time may cause an adverse reaction affecting the veteran in many ways; and

WHEREAS, many privately owned pharmacies print out for their patients the benefits of the drug prescribed, as well as the side effects; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports requiring VA pharmacies to print out, for each prescription, the benefits, side effects, and drug interactions and contraindications for each drug.

RESOLUTION NO. 203—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT A NATIONAL COMMANDER'S YOUTH VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the National Commander's Youth Volunteer Scholarship Program is a very worthy program and is much appreciated; and

WHEREAS, the present scholarship program only includes youths volunteering in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers; and

WHEREAS, many of our hospitalized veterans are in VA as well as state-owned veterans' nursing homes around the nation; and

WHEREAS, due to vast distances between VA medical centers, it is imperative to have VA as well as state-owned nursing homes to care for hospitalized veterans; and

WHEREAS, time volunteered for veterans is equally valuable, whether it is served at a VA medical center or a state veterans' nursing home; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, will take necessary action to include time volunteered in facilities other than VA hospitals for consideration of awards under the National Commander's Youth Volunteer Scholarship Program.

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RESOLUTION NO. 218—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT REPEAL OF COPAYMENTS FOR MEDICAL CARE AND PRESCRIPTIONS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, through service to their Nation in which they made extraordinary sacrifices and contributions, veterans have earned the right to certain benefits in return; and

WHEREAS, because of the patriotism, devotion, and sacrifices of our veterans, ours is the most free nation on earth where our citizens enjoy unequalled rights, privileges, and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, as the beneficiaries of veterans' service and sacrifice, the citizens of our grateful nation want our government to fully honor our moral obligation to care for veterans and generously provide them benefits and health care entirely free of charge; and

WHEREAS, copayments are a feature of health care systems in which some costs are shared by the insured and the insurer in a commercial relationship between the patient and the for-profit company or of health care through other government programs in which the beneficiary has not earned the right to have the costs of health care benefits fully borne by taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, asking veterans to pay for part of the benefits a grateful nation provides for them is fundamentally contrary to the spirit and principles underlying the provision of benefits to veterans; and

WHEREAS, copayments were only imposed upon veterans under urgent circumstances and as a temporary necessity to contribute to reduction of the Federal budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, Congress has forgotten or abandoned the traditional benevolent philosophy for 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, Congress has made copayments a permanent feature of some veterans' health care services; and

WHEREAS, based on practices in the private sector, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has recently moved to more than triple the amount of the copayment for prescription medications, as if Department of Veterans Affairs were operating a commercial enterprise; and

WHEREAS, no requirement that veterans be burdened with copayments is justified, especially in these times where deficits have been offset by record budget surpluses; and

WHEREAS, as a continuing cost of national defense and as our Nation's foremost moral obligation, veterans' benefits must remain a first priority of our government;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, calls for legislation to repeal all copayments for veterans' medical services and prescriptions.

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RESOLUTION NO. 219-LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE RECOMMENDATION THAT MILITARY RETIRED VETERANS BE PROHIBITED FROM RECEIVING HEALTH CARE FROM BOTH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES

WHEREAS, military retired veterans were promised and earned lifetime health care through the Department of Defense 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; and

WHEREAS, each 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 through the other system; and

WHEREAS, prohibiting the military retired veteran who uses Department of Defense health care facilities from using Department of Veterans Affairs facilities treats that veteran less favorably than other similarly situated veterans who have complete access to Department of Veterans Affairs health care; and

WHEREAS, prohibiting the military retired veteran who uses Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities from using Department of Defense facilities treats that veteran less favorably than other similarly situated veterans who have complete access to Department of Defense health care;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, opposes any action to decrease the health care eligibility owed military retired veterans through the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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RESOLUTION NO. 220—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE IN NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES TO VETERANS ENROLLED IN VA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, any health care plan is incomplete without provisions for emergency care; and

WHEREAS, current law limits the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) authority to pay for emergency services that veterans receive outside the VA health care system; and

WHEREAS, VA provides enrolled veterans a uniform benefits package that emphasizes preventive medicine and primary care, and provides a comprehensive health care benefit plan, including inpatient and outpatient treatment; and

WHEREAS, the VA enrollment system has declared itself to be a "Health Care Plan"; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize enrolled veterans to receive emergency medical care in private medical facilities at VA expense.

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RESOLUTION NO. 221—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE THIRD-PARTY PAYMENTS FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) primary mission is to provide high quality medical care to veterans eligible by reason of their service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the VA is authorized to recover or collect the cost of care from a third-party health insurer when insured veterans receive health care from the VA for nonservice-connected conditions; and

WHEREAS, the collection of payments from a third party for the treatment of veterans' service-connected disabilities would abrogate the VA's and Federal Government's responsibility to provide such care and may result in increased premium payments to veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans

in National Convention, assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, opposes any legislation that would require the VA to recover third-party payments for the care and treatment of a veteran's service-connected disability(ies).

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RESOLUTION NO. 222-LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT EQUAL MEDICAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS FOR WOMEN VETERANS

WHEREAS, women veterans accounted for 4.3 percent of the total veteran population in 1990, in 2000 women represent 5.3 percent of all veterans, and by 2040 they will make up about 11 percent of the total veteran population; and

WHEREAS, women have always provided meaningful contributions to our armed services over the course of our Nation's history, most recently exemplified by the 33,000 women who served honorably in Southwest Asia performing combat and combat support functions; and

WHEREAS, a recent General Accounting Office report found that problems continue to confront women veterans when attempting to gain access to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care services, and VA remains unable to fully ensure privacy for women veterans; and

WHEREAS, many women seeking VA health care find services unavailable or personnel unprepared to understand or deal with their specific needs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, seeks enactment of legislation mandating the provision of health care services, inclusive of gender-specific services, by VA to eligible women veterans to the same degree and extent that services are provided to eligible male veterans, inclusive of counseling and/or psychological services incident to sexual violence; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge VA to strictly adhere to stated policies regarding privacy issues relating to the treatment of women veterans and to proactively seek innovative methods to ensure women veterans receive the treatment they so rightly deserve.

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RESOLUTION NO. 223—LEGISLATIVE

REORGANIZE VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORKS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO GEOGRAPHIC ACCESSIBILITY AND DIVERSE NEEDS OF VETERANS

WHEREAS, the Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) were created to enhance health care delivery to the Nation's sick and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VISNs were established with 27 guiding values, to promote patient care, quality, flexibility, efficiency, and responsiveness; and

WHEREAS, the current VISN configuration places timely access to medical care, enhancement of patient referrals, and health services utilization at peril due to the lack of ground transportation opportunities and the existence of natural and geographic barriers; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans is honored to champion the needs of all wartime sick and disabled veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports the reorganization of VISNs throughout the United States to ensure that they are designed to be responsive to the geographic accessibility and culturally diverse needs of their veteran communities.

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RESOLUTION NO. 224—LEGISLATIVE

URGE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPOSE GUIDELINES TO PRECLUDE INAPPROPRIATE USE OF NON-PHYSICIANS FOR DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), through its compensation and pension examinations section, has historically recognized the importance of a complete medical examination in order to properly evaluate a veteran's disability; and

WHEREAS, examinations should include complete neurological and psychiatric examinations, and other special examinations indicated by the physical condition; and

WHEREAS, an incomplete examination, especially in the neurological and psychiatric fields, is a common cause of incorrect diagnosis, which frequently leaves the Veterans Benefits Administration in doubt as to the presence or absence of disabling conditions at the time of the examination; and

WHEREAS, an incomplete examination delays the adjudication of monetary benefits as well as the treatment of complex medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, many questions of cause and effect of functional impairment are beyond the competency of non-physicians; and

WHEREAS, individuals with qualifications less than those held by a physician do not possess the training and/or level of proficiency to cope with the complexities of performing compensation and pension examinations; and

WHEREAS, where examinations such as cardiology, neurology, gynecology, pulmonary, podiatry, orthopedics, gastrointestinal, and psychiatry require specialized medical opinions; and

WHEREAS, the medical examiner maintains the responsibility of furnishing, in addition to the etiology, anatomical, pathological, laboratory and prognostic data required for ordinary classification, full descriptions of the effects of disability upon the veteran's ordinary activity; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, urges the VA to impose binding guidelines that would preclude the utilization of non-physicians in performing VA compensation or pension examinations that are solely within the competence of a physician.

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RESOLUTION NO. 225—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT COMPETITIVE SALARY AND PAY LEVELS FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PHYSICIANS, DENTISTS, AND NURSES

WHEREAS, chronic underfunding of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical care program continues to hamper the VA's ability to provide timely, complete, and quality health care services to veterans; and

WHEREAS, physicians, pharmacists, dentists, and nurses form the basic framework and nucleus for the provision of health care services to veterans; and

WHEREAS, there continues to exist a genuine crisis in the VA's ability to recruit and retain an adequate number of qualified health care providers; and

WHEREAS, a significant factor in the ability to hire qualified health care providers is adequate pay that is competitive with the private sector; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, seeks the enactment of legislation providing for adequate salary and pay levels for VA physicians, pharmacists, dentists, and nurses.

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RESOLUTION NO. 235-LEGISLATIVE

AMEND TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, TO INCLUDE DENTAL CARE AND TREATMENT TO ALL ENROLLED VETERANS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans recognizes that oral health is integral to the general health and well being of a patient, and is part of comprehensive health care; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system is mandated under Section 1712, Title 38, United States Code, to provide outpatient dental services to veterans rated 100 percent service connected, to veterans held prisoner of war for more than 90 days, or to those who have sustained dental trauma in performance of military service; and

WHEREAS, Section 1710(B) authorizes the VA to provide hospital care and medical services to any veteran who has a service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, a dental condition is a medical condition which can impact on all other medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, VA currently provides dental services throughout the VA health care system; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to amend Title 38, United States Code, Section 1712, to provide outpatient dental care to all enrolled veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 239-ADMINISTRATIVE

EXTEND APPRECIATION TO THE MIAMI VA MEDICAL CENTER, MIAMI, FLORIDA, FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 80TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the cooperation and professionalism extended to the delegates and guests of the 80th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary was beyond reproach; and

WHEREAS, many of the delegates to our National Convention were in need of quality 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 VA Medical Center, Miami Beach, Florida, staffed and maintained a compassionate and high-quality outpatient clinic and prosthetic service within the Fontainebleau Hilton; and

WHEREAS, the medical care and prosthetic services rendered to the delegates to this 80th National Convention have been extended in a highly compassionate and professional manner; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, expresses its sincere appreciation to the VA Medical Center, Miami Beach, Florida, for the professional and skillful medical care delivered to the delegates to this 80th National Convention and for contributing to the success of this Convention.

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RESOLUTION NO. 240-ADMINISTRATIVE

EXTEND APPRECIATION TO ELECTRIC MOBILITY VETERANS ASSISTANCE DIVISION FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 80TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, many delegates desiring to attend the National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans suffer severe orthopedic and other debilitating disabilities that render them physically incapable of ambulation or ambulation for extended distances, or make such ambulation impossible without further endangerment to their health; and

WHEREAS, non-motorized aids to ambulation are not practical in convention settings in large hotels where there are typically long

distances between guest rooms, meeting rooms, and dining facilities; and

WHEREAS, Electric Mobility generously provided over 100 scooters and power chairs to be used at our 80th National Convention in order to assist members in overcoming mobility limitations; and

WHEREAS, without this donated service and Electric Mobility's benevolent and dedicated service to the most seriously disabled delegates, many dedicated disabled veterans would be unable to attend and participate in the convention activities; and

WHEREAS, Electric Mobility therefore contributed greatly to the success of the 80th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Electric Mobility for the loaning of scooters and power chairs to the delegates to this 80th National Convention.

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COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. Mike 1.

MR. JIM BIXBY: I second the motion to accept.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: His name, please.

MR. JAMES E. BIXBY: Jim Bixby, Braintree 29, Massachusetts.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: 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 in favor, say aye; against; the aye's have it. So moved.

I will now call to the podium, Dick Giese, Committee Chairman on Legislation and Veterans Rights.

MR. RICHARD E. GIESE: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights was called to order for its first business session on July 30, 2001, by the Committee Advisors, Tom Tomlinson and Joe Violante.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Chair and Secretary. Dick Giese was elected as Chair and Joseph Carroll of Indiana was elected as Secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted, and I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention.

For the purpose of saving time, I will read only the number and purpose of the resolutions:

Resolution Number 3, Support legislation to remove prohibition against concurrent receipt. And incidentally, if you haven't made your postcards out on that, please do.

Resolution Number 4, 10-year protection for service-connected evaluations;

Resolution Number 5, Support legislation to provide service connection to atomic veterans for all recognized radiogenic diseases;

Resolution 6, Support legislation to reestablish the presumption that veterans who served in Vietnam were exposed to dioxin;

Resolution Number 7, Compensate Persian Gulf veterans suffering from illnesses circumstantially linked to their service in the Persian Gulf War;

Resolution Number 8 as amended, Expand POW presumptions;

Resolution Number 9, Support a change in regulatory requirements for a temporary total rating under Section 4.30 of Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations;

Resolution Number 10, Support a change in the payment of certain accrued benefits upon death of the beneficiary;

Resolution number 11, as amended, Remove the estate limit applicable to certain incompetent institutionalized veterans;

Resolution Number 12, Support legislation to allow all veterans to recover amounts withheld as tax on disability severance pay;

Resolution Number 13, Support legislation to repeal the prohibition against service connection for smoking related

illnesses;

Resolution 14, Oppose lump sum payments for service-connected disabilities;

Resolution Number 15, Oppose the permanent rounding down of COLA's in veterans' benefits;

Resolution 16, Oppose subjecting compensation to means testing;

Resolution 17, Oppose reduction, taxation or elimination of VA benefits;

Resolution Number 18, Oppose any proposal that would offset payments of Social Security Disability Insurance benefits or any other federal benefit by VA compensation;

Resolution Number 19, Increase the grant for automobiles or other conveyances available to certain disabled veterans and to provide for automatic annual adjustments based on the increase in the cost of living;

Resolution Number 20, Allow for the payment of fees, expenses and court costs under Equal Access to Justice Act to unsupervised non-attorney representatives practicing before the Court of Veterans Appeals;

Resolution Number 21, Provide an open period to apply for service-disabled veterans insurance;

Resolution 22, Mortgage protection life insurance for 100 percent service-connected veterans;

Resolution 23, Restore entitlement and increase burial and plot allowance for survivors of all wartime veterans;

Number 24, Provide headstones or markers for all veterans;

Resolution 26, Support adequate funding for all VA programs;

Resolution number 27, Oppose the use of a VA-generated savings for purposes other than restoring VA benefits and services;

Resolution 28, Extend commissary and exchange privileges to veterans with a service-connected disability and their dependents;

Resolution Number 29, Extend space available air travel aboard military aircraft to 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans;

Resolution Number 30, Extend military commissary and exchange privileges and space-available air travel to certain service-connected disabled veterans discharged from service prior to October 1st of 1949;

Resolution 31, In support of a COLA for military retirees;

Resolution 32, Seeking the immediate release of any Americans who may still be held captive from World War II, Korea and Vietnam;

Resolution Number 33, Oppose any authorization to use of members of the Armed Forces for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent;

Resolution 43, Amend Section 143, Bowlegs 1, Bowlegs 4 of Title 26, United States Code to include veterans who serve after January 1, 1977, within the definition of "qualified veteran" for purpose of eligibility for home loans funded by tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds issued by certain states;

Resolution 45, In support of legislation to provide that Special Separation Benefits, or SSB not be withheld from VA disability compensation payments;

Resolution 83, Disability compensation increase;

Resolution 85, Liberalize criteria for Agent Orange claims;

Resolution Number 90, Expand provisions to allow for clothing allowance where there is irreparable damage to clothing from prescription medication for service-connected conditions;

Resolution 92, Oppose redefining service connection;

Resolution 97, Oppose a freeze in the rates of VA disability compensation benefits;

Resolution 98, Authorize automobile-adaptive equipment eligibility to any veteran who has a service-connected disability that inhibits the ability to safely operate a motor vehicle;

Resolution Number 99, Opposition to the imposition of time limits for filing compensation claims;

Resolution 100, Oppose reduction of the appeal period for VA decisions;

Resolution 101, Provide an increase in the specially adapted housing grant authorized by Section 210A of Title 38, U.S. Code;

Resolution 104, To increase the face value of service-disabled veterans insurance;

Resolution 105, Support legislation to provide for waiver of premiums for supplemental service disabled veterans insurance;

Resolution 106, Provide for an adequate number of national cemeteries;

Resolution 107, To increase the service-connected burial allowance;

Resolution 113, Oppose any reduction in veterans' programs;

Resolution 114, Oppose reorganization of VA as a bureau within the Department of Defense;

Resolution Number 115, Support legislation that would exempt benefits paid to wartime service-connected disabled veterans from the pay-go provision of the Budget Enforcement Act;

Resolution Number 116, Support legislation to ensure that military retirees receive all benefits promised them;

Resolution Number 141, Provide for a compensable rating for certain hearing-impaired veterans;

Resolution 153, Provide Chapter 35 educational benefits for dependents of veterans rated 80 percent or more service-connected disabled;

Resolution 164, Provide a temporary total rating for the period that an amputee has a new prosthetic device constructed;

Resolution 204, Support change in law to provide for commencement of payment period for temporary total ratings as of date of entitling event;

Resolution 205, Restore protections against unwarranted awards of veterans' benefits to third parties in divorce actions;

Resolution 206, Support legislation to require the VA to consider and apply treating physician's rule;

Resolution 207, Oppose permanent procedural changes that would shift to the Board of Veterans Appeals functions that are more appropriately the responsibility of Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits and other field offices;

Resolution Number 208, Oppose any change in the scope of the review of VA decisions by the Board of Veterans Appeals;

Resolution 209, Oppose regional dispersion of the Board of Veterans Appeals;

Number 210, Support legislation to require judicial enforcement of the statutory Benefit of the Doubt Rule;

Number 211, Support legislation to make claims procedures of the VA exclusive;

Resolution Number 212, Support legislation to preclude inappropriate remands from the Court of Appeals for veterans' claims to the Board of Veterans Appeals;

Resolution number 213, Support legislation to require the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to decide cases by panels of at least three judges;

Resolution 214, Support legislation to prohibit participation of central legal staff in decisions of the Court of Appeals for veterans' claims and oversight hearings on the operations of the court;

Resolution 215, Support the construction of a courthouse for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims;

Number 216, Support legislation to expand the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit to include questions of law in veterans' appeals.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights, and I move the adoption of these resolutions and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

(The above-mentioned resolutions follow.)

RESOLUTION NO. 003—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION AGAINST CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY RETIRED PAY AND VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, current law provides that veterans who retire from

the Armed Forces on length of service may not receive disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in addition to full military retired pay; and

WHEREAS, these disabled veterans must therefore surrender retired pay in an amount equal to the disability compensation they receive; and

WHEREAS, this offset is extremely unfair to veterans who have served faithfully in military careers inasmuch as these veterans have earned their retired pay by virtue of their long service to the Nation and wholly apart from any compensation they may separately be entitled to for the effects of disabilities due to military service; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to repeal the offset between military longevity retired pay and VA disability compensation.

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RESOLUTION NO. 004—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE A 10-YEAR PROTECTION PERIOD FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY EVALUATIONS

WHEREAS, section 110 of title 38, United States Code, now provides for the protection of all disability compensation evaluations that have been continuously in effect for 20 or more years; and

WHEREAS, permanency should be conceded for disability compensation ratings which have been in effect for 10 years without change in evaluation with no further examination scheduled; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports amendment of section 110 of title 38, United States Code, to provide that disability evaluations continuously in effect at the same evaluation rate be protected after a period of 10 years.

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RESOLUTION NO. 005—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION FOR ALL RADIOGENIC DISEASES

WHEREAS, members of the United States Armed Services have participated in test detonation of nuclear devices and served in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan following the detonation of nuclear bombs; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government knew or should have known of the potential harm to the health and well-being of these military members; and

WHEREAS, atomic veterans served their country with honor, courage, and devotion to duty; and

WHEREAS, remedial legislation passed by Congress in 1984 has not been effective in ensuring that all atomic veterans are compensated for their radiogenic diseases; and

WHEREAS, by the Department of Veterans Affairs' own admission, few claimants have obtained disability compensation or dependency and indemnity compensation pursuant to Public Law 98-542; and

WHEREAS, the Government has spent tens of millions of dollars to provide dose reconstruction estimates, the accuracy of which are in serious doubt; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2-2001, supports legislation to provide presumptive service connection to atomic veterans for all recognized radiogenic diseases.

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RESOLUTION NO. 006—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REESTABLISH THE PRESUMPTION THAT VETERANS WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM WERE EXPOSED TO DIOXIN

WHEREAS, the herbicide "Agent Orange" contained a byproduct commonly known as dioxin, which is one of the most toxic substances known; and

WHEREAS, United States Armed Forces used Agent Orange extensively in Vietnam from 1962 to 1971 for defoliation to deny the enemy cover, to destroy the enemy's crops, and to clear areas around the perimeters of military camps and installations; and

WHEREAS, this chemical was applied by aerial spraying, spraying from boats and ground vehicles, and spraying by individuals; and

WHEREAS, military records did not document all spraying and are not detailed enough to allow determination of the precise location of specific military units and individual soldiers in relation to the spraying; and

WHEREAS, knowledge about the initial dispersion, biodegradation, and eventual ecologic disposition of the herbicide is limited, although it is acknowledged that airborne particulates were carried by wind drift; that the chemical was carried away from the area of application by canals, rivers, and streams; that sources of drinking water were contaminated; and that Agent Orange entered the food chain; and

WHEREAS, from 1980 to 1999, VA presumed exposure to Agent Orange in the case of any Vietnam veteran who claimed exposure, consistent with the benefit-of-the-doubt rule and in recognition that circumstances make it near impossible to prove or rule out exposure in individual cases; and

WHEREAS, Congress noted and indicated its approval of this presumption; and

WHEREAS, VA abandoned this presumption in 1999 although the circumstances responsible for this policy and its legal premises had not changed; and

WHEREAS, veterans are now placed in the impossible position of proving exposure when claiming service connection for certain disabilities related to the toxic effects of Agent Orange; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports enactment of a statutory presumption of exposure to dioxin for any Vietnam veteran claiming such exposure.

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RESOLUTION NO. 007—LEGISLATIVE

COMPENSATE PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS SUFFERING FROM ILLNESSES CIRCUMSTANTIALLY LINKED TO THEIR SERVICE IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans has a significant concern regarding the multitude of ailments reported by a growing number of Persian Gulf War veterans who were exposed to both identified and unknown health hazards; and

WHEREAS, Persian Gulf War veterans were exposed to numerous and various environmental health hazards, including smoke from oil field fires and other petroleum agents, depleted uranium, chemical and biological elements, desert parasites, vaccines, chemoprophylactic agents, and vehicle paints; and

WHEREAS, primary investigations and multifarious studies have thus far failed to identify the source or sources of these ailments; and

WHEREAS, the scientific/medical community's inability to identify the source(s) and pathological nature of the disease has caused considerable anxiety for these veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be a commonality of ailments plaguing Persian Gulf War veterans; and

WHEREAS, these ailments have been unofficially labeled "Persian Gulf Syndrome," "Multiple Chemical Sensitivity" and

"Chronic Fatigue Syndrome"; and

WHEREAS, these brave veterans suffering from these unknown ailments are often prevented from providing for their own basic needs and for the needs of their families; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, vigorously supports the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) expeditious handling of Persian Gulf War veterans' claims and the payment of fair and just compensation for those diagnosed and undiagnosed conditions associated with their service in the Persian Gulf theater or related exposure to certain chemical, biological and environmental toxins; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we strongly urge that these Persian Gulf War veterans 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 U.S. military personnel.

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RESOLUTION NO. 008—LEGISLATIVE

EXPAND PRISONER-OF-WAR PRESUMPTIONS

WHEREAS, former prisoners-of-war (POWs) suffered cruel and inhumane treatment, together with nutritional deprivation at the hands of their captors, which resulted in long-term adverse health effects; and

WHEREAS, POWs were subjected to numerous and varying forms of abuse dependent upon the place, time and circumstance of their captivity by the enemy; and

WHEREAS, for this reason, former POWs suffer from a wide range of different physical and psychological maladies; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, 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. 009—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT A CHANGE IN REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR A TEMPORARY TOTAL RATING UNDER SECTION 4.30 OF TITLE 38, CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, with advances in modern medicine and increasing emphasis on more efficient use of health care resources, health care providers are being encouraged to utilize suitable alternatives to inpatient care; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence, veterans are often treated through home health services or convalesce at home rather than in the hospital; and

WHEREAS, convalescent ratings are currently only authorized where inpatient or outpatient treatment resulted in surgery or immobilization of a major joint by cast; and

WHEREAS, there are instances where the veteran's treatment did not involve surgery or casting of a major joint, but the veteran has undergone healing, convalescence, or a therapeutic course in the home, with a duration of more than 21 days; and

WHEREAS, exacerbation of a service-connected disability sometimes makes work activities contraindicated for periods of more than 21 days; and

WHEREAS, in such instances, the therapeutic course, convalescence, or restriction from work would occur in the home in

lieu of hospitalization for more than 21 days; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports a change in section 4.30 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide for a temporary total rating if treatment or exacerbation of a service-connected disability results in a condition of temporary total incapacity for employment or temporary unavailability for employment by reason of home health care or ambulatory care, bed rest or confinement to the home, or contraindication of work activities for more than 21 days.

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RESOLUTION NO. 010—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT A CHANGE IN THE PAYMENT OF CERTAIN ACCRUED BENEFITS UPON DEATH OF A BENEFICIARY

WHEREAS, section 5121 of title 38, United States Code, sets forth the requirement for payment of accrued benefits upon death of a beneficiary and limits accrued benefits to periodic monetary benefits due and unpaid for a period not to exceed two years; and

WHEREAS, the current appeals process, including a favorable Board of Veterans' Appeals decision and payment of retroactive benefits, can take considerably longer than two years; and

WHEREAS, the spouse and/or dependent children are part of the veteran's "family unit" and suffer the financial loss incurred during the appeals process; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation which would provide for payment in full of all due and unpaid accrued benefits to the spouse or dependent children.

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RESOLUTION NO. 011—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REMOVE THE ESTATE LIMIT APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN INCOMPETENT VETERANS

WHEREAS, current law requires the suspension of Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation or pension or emergency officers' retirement pay in the case of a mentally incompetent veteran who has neither spouse nor dependent child and who is being furnished hospital, institutional, or domiciliary care at U.S. Government expense when the veteran's estate reaches a value that is five times the monthly rate for compensation at the 100% rate, without resumption of benefit payments until the estate is reduced to one-half that amount; and

WHEREAS, such action discriminates against veterans in this group merely because their disabilities are mental in nature; and

WHEREAS, this provision irrationally assumes that mentally incompetent veterans have no continuing financial obligations when institutionalized; and

WHEREAS, this discrimination is unconscionable, often causes veterans in this group financial hardship and personal anguish, and has no legitimate public policy purposes in today's society; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2-2001, supports legislation to remove the estate limit applicable to incompetent veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 012—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ALLOW ALL VETERANS TO RECOVER AMOUNTS WITHHELD AS TAX ON DISABILITY SEVERANCE PAY

WHEREAS, money received as a result of personal injury or disability is not taxable; and

WHEREAS, disability severance pay is paid to a military member

as a result of injury or disease suffered during military service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has, and continues to, tax military disability severance pay as regular income; and

WHEREAS, a United States District Court has held that military disability severance pay is nontaxable income; and

WHEREAS, the IRS has acquiesced in the District Court holding; and

WHEREAS, the three-year statute of limitations prevents veterans who have been discharged for more than three years from recovering the nontaxable money withheld by the IRS; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, strongly supports legislation which would allow all veterans to recover nontaxable income withheld from their disability severance pay, notwithstanding the three-year statute of limitations which would otherwise prevent such recovery.

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RESOLUTION NO. 013—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REPEAL THE PROHIBITION AGAINST SERVICE CONNECTION FOR SMOKING-RELATED ILLNESSES

WHEREAS, until recently smoking of tobacco was an activity fully accepted by society and not only condoned but encouraged and subsidized by the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, because the Armed Forces and the military environment encouraged smoking among servicemembers, higher percentages of veterans smoke or have a history of smoking than the general population; and

WHEREAS, the Government rejects the tobacco companies' defense that responsibility for the health effects of smoking is with the individual who personally chose to smoke but relies on that same excuse to prohibit compensation for service-incurred smoking-related illnesses in veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Government has imposed a dual standard against veterans because it has not sought to hold other Federal beneficiaries personally responsible and prohibited benefits for smoking-related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, Congress conveniently seized upon the personal choice-personal responsibility excuse and enacted the prohibition against service connection for smoking-related illnesses solely to finance over-budget spending on politically popular transportation programs and not because of any genuine public policy considerations; and

WHEREAS, for all the foregoing reasons, the enactment of this prohibition was an extreme injustice against America's disabled veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to repeal the prohibition of service connection for smoking-related illnesses.

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RESOLUTION NO. 014—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE LUMP-SUM PAYMENTS FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, disability compensation is paid monthly to an eligible veteran on account of and at a rate commensurate with diminished earning capacity resulting from the effects of service-connected disease or injury; and

WHEREAS, such compensation, by design, continues to provide relief from the service-connected disability for as long as the veteran continues to suffer its effects at a compensable level; and

WHEREAS, by law, the rate of compensation is determined by the level of disability present, thereby requiring reevaluation of the disability upon a change in its degree; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission, created

by Congress to study the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims processing system, has suggested lump-sum payments as a way for the Government to avoid the administrative costs of reevaluating service-connected disabilities and as a way to avoid future liabilities to service-connected disabled veterans when their disabilities worsen or cause secondary disabilities; and

WHEREAS, such lump-sum payments would not, on the whole, be in the best interests of disabled veterans but would be for Government savings and convenience; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, opposes any change in law to provide for lump-sum payments of VA disability compensation.

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RESOLUTION NO. 015—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE THE PERMANENT ROUNDING DOWN OF COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS IN VETERANS' BENEFITS

WHEREAS, to maintain the worth of veterans' benefits, they must be adjusted to keep pace with the rise in the cost of living; and

WHEREAS, permanently rounding down the adjusted rates to the next lower dollar amount will erode the value of these benefits over time and thus not keep pace with the rise in the cost of living; and

WHEREAS, permanently rounding down veterans' cost-of-living adjustments unfairly targets veterans for convenient cost savings for the governent; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, opposes permanent rounding down of cost-of-living adjustments for veterans' benefits.

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RESOLUTION NO. 016—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE SUBJECTING COMPENSATION TO MEANS TESTING

WHEREAS, the citizens of our Nation have heretofore honorably recognized their indebtedness to those who sacrificed in the service of their country by providing compensation as restitution for the personal injuries suffered in such service; and

WHEREAS, a disabled veteran is rightfully entitled to restitution for the effects of service-connected disability during its continuation, without regard to good fortune or income of the veteran or spouse from sources wholly independent of the Government's obligations to the veteran; and

WHEREAS, it is fundamentally unfair for the Government to seek to disclaim its obligation to disabled veterans or their survivors merely because of the receipt of other, unrelated income; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the special status of disability and death compensation, there are efforts to reduce or eliminate them where the veteran or spouse, or survivor has other income; and

WHEREAS, this degrades compensation by providing it to the extent of the veteran's or survivor's economic needs rather than as a measure of restitution equal to personal losses, thereby disassociating compensation from that which merits it and associating it with factors which govern purely gratuitous and welfare benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, opposes any scheme to means test disability and death compensation.

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RESOLUTION NO. 017—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE REDUCTION, TAXATION, OR ELIMINATION OF VETERANS' BENEFITS

WHEREAS, veterans' benefits are earned benefits paid to veterans and their families for their service to the Nation; and

WHEREAS, veterans' benefits are part of a covenant between our Nation and its defenders; and

WHEREAS, certain government leaders have continued to attack veterans' benefits in an attempt to tax those benefits, reduce them, or eliminate them completely; and

WHEREAS, these attacks recur with regularity and serious intent; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, vigorously supports the protection of veterans' benefits from taxation, cutbacks, and elimination.

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RESOLUTION NO. 018—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE ANY PROPOSAL THAT WOULD OFFSET PAYMENTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS OR ANY OTHER FEDERAL BENEFIT BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, there has been consideration given to proposing an offset of Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits by payments of any other federal benefit; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of such a measure would reduce the overall income provided to those service-connected veterans who have a compensable disability and who also suffer a permanent and total disability for purposes of Disability Insurance Benefits from the Social Security Administration; and

WHEREAS, such an offset would work a grave and undue hardship on all totally disabled service-connected veterans and their families by drastically reducing their total income; and

WHEREAS, benefits received from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or under military retirement pay and other federal programs have differing eligibility criteria as compared to the earned payments of Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, opposes any measure which proposes to offset the payment of any other federal benefit or earned benefit entitlement by VA compensation payments made to service-connected disabled veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 019—LEGISLATIVE

INCREASE THE GRANT FOR AUTOMOBILES OR OTHER CONVEYANCES AVAILABLE TO CERTAIN DISABLED VETERANS AND PROVIDE FOR AUTOMATIC ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON THE INCREASE IN THE COST OF LIVING

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a grant to assist eligible disabled veterans and servicemembers in purchasing specially equipped automobiles or other conveyances; and

WHEREAS, when originally established, the amount of the grant was set at an amount sufficient to cover the full cost of lower-priced automobiles; and

WHEREAS, later amendments established grants in amounts representing 80 percent of the average cost of automobiles; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the automobile allowance has not been adjusted regularly concurrent with increases in the costs of automobiles, resulting in substantial erosion of the value of the benefit due to inflation; and

WHEREAS, the current grant of $8,000 represents only about 32 percent of the total average cost of automobiles based on most current available pricing; and

WHEREAS, the automobile grant must be adjusted annually if it is to keep pace with the rise in the cost of living and remain a meaningful amount; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to increase the automobile grant to an amount representing 80 percent of the average cost of new automobiles; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this legislation should provide for automatic annual adjustments in this allowance based on the increase in the cost of living.

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RESOLUTION NO. 020—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ALLOW FOR THE PAYMENT OF ATTORNEYS' FEES, UNDER SECTION 2412 OF TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE, EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT, TO UNSUPERVISED NONATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVES PRACTICING BEFORE THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

WHEREAS, attorneys practicing before the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (the Court) are allowed to collect reasonable attorney fees, expenses, and court costs pursuant to the provisions of section 2412 of title 28, United States Code, Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), in cases where the government was not substantially justified in withholding benefits or services; and

WHEREAS, the Court allows nonattorney representatives employed by veterans' service organizations to practice, unsupervised, before the Court; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans attorneys and nonattorney representatives practice before the Court; and

WHEREAS, the Court has determined that the Disabled American Veterans' nonattorney representatives are not entitled to reasonable fees, expenses, or court costs pursuant to EAJA; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation which would allow unsupervised nonattorney representatives to obtain EAJA fees under section 2412 of title 28, United States Code.

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RESOLUTION NO. 021—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE AN OPEN PERIOD TO APPLY FOR SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE (RH)

WHEREAS, service-connected disabled veterans are entitled to apply for Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance (RH) within one year from the date the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) grants service connection for any disability; and

WHEREAS, many eligible veterans, due to financial difficulties and problems associated with readjustment to civilian life, did not apply for this insurance within the one year eligibility period; and

WHEREAS, many of these service-connected disabled veterans are now prepared and can afford to purchase this insurance but are not able to purchase comparable insurance coverage in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, precedent has been established to extend previously closed "eligibility periods" for certain other VA benefits and services, including insurance; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, seeks the enactment of legislation that would authorize an "open period" for eligible service-connected disabled veterans to apply for coverage under the Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance Program.

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RESOLUTION NO. 022—LEGISLATIVE

EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERANS' MORTGAGE LIFE INSURANCE TO SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS RATED PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Mortgage Life Insurance is presently available to veterans entitled to the special adapted housing award under section 2101(a) of title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, service-connected veterans rated as permanently and totally disabled cannot obtain Mortgage Life Insurance through commercial insurance companies; and

WHEREAS, their widows and dependents must bear an undue hardship upon the death of such veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend VA Mortgage Life Insurance to service-connected veterans who are rated as permanently and totally disabled.

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RESOLUTION NO. 023—LEGISLATIVE

RESTORE ELIGIBILITY AND INCREASE BURIAL AND PLOT ALLOWANCE

WHEREAS, all veterans who have served their country honorably and faithfully are entitled to a decent burial and final resting place; and

WHEREAS, the amount payable by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a burial allowance ($300) and the amount payable as a plot allowance ($150) have remained constant for many years in spite of the inflationary spiral; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 97-35, effective October 1, 1981, restricted the eligibility for the $300 burial allowance, greatly reducing the number of veterans who previously qualified; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 101-508, enacted in November 1990, reduced the number of veterans who would have otherwise been eligible for the $150 plot allowance; and

WHEREAS, these restrictive measures enacted over time were intended purely as cost-savings measures without regard to intrinsic value of this final honor which was bestowed by a grateful nation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to (1) increase both the VA burial and plot allowance to a level reflecting the inflationary impact of the intervening years, (2) restore entitlement to the VA burial allowance to those categories of veterans eliminated by Public Law 97-35, and (3) restore entitlement to the VA plot allowance to those categories of veterans eliminated by enactment of Public Law 101-508; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this legislation should provide for automatic annual adjustments in this allowance based on the increase in the cost of living.

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RESOLUTION NO. 024—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A HEADSTONE OR MARKER FOR ALL VETERANS

WHEREAS, section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish appropriate Government headstones or markers at the expense of the United States only for the *unmarked* graves of veterans interred in public or private cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, veterans interred in a national cemetery, post, or veterans' cemetery owned by a state are furnished an appropriate headstone or marker at the expense of the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is inappropriate and unfair to deny veterans and their families their rightful recognition of service to the United States by limiting the availability of headstones or markers at Government expense to gravesites of veterans who have no other marker; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans desires that the U.S. Congress take appropriate action to correct this injustice and inequity to America's veterans and their families; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to amend section 2306(a) of title 38, United States Code, by deleting the word "unmarked," thereby authorizing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish appropriate Government headstones or markers at the expense of the United States for all graves of veterans interred in public or private cemeteries notwithstanding the presence of other markers on the grave site.

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RESOLUTION NO. 026—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, understaffing of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs in recent years has hampered the VA's ability to effectively administer programs intended to benefit this Nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, continued efforts by the Office of Management and Budget to reduce the VA budget will lead to further deterioration of all VA programs; and

WHEREAS, this Nation's first concern should be to fulfill its obligation to those who served in the military services in defense of the country; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, seeks and strongly supports adequate funding for all VA programs.

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RESOLUTION NO. 027—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE THE USE OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS GENERATED SAVINGS FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN RESTORING VETERANS' BENEFITS AND SERVICES

WHEREAS, a former Office of Management and Budget Director proposed to use savings from reductions in veterans' benefits and services to revamp the welfare system; and

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Acts of 1990 and 1993 required the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to cut veterans' programs by more than six billion dollars, which includes the loss of compensation payments for certain incompetent veterans, elimination of vocational rehabilitation for some service-connected veterans, elimination of entitlement to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for remarried surviving spouses, and the elimination of cost-of-living increases for the Montgomery G.I. Bill educational benefits; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the fiscal year 1996 budget proposed by Congress for veterans' benefits and services called for a seven-year freeze in spending levels for health care and general operating expenses, ignoring the fact that the VA's current spending levels do not permit the timely delivery of health care and benefit determinations; and

WHEREAS, the use of VA-generated savings should be used for restoring VA benefits and services which have been taken away from America's veterans over the past several years; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, goes on record as strongly opposing the use of VA-generated savings for purposes other than restoring VA benefits and

services.

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RESOLUTION NO. 028—LEGISLATIVE

EXTEND COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES TO VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

WHEREAS, current Department of Defense regulations authorize military commissary and exchange privileges to a broad category of active and retired military personnel, their dependents and survivors; and

WHEREAS, veterans injured while in service to their Nation have earned the privilege to use commissary and exchange stores; and

WHEREAS, the recent downsizing of the military jeopardizes the continued profitable operation of military and exchange stores; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to extend commissary and exchange privileges to service-connected disabled veterans and their dependents.

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RESOLUTION NO. 029—LEGISLATIVE

EXTEND SPACE-AVAILABLE AIR TRAVEL ABOARD MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO 100 PERCENT SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, totally disabled service-connected veterans have sacrificed greatly in terms of their impairments and loss of earnings capacity; and

WHEREAS, more than any other living group of Americans, such veterans should be eligible for all benefits and privileges that the Congress may provide; and

WHEREAS, such totally disabled veterans should be extended the same privileges as other personnel currently authorized to utilize space-available military air travel; and

WHEREAS, the extension of such travel to totally disabled service-connected veterans would not place any additional burden upon the administration of this program; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend space-available air travel aboard military aircraft to all 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans to the same extent and under the same conditions as is currently provided to retired military personnel.

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RESOLUTION NO. 030—LEGISLATIVE

EXTEND MILITARY COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES AND SPACE-AVAILABLE AIR TRAVEL TO CERTAIN SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, disabled enlisted personnel who were discharged from military service prior to October 1, 1949—the effective date of the Career Compensation Act—are not entitled to disability retirement from the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, many service-connected disabled veterans have been deprived of the various benefits which all other disabled retired military personnel have enjoyed; and

WHEREAS, due to inflation, service-connected disabled veterans receiving Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation as a sole source of income are experiencing difficulties in keeping pace with the increased cost of living; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, 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. 031—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR MILITARY RETIREES

WHEREAS, cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for military retirees were reduced or eliminated as a result of legislation during 1986 and 1993; and

WHEREAS, other categories of federal annuitants and beneficiaries—Social Security and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) service-connected disability compensation and nonservice-connected pension recipients, for example—were not subject to these same COLA restrictions; and

WHEREAS, it is basically unfair—especially in the case of military disability retirees—to provide a COLA to one category of federal beneficiary while withholding such an adjustment from another category; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation which would ensure the timely extension of COLAs to military retirees when similar adjustments are being authorized for beneficiaries in the Social Security and VA benefit programs.

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RESOLUTION NO. 032—LEGISLATIVE

SEEK THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ANY AMERICANS WHO MAY STILL BE HELD CAPTIVE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, THE KOREAN WAR, AND VIETNAM WAR AND THE RETURN OF THE REMAINS OF ANY AMERICANS WHO DIED DURING THESE WARS

WHEREAS, the members of the Disabled American Veterans are deeply concerned for the thousands of American Servicemen still unaccounted for in the aftermath of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War; 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 these brave men without success; and

WHEREAS, the brave families of these missing Americans continue to live in uncertainty and anguish regarding their missing sons and husbands; and

WHEREAS, there are still today more than 78,000 unaccounted for following World War II, some 8,000 from the Korean War, and over 2,100 in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam War who have not been forgotten; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans was extremely disappointed with the timing of President Clinton's decision to normalize relations with the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, prior to the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIAs from Southeast Asia; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, urges the U.S. Government to ensure this issue be considered as one of America's highest priorities, accelerating efforts to obtain the release of any American who may still be held captive and obtain the fullest possible accounting of those still missing and the repatriation of the remains of those who died while serving our Nation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge passage of legislation that would direct the heads of federal departments and agencies to

fully disclose to the American public information concerning United States personnel classified as prisoners of war or missing in action from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

RESOLUTION NO. 033—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE ANY AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMED CONSENT

WHEREAS, those who serve in our Nation's Armed Forces make personal sacrifices to maintain our national security; and

WHEREAS, members of the Armed Forces should be accorded special respect and the gratitude of us for whom they serve; and

WHEREAS, their willingness to sacrifice and relinquish their liberty does not surrender their natural right to determine what shall be done with their own bodies and their right to personal dignity; and

WHEREAS, it is unethical and a trespass against the person to use servicemembers for human experimentation without their knowledge and consent; and

WHEREAS, our Government has in the past used military members as human guinea pigs to test the effects of harmful and injurious substances on the body; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, opposes any rule or provision that would authorize use of servicemembers for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent.

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RESOLUTION NO. 043—LEGISLATIVE

AMEND SECTION 143(l) (4) OF TITLE 26, UNITED STATES CODE, TO INCLUDE VETERANS WHO SERVED AFTER JANUARY 1, 1977, WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF "QUALIFIED VETERAN" FOR PURPOSES OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HOME LOANS FUNDED BY TAX-EXEMPT MORTGAGE REVENUE BONDS ISSUED BY CERTAIN STATES

WHEREAS, the state of Oregon and four other states (Alaska, California, Texas, and Wisconsin) issue tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds to fund programs that provide low interest home loans to certain veterans; and

WHEREAS, Federal law currently defines "qualified veteran" for purposes of these programs as any veteran who served on active duty at some time before January 1, 1977; and

WHEREAS, veterans of later periods of active service should also be afforded this benefit as a matter of equity; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to amend paragraph (4) of subsection (1), section 143, of the Internal Revenue Code to read "**Qualified veteran.** For the purposes of this subsection, the term 'qualified veteran' means any veteran who meets such requirements as may be imposed by the law of the state issuing such qualified veterans' mortgage bond" and to make any conforming technical amendments necessary.

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RESOLUTION NO. 045—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION PROVIDING THAT SPECIAL SEPARATION BENEFITS PAYMENTS NOT BE WITHHELD FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DISABILITY COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

WHEREAS, as a result of the downsizing of our military forces, many career military personnel are leaving service prior to becoming eligible for longevity retirement pay; and

WHEREAS, these individuals are entitled to separation pay; and

WHEREAS, many of these individuals are also eligible for

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation; and

WHEREAS, VA General Counsel, in an opinion rendered on June 22, 1992, held that any monies received as a result of the Special Separation Benefit (SSB) must be recouped from any VA disability compensation payment; and

WHEREAS, SSB payments are in no way related to a disability; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, 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. 083—LEGISLATIVE

INCREASE DISABILITY COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans was founded on the principle 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 diseases and injuries in civil occupations; and

WHEREAS, compensation increases should be based on the loss of earning capacity; and

WHEREAS, disabled veterans who are unable to work because of service-connected disabilities should be entitled to compensation payments commensurate with the after-tax earnings of their able-bodied contemporaries; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, 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. 085—LEGISLATIVE

LIBERALIZE CRITERIA FOR AGENT ORANGE CLAIMS

WHEREAS, herbicides, the most potent known as "Agent Orange," were used extensively and in great quantities in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, many veterans were exposed in varying degrees to these toxic defoliants and continue to suffer diseases of unknown origin; and

WHEREAS, more than 250,000 Vietnam veterans, concerned over this exposure to herbicides, have been entered on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Agent Orange Registry; and

WHEREAS, mounting scientific evidence continues to implicate additional diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange; and

WHEREAS, the National Academy of Sciences, in studies mandated by the U.S. Congress, continues to review and evaluate scientific data to determine whether a direct link exists between dioxin exposure and certain physical disorders; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans continues to support the premise that such exposure is the proximate cause of certain health disorders; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports liberalizing the criteria for herbicide-related claims, including placing burden of proof for the award of disability compensation on the U.S. Government and not on the individual veteran, and making the U.S. Government responsible for providing needed medical attention, examination, care and treatment, as required by sound medical judgment, and where appropriate, awarding service-connected compensation on the basis

of sound medical/scientific findings; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that those veterans now carried on the VA Agent Orange Registry be given the opportunity for a prompt examination by the VA to ascertain dioxin levels, and to determine whether shared medical conditions exist among them.

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RESOLUTION NO. 090—LEGISLATIVE

EXPAND PROVISIONS TO ALLOW FOR CLOTHING ALLOWANCE WHERE THERE IS IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO CLOTHING FROM PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, clothing allowance is payable to veterans whose service-connected disability results in the use of an orthopedic device that damages clothing; and

WHEREAS, clothing allowance is also payable to a veteran who is service connected for a skin disorder, and the prescription medications for that disorder irreparably damage clothing; and

WHEREAS, veterans service connected for other non-skin disabilities who are prescribed ointments and other medications which irreparably damage clothing are not entitled to a clothing allowance; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports expanding applicable regulations to provide that a veteran who is service connected for any condition which requires prescription medications that irreparably damage clothing be entitled to clothing allowance.

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RESOLUTION NO. 092—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE ANY CHANGE THAT WOULD REDEFINE SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY OR RESTRICT THE CONDITIONS OR CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH IT MAY BE ESTABLISHED

WHEREAS, current law authorizes service connection for disabilities incurred or aggravated during service in the United States Armed Forces in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, various proposals have been made to limit service connection to disabilities caused directly by the performance of duty; and

WHEREAS, disability incurred in the line of duty is sometimes not directly due to a job injury but may be due to less obvious factors attributable to the Armed Forces environment; and

WHEREAS, proof of a causal relationship may often be difficult or impossible notwithstanding an inability to disassociate the disability from service-related factors; and

WHEREAS, current law equitably alleviates the onerous burden of establishing performance of duty or other causal connection as a prerequisite for service connection; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, opposes changes in current law so as to redefine or restrict service connection.

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RESOLUTION NO. 097—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE A FREEZE IN THE RATES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DISABILITY COMPENSATION BENEFITS

WHEREAS, no segment of our society is more deserving of federal benefits and services than those veterans who have incurred disabilities while serving their country honorably in time of need; and

WHEREAS, under the guise of "reducing federal expenditures," proposals have been advanced to freeze the current rates of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation

benefits; and

WHEREAS, the disability compensation benefits of service-connected disabled veterans should be periodically adjusted to reflect inflationary pressures and the rise in the costs of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, service-connected disabled veterans, who have suffered so much for their country, should not be expected to endure further hardships such as would occur should a cost-of-living adjustment be denied to their benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, opposes any freeze in the VA disability compensation program if such program is singled out (from all other major federal entitlement programs) for such treatment.

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RESOLUTION NO. 098—LEGISLATIVE

AMEND PROVISIONS REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR AUTOMOBILE ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE ANY VETERAN WHOSE SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY INHIBITS HIS/HER ABILITY TO SAFELY OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE

WHEREAS, section 3902 of title 38, United States Code, and section 17.119(a) of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, restrict the eligibility for adaptive equipment to those veterans who qualify for the automobile grant as specified in section 3901 of 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 of title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, these service-connected disabled veterans should be provided the adaptive equipment necessary to safely operate a motor vehicle; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, 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. 099—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE THE IMPOSITION OF TIME LIMITS FOR FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS

WHEREAS, compensation is a benefit available to service-connected veterans at any time they choose to claim it; and

WHEREAS, veterans who, for whatever reason, do not initially desire to claim and receive compensation should not forfeit the right to claim and receive it at some later time; and

WHEREAS, no reason other than defeating delayed claims exists for imposition of a statute of limitations on compensation claims; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission, created by Congress to study the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims processing system, suggested a time limit for filing compensation claims as a way to reduce VA's workload; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, July 28-August 2, 2001, opposes any change in law to limit the time for filing compensation claims.

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RESOLUTION NO. 100—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE REDUCTION OF THE APPEAL PERIOD FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DECISIONS

WHEREAS, Congress has created a benevolent system for the administration of veterans' benefits and services; and

WHEREAS, under this benevolent system, veterans currently have one year to initiate appeals of adverse decisions; and

WHEREAS, unlike with other legal processes where fairness to opposing parties, practical considerations, and matters of administrative and judicial convenience justify shorter appeal periods, no such reasons exist within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system where service to veterans is paramount; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission, created by Congress to study the VA claims processing system, has recommended a reduction of the appeal period from one year to 60 days; and

WHEREAS, the length of the current appeal period is not responsible in any way for the claims backlog and related problems the Commission was created to study, the real cause being the ratio of workload to production capacity; and

WHEREAS, a reduction of the appeal period will therefore not increase VA's efficiency nor reduce the claims backlog; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in the appeal period would be an unnecessary reduction of veterans' rights under the pretense of improving the VA claims and appeal processes; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, opposes any change in law to reduce the period for appealing VA claims decisions.

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RESOLUTION NO. 101—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE AN INCREASE IN THE SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING GRANT AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 2101(a) OF TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE AND AUTOMATIC ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON INCREASES IN THE COST OF LIVING

WHEREAS, section 2101(a) of title 38, United States Code, authorizes a one-time specially adapted housing grant to veterans who have incurred the service-connected disabilities consisting of loss or loss of use of both lower extremities, total blindness together with loss or loss of use of one lower extremity, or loss or loss of use of one lower extremity together with either the loss or loss of use of an upper extremity or other organic disease that requires use of a wheelchair or the use of braces, crutches, or canes; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this grant is to enable such severely disabled veterans to construct, purchase, or remodel homes with structural features to accommodate special needs; and

WHEREAS, the current $43,000 maximum amount authorized for this grant is insufficient to allow such veterans to make all necessary adaptations and modifications; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation which would provide a realistic increase in the grant authorized by section 2101(a) of title 38, United States Code, and would provide for automatic annual adjustments based on increases in the cost of living.

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RESOLUTION NO. 104—LEGISLATIVE

INCREASE THE FACE VALUE OF SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE (RH)

WHEREAS, certain veterans are eligible for National Service Life Insurance under section 1922 of 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) of title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, this insurance, commonly referred to as RH insurance, is non-participating with no dividends payable; and

WHEREAS, many of these veterans are uninsurable by private insurance companies as a result of their service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, inflation has rapidly increased and diminished the value of the insurance since the maximum was set at $10,000; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports amendment of section 1922(a) of title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum amount of insurance coverage available under Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance (RH).

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RESOLUTION NO. 105—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR WAIVER OF PREMIUMS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE

WHEREAS, section 1922A(a) of title 38, United States Code, provides for supplemental Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance for totally disabled veterans, in an amount not to exceed $20,000; and

WHEREAS, section 1922A(d) of title 38, United States Code, provides that, "no waiver of premiums shall be made in the case of any person for supplemental insurance granted under this section"; and

WHEREAS, such prohibition of premium waiver is based on the Servicemen's Indemnity Act of 1951, which states in part, "[t]he amount of insurance placed in force hereunder. . .at the time of the insured's application for waiver hereunder, may not exceed $10,000" (section 1912(d), title 38, United States Code); and

WHEREAS, such denial of waiver on supplemental Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance for totally disabled veterans constitutes an inequity based on prior established standards; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to allow for the waiver of premiums, for any and all supplemental Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance for totally disabled veterans that may be authorized by existing and future legislation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the criteria for total disability waiver of premiums, as mandated in section 1912 of title 38, United States Code, be maintained.

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RESOLUTION NO. 106—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE FOR AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF NATIONAL CEMETERIES

WHEREAS, veterans who have served their country honorably and faithfully are entitled to a decent burial and final resting place; and

WHEREAS, these veterans should be assured of this final benefit; and

WHEREAS, the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has indicated it expects annual veteran deaths to increase nine percent from 550,000 in 1998 to 601,000 in 2003, and peak at 620,000 in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the VA is not committed to build cemeteries in the geographical areas of the United States in which the need for burial space for veterans is greatest, but rather only evaluate the potential establishment of additional national cemeteries in areas

of the country identified in the 1987 and 1994 reports to Congress within the framework of the Department's strategic planning and budgeting process; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, urges the VA to develop a plan to establish national cemeteries in areas of the United States determined to be in need of such cemeteries to meet the increasing burial needs of veterans and their families.

RESOLUTION NO. 107—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BURIAL ALLOWANCE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS AND PROVIDE FOR AUTOMATIC ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides service-connected veterans a $1,500 burial allowance; and

WHEREAS, the amount of this burial allowance was last adjusted in 1988 and its value has therefore been seriously eroded by inflation; and

WHEREAS, the amount of this burial allowance should be increased because this substantial reduction in its value is unfair to today's veterans; and

WHEREAS, the burial allowance should automatically be adjusted for inflation annually to keep pace with the rise in the cost of living; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to increase the burial allowance payable in the case of death due to service-connected disability and to provide for automatic annual adjustments indexed to the rise in the cost of living.

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RESOLUTION NO. 113—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE ANY REDUCTION IN VETERANS' PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, concerted efforts to streamline and make more efficient the federal government have included numerous recommendations which impact on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, several of those recommendations appear to be directed at cost-saving measures rather than efficiency and effectiveness; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, urges Congress to reject any proposed intention to "streamline" government that would reduce or diminish the VA's ability to properly serve and care for our Nation's veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 114—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AS A BUREAU WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WHEREAS, the people of the United States, through Federal law, in recognition of this Nation's debt to its veterans, established a Federal Department dedicated to serving veterans' needs; and

WHEREAS, a public policy group called the Heritage Foundation, apparently not appreciating the priority of this Nation's obligation to its veterans, in its report entitled "Mandate for Leadership IV," recommended in the name of government efficiency that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) be abolished and reorganized as a bureau under the Department of Defense (DoD); and

WHEREAS, veterans deserve a Federal Department whose focus is solely upon providing them with the compassionate service they have earned through their special sacrifices; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans

in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, opposes such abolishment of VA as a Federal Department and reorganization as a lesser agency under the DoD.

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RESOLUTION NO. 115—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD EXEMPT THE BENEFITS PAID TO WARTIME SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS FROM THE "PAY-GO" PROVISIONS OF THE BUDGET ENFORCEMENT ACT

WHEREAS, wartime disabled veterans have earned the benefits and services they, their dependents and survivors receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a result of the injuries sustained during their period of wartime service; and

WHEREAS, the benefits and services received by wartime disabled veterans as a result of their service-connected disabilities is an extension of the costs of war; and

WHEREAS, this country has a moral obligation to continue to care for these citizen-soldiers who have risen in defense and support of the ideals of this great Nation and who have returned to civilian life with service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the benefits and services provided to America's veterans, dependents and survivors have not caused this Nation's deficit problems; and

WHEREAS, the so-called "pay-go" provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act require any new benefits or services to be paid out of existing benefits or programs, in effect, requiring one group of disabled veterans to give up a benefit or service so that another worthy group of wartime disabled veterans can receive benefits or services to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from ailments associated with their service in the Persian Gulf War are compensated from funds generated by cutting the benefits of other service-connected veterans and their survivors; and

WHEREAS, the benefits and services provided to wartime disabled veterans are unique and are not a "welfare benefit"; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to exempt VA benefits and services provided to service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors from the "pay-go" provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act.

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RESOLUTION NO. 116—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THAT MILITARY RETIREES RECEIVE ALL BENEFITS WHICH WERE PROMISED THEM WHEN THEY ENTERED THE ARMED FORCES

WHEREAS, men and women who enter military service set aside their personal lives, goals, and opportunities to wear the uniform and bear the burdens of our Nation's defense; and

WHEREAS, these men and women were promised certain benefits, such as free medical and dental care for life, full retired pay based on longevity of service, and other benefits, to entice them to remain in the military and make it a career; and

WHEREAS, our Government has reneged on many of its promises to provide these benefits to military retirees; and

WHEREAS, our Nation has a compelling moral duty to honor its pledges to military retirees; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to require our Government to provide military retirees with all benefits promised them.

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RESOLUTION NO. 141—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE FOR A COMPENSABLE RATING FOR HEARING IMPAIRED VETERANS WITH 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 Rating Schedule provides a compensable rating of 10 percent for other minor disabilities such as a partial loss of one finger, mild skin conditions, tender scars and, in some cases, for the residuals of an episiotomy scar; and

WHEREAS, the VA should recognize those veterans who are impacted by high frequency hearing loss; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports granting veterans with high frequency hearing loss a compensable rating (10 percent) when it has been medically determined that the veteran requires and has been issued a hearing amplification device.

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RESOLUTION NO. 153—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS OF SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS RATED 80 PERCENT OR MORE DISABLED

WHEREAS, chapter 35 of title 38, United States Code, extends educational assistance to the dependents of service-connected veterans who are evaluated as permanently and totally disabled; and

WHEREAS, there are many service-connected veterans rated 80 percent and 90 percent disabled, whose dependents cannot afford to attend an institution of higher learning or pursue a vocational endeavor because of the reduced earning ability of such veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend educational assistance under chapter 35 of title 38, United States Code, to the dependents of veterans who have a service-connected disability rating of 80 percent or more.

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RESOLUTION NO. 164—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE A TEMPORARY TOTAL RATING FOR THE PERIOD THAT AN AMPUTEE HAS A NEW PROSTHETIC DEVICE CONSTRUCTED

WHEREAS, it takes four to six weeks to manufacture a prosthetic device; and

WHEREAS, many employers will not accept an amputee back on the job without his or her artificial limb; and

WHEREAS, the veteran who does not have an artificial limb is incapacitated and unable to perform gainful employment; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) *Schedule for Rating Disabilities* does not contain any provision to provide this temporary total rating; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to amend the 1945 VA *Schedule for Rating Disabilities* to provide a temporary total rating for the period involving the replacement of a prosthetic device.

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RESOLUTION NO. 204—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT CHANGE IN LAW TO PROVIDE FOR COMMENCEMENT OF PAYMENT PERIOD FOR TEMPORARY TOTAL RATINGS FOR COMPENSATION AS OF DATE OF ENTITLING EVENT

WHEREAS, prior to the addition of section 5111 to title 38, United States Code, by Public Law 97-253, the payment period for temporary total ratings for compensation purposes under paragraphs 29 and 30 of the Department of Veterans Affairs *Schedule for Rating Disabilities* commenced the date of award of the temporary total rating based on the date of entrance into the hospital for service-connected disability, the date of institution of hospital treatment for a service-connected disability, or the date of qualifying outpatient treatment for service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, section 5111 now provides that the payment period for such temporary total ratings does not commence until the first day of the calendar month following the month in which the award is effective, except where hospitalization or treatment commences and terminates in the same month; and

WHEREAS, veterans suffering temporary total service-connected disability are, under section 5111, deprived of any increase in compensation to offset the total disability during the first month in which temporary total disability occurs; and

WHEREAS, this deprival and consequent delay in the payment of increased compensation on account of total disability often jeopardizes the financial security of disabled veterans and often unfairly causes them hardship; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation seeking an exemption of the temporary total ratings from this provision of section 5111 of title 38, United States Code.

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RESOLUTION NO. 205—LEGISLATIVE

RESTORE PROTECTIONS AGAINST UNWARRANTED AWARDS OF VETERANS' BENEFITS TO THIRD PARTIES IN DIVORCE ACTIONS

WHEREAS, disability compensation and other veterans' benefits were intended and should be provided solely to fill specific needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, Congress intended to exempt veterans' benefits from the claims of third parties to ensure that such benefits were not voluntarily assigned or through legal processes diverted to purposes or persons other than for which they were intended; and

WHEREAS, for purposes of support payments in divorce actions, state courts and the Supreme Court of the United States have arbitrarily created exceptions to the protection for veterans' benefits Congress established in section 5301 of title 38, United States Code, thereby forcing veterans to surrender their benefits to third parties, contrary to the intent of Congress; and

WHEREAS, the courts show little understanding or appreciation for the principle that veterans' entitlements are awarded solely to veterans because of their personal sacrifices, contributions in the defense of our Nation, or consequent personal suffering associated with service-connected disabilities and for that reason should not inure or vest to the benefit of others who have no natural right or valid legal interest in such benefits; and

WHEREAS, courts have, for example, shown no hesitation to force disabled veterans to surrender their disability compensation and sole source of sustenance to able-bodied ex-spouses as alimony awards; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of uniformity in how the various courts treat veterans' benefits in divorce actions because the courts act according to their own will rather than any consensus on the meaning and intent of the law; and

WHEREAS, this situation creates a need for Congress to intervene to override the effect of the law given by the courts; to

restore meaning, equity, and uniformity to the law; and to reinstate safeguards against veterans' benefits being siphoned into the pockets of persons who have no right to such benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to amend section 5301 of title 38, United States Code, to restore protections against unwarranted awards of veterans' benefits to third parties by prohibiting courts from directly ordering payment of such benefits to third parties, other than dependent children when justified by the circumstances, and by prohibiting courts from taking notice, or the inclusion of, amounts received as veterans' benefits in determining such awards.

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RESOLUTION NO. 206-LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO CONSIDER AND APPLY THE TREATING PHYSICIAN RULE TO VETERANS BENEFITS CLAIMS

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Department of Veterans Affairs to adjudicate claims filed by this Nation's veterans seeking service connection for disability resulting from injury or disease incurred in service, and to rate the severity of any such service-connected disability based on the best medical evidence available with respect thereto; and

WHEREAS, it is the established policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs to administer the law under a broad and liberal interpretation consistent with the facts found in each individual case, and to resolve every reasonable doubt with respect to service origin, degree of disability, or any other point, in favor of the veteran; and

WHEREAS, there exists a generally recognized and accepted principle governing the weight to be accorded the opinions of health care providers in the context of adjudicating Social Security disability claims, known as "the treating physician rule," which rule is premised on the sound belief that, all else being equal, a doctor who has had the opportunity to personally observe and care for a patient is generally in a better position to assess the medical condition of that patient than another similarly qualified doctor who has neither seen nor cared for that person; and

WHEREAS, both the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit have held that the treating physician rule applicable to all Social Security disability claims is inapplicable in the adjudication of veterans' disability claims; and

WHEREAS, the decisions of the courts have clearly misapprehended the need for application of the treating physician rule in the VA claims adjudication process and misinterpreted the law applicable to veterans' claims seeding service connection and increased disability compensation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to adopt and apply the treating physician rule, which rule is premised on the sound belief that, all else being equal, a doctor who has had the opportunity to personally observe and care for a patient is generally in a better position to assess the medical condition of that patient than another similarly qualified doctor who has neither seen nor cared for that person; applicable to Social Security disability claims in the adjudication of veterans' claims for disability benefits.

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RESOLUTION NO. 207-LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSING PERMANENT PROCEDURAL CHANGES THAT WOULD SHIFT TO THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS FUNCTIONS THAT ARE MORE APPROPRIATELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS AND OTHER FIELD OFFICES

WHEREAS, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regional benefit offices and medical centers determine entitlement and dispense benefits and medical care to veterans and other eligible beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, within the procedural structure of the administrative system for the disposition of VA benefit and medical care claims, such regional offices and medical centers are vested with original jurisdiction over questions of benefit entitlement or eligibility; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Veterans' Appeals, located in Washington, D.C., is the VA's administrative appellate forum, which is charged with reviewing the propriety of decisions appealed from these agencies of original jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, appellate forums exist for the limited purpose of reviewing decisions on appeal for error; and

WHEREAS, though, as is typical in administrative agencies, the Board of Veterans' Appeals conducts its own independent review and is not bound by the findings of fact or conclusions of law of VA's agencies of original jurisdiction, the Board otherwise functions in the traditional role of an appellate tribunal; and

WHEREAS, appellate forums are charged with reversing errors in fact or law on the present record or remanding the case to the agency of original jurisdiction to correct record deficiencies or other procedural defects which cannot be appropriately remedied at the appellate level and do not typically engage in evidence gathering or development of the record; and

WHEREAS, this two-tiered procedural hierarchy embodies certain well-ingrained jurisprudential principles, equitable objectives, and time-tested methods of administrative expedience and economy; and

WHEREAS, regulations are under development within VA to fundamentally and permanently alter the role of the Board of Veterans' Appeals by making it directly responsible for evidence gathering in instances of record deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, these proposed regulatory changes by which new evidence would be obtained and considered only at the appellate level diminish veterans' due process rights and subvert veterans' statutory right to one review on appeal of all benefit questions decided by VA; and

WHEREAS, this scheme would encourage continuing laxity at agencies of original jurisdiction and build inefficiency permanently into the system; and

WHEREAS, these changes in the mission of the Board of Veterans' Appeals are unlikely to produce significant positive effects for veterans, VA as a whole, or taxpayers; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, opposes permanent changes in the mission and function of the Board of Veterans' Appeals whereby the Board will take on the responsibilities and role of a super agency of original jurisdiction within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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RESOLUTION NO. 208—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE ANY CHANGE IN THE SCOPE OF THE REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DECISIONS BY THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS

WHEREAS, claimants for veterans' benefits currently have a right to full review of adverse Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) decisions on appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA); and

WHEREAS, BVA allows a large percentage of the appeals it

considers because it finds that benefits are wrongfully denied in many cases; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission, created by Congress to study the VA claims and administrative appeals processes, has suggested restricting the scope of BVA's review to reduce types of errors it can overturn and therefore the number of appeals it can allow; and

WHEREAS, such a restriction would deny justice to many veterans who would receive favorable decisions by BVA under the current full review; and

WHEREAS, such a change would represent a change in the Government's long-standing philosophy toward veterans, placing administrative convenience and Government savings through denial of meritorious claims above the Nation's obligation to fairly treat and care for its veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, opposes any change to restrict the scope of BVA's review of VA claims decisions.

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RESOLUTION NO. 209—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSING REGIONAL DISPERSION OF THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS

WHEREAS, veterans and other claimants for veterans' benefits may appeal erroneous decisions of the various and geographically dispersed benefit offices and medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, inaccuracy and lack of uniformity are pervasive among the claims decisions of the many VA field offices; and

WHEREAS, one board, the Board of Veterans' Appeals situated adjacent to VA's central office and policymaking center in Washington, D.C., hears all appeals; and

WHEREAS, appellants, Board members, and taxpayers derive numerous benefits from an appellate board housed in one centralized location, some of the more obvious of which are

- availability of the collective expertise of the entire board
- professional interaction and association among Board members and staff
- shared and uniform training
- common and shared goals and responsibilities
- economies of scale from pooled resources and the most efficient workload distribution, with the flexibility and capacity to readjust the workload as necessary between members and support staff
- a positive environment and employee incentives for developing creative solutions and innovations to meet and overcome the challenges inherent in a system of mass adjudication of claims
- more efficient and effective centralized case management and storage
- more effective centralized board administration and hands-on employee oversight; and

WHEREAS, Congress created the Board of Veterans' Appeals after repeated failed experiments with various configurations of regional appellate panels that were plagued by persistent inefficiencies and problems and were proven impractical and poorly suited to properly dispose of veterans' appeals; and

WHEREAS, indications are that consideration is being given within certain quarters of VA to dismember the board and scatter its decisionmakers among the VA field offices or among various regions of the Nation; and

WHEREAS, such regional reorganization of the Board would be extremely unwise, wholly unwarranted, and not in the best interests of veterans or taxpayers; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28–August 2, 2001, categorically opposes any decentralization of the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

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RESOLUTION NO. 210—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE JUDICIAL ENFORCEMENT OF THE STATUTORY BENEFIT-OF-THE-DOUBT RULE

WHEREAS, the benefit-of-the-doubt rule in law mandates that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will resolve any question of fact in favor of the claimant when the evidence in support of the fact alleged is at least of equal weight as that in opposition; and

WHEREAS, VA can therefore lawfully find against a claimant on a question of fact only where the greater weight, a preponderance, of the evidence is against the claimant; and

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is charged with enforcing the laws governing VA claims decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Court will uphold VA's decisions on questions of fact unless they are "clearly erroneous"; and

WHEREAS, under the clearly erroneous standard applied by the Court, a finding of fact against a claimant need only to be supported by a plausible basis in the record to be upheld; and

WHEREAS, the effect of judicial review under the clearly erroneous standard is to render the benefit-of-the-doubt rule unenforceable because VA's finding of fact against a claimant will not be reversed even though unsupported by a preponderance of the evidence and even though only supported by far less evidence such as is sufficient only to constitute a plausible basis; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation that would require the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to hold unlawful and set aside any finding of fact by the VA against a claimant that is not reasonably supported by a preponderance of the evidence.

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RESOLUTION NO. 211—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO MAKE CLAIMS PROCEDURES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXCLUSIVE

WHEREAS, Congress designed the claims procedures of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to be informal, nonadversarial, and helpful to claimants for veterans' benefits; and

WHEREAS, when Congress enacted legislation to end the long-standing statutory preclusion against judicial review of VA decisions, it stated its intent to preserve the informal, nonadversarial, and helpful characteristics of the administrative claims process; and

WHEREAS, Congress expressly stated its intent that the courts were not to superimpose their own rules on those prescribed in title 38, United States Code, and in regulations of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in accordance with title 38; and

WHEREAS, the courts have ignored congressional intent and have imposed a variety of new rules upon the administrative process to serve the courts' own purposes; and

WHEREAS, this self-serving action by the courts has fundamentally changed VA claims processes in the very ways Congress sought to avoid; and

WHEREAS, this has resulted in increased formalities and made the process more complex and burdensome for claimants and VA, merely to accommodate the courts' desire for a more formal record like that produced in adversarial litigation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to make procedures of VA exclusive for the administrative claims process.

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RESOLUTION NO. 212—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PRECLUDE INAPPROPRIATE REMANDS FROM THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS TO THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS

WHEREAS, appellants, but not the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), may appeal decisions from the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) to the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (the Court); and

WHEREAS, only appellants have the right to challenge the BVA decision, therefore; and

WHEREAS, the Court nonetheless remands cases for further action and a new decision by the BVA based on the VA's motions for remand which contain the VA's arguments of error in its own decision; and

WHEREAS, this practice allows the VA to appeal its own decision, to deprive appellants of their right to an independent review of BVA's decisions by the Court, allows the VA to avoid scrutiny of BVA's decision and consideration of errors specified by appellants, and allows the VA to attempt to gather new evidence on remand in an effort to provide after-the-fact justification for the prior denial; and

WHEREAS, appellants are not permitted remands merely to allow them to strengthen their cases; and

WHEREAS, permitting the VA to take cases back from the Court to the BVA, allows the VA an unfair advantage and is therefore prejudicial to appellants seeking independent review; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to constrain the Court from remanding cases to BVA for reasons argued by the VA, over appellants' objections, and to prevent remands which permit the VA to search for additional evidence in an attempt to justify the BVA denial.

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RESOLUTION NO. 213—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS TO DECIDE CASES BY PANELS OF AT LEAST THREE JUDGES

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Veterans' Judicial Review Act of 1988, and created the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (the Court) (formerly the United States Court of Veterans Appeals); and

WHEREAS, the Veterans' Judicial Review Act of 1988 granted the Court the authority to hear cases by judges sitting alone or in panels; and

WHEREAS, no other appellate court of the United States permits one judge to decide appeals; and

WHEREAS, the caseload of the Court does not prohibit each appeal being decided by a panel; and

WHEREAS, a citizen's status as a veteran should not reduce the quality of judicial review to which he or she is entitled; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, urges Congress to amend title 38, United States Code, section 7254(b) to grant citizens claiming benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs full judicial review by revising the first sentence of that section to provide that the Court shall only hear cases in panels of at least three judges.

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RESOLUTION NO. 214—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT PARTICIPATION OF CENTRAL LEGAL STAFF IN DECISIONS OF THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS AND OVERSIGHT HEARINGS ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE COURT

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Veterans' Judicial Review Act of 1988, veterans, their dependents, and others claiming benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are entitled to have VA decisions on their claims reviewed by the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (the Court); and

WHEREAS, veterans and other claimants expect their appeals will be decided by one or more of the seven judges of the Court, each of whom has many years of experience, was nominated by the President of the United States, and confirmed by the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, each of the seven judges of the Court has three law clerks to assist in writing decisions; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 2,400 appeals are filed with the Court each year; and

WHEREAS, a significant percentage of the total number of appeals filed are disposed of without the necessity of any action by a judge, thereby substantially reducing the caseload of each judge; and

WHEREAS, the Court has adopted an internal operating procedure that requires its Central Legal Staff to review the briefs filed and in all cases write a memorandum that includes a proposed disposition to be placed in the file before the appeal goes to a judge; and

WHEREAS, other Federal appellate courts with caseloads similar to that of the Court have not uniformly adopted procedures that permit less experienced attorneys to pre-judge appeals; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, strongly urges Congress to conduct oversight hearings to address this and other practices of the Court and to enact legislation to terminate participation of the Court's Central Legal Staff in the judging of appeals.

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RESOLUTION NO. 215—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COURTHOUSE FOR THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

WHEREAS, veterans and other persons claiming benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs have benefited substantially and materially from the jurisprudence of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims ("Court"); and

WHEREAS, the Court has existed for more than twelve years; and

WHEREAS, the Courtroom, chambers, and other space is inadequate to meet the present and future needs of the Court and those it serves; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interests of veterans and their dependents that the Court be accorded the same respect enjoyed by other appellate courts of the United States; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, 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. 216—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO EXPAND THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT TO INCLUDE QUESTIONS OF LAW IN VETERANS' APPEALS

WHEREAS, decisions of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (the Court) are reviewable in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (Federal Circuit); and

WHEREAS, the jurisdiction of the Federal Circuit to review decisions of the Court is limited by statute to issues of statutory and regulatory interpretation and constitutional issues; and

WHEREAS, under the existing statute, all other issues of law decided by the Court are unreviewable; and

WHEREAS, citizens claiming benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs should be entitled to judicial review to the same extent as all other citizens; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, urges Congress to expand the jurisdiction of the Federal Circuit to include review of all purely legal issues decided by the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

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COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Do I hear a second, please? Mike 2.

MR. ROBERT MELCHER: Bob Melcher, 7th District NEC Elect. I second that motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. Again, let me remind you in accordance with Rule number 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read.

Are there any rejected resolutions you wish read? Hearing none, all in favor; against. The aye's have it and so moved. Thank you. (Applause)

I now will call on Terry Schow for Committee on Employment. Terry.

MR. TERRY D. SCHOW: Thank you, Commander. The National Convention Committee on Employment was called to order for its first business session on July 30, 2001, by the Committee Advisors Louis Stamas and Edward Reese.

The first order of business was the election of the Convention Chair. Terry Schow was nominated for Chair. There being no further no further nominations, they were closed and Terry Schow was elected Chair.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of the Secretary. Charles Ryder was nominated and elected Secretary of the Committee.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted, and I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention.

For the purposes of saving time, I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolutions.

Resolution Number 39, To support veterans preference in public employment;

Resolution Number 40, To increase the budget of the Veteran's Employment and Training Service;

Resolution Number 41, Fully fund DVOP and LVER Programs with the United States Department of Labor;

Resolution Number 47, To support increased federal funding for homeless veterans initiatives;

Resolution Number 71, to provide increased funding for the TAP and DTAP Programs;

Resolution Number 72, Chapter 31, vocational rehabilitation and employment assistance;

Resolution Number 73, Outreach and Employment of Women Veterans;

Resolution Number 75, Employment services for disabled military personnel on terminal leave;

Resolution Number 128, Support legislation to define veterans' preference as not an employment practice within the meaning of the law;

Resolution Number 129, To subject the United States Postal Service to the proposed enhancements of veterans' preference;

Resolution Number 130, Affirmative action for employment of disabled veterans;

Resolution Number 134, To provide VR&E staff with state-of-the-art equipment;

Resolution Number 135, to oppose the transfer of Veterans Employment Training Service (VETS) to the Employment and Training Administration (ETA);

Resolution Number 136, To oppose a transfer of the Veterans Employment Training Service (VETS) to the Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Service;

Resolution Number 138, Supporting legislation to allow disability retired service members to receive credits for years of military service in civil service retirement;

Resolution Number 139, Amend the residency requirements for state directors and assist the state directors of Veterans Employment and Training Services;

Resolution Number 188, Amend Subchapter 6, Loan Guarantee, for multi-family transitional housing for homeless veterans under Title 38, U.S. Code 3772;

Resolution Number 193, Retain nationwide programs for employment assistance for America's veterans, disabled veterans, as a responsibility of the federal government;

Resolution Number 194, Support full funding of all veterans' employment and training programs.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Employment, and I move the adoption of these resolutions and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

(The above-mentioned resolutions follow.)

RESOLUTION NO. 039—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT VETERANS' PREFERENCE IN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans has strongly supported federal, state, and local veterans' preference laws; and

WHEREAS, attempts are being made to weaken, dilute, and circumvent existing veterans' preference; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports veterans' preference in federal, state, and local employment.

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RESOLUTION NO. 040—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING AND PERMANENCY FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND/OR TRAINING INCLUDING NATIONAL VETERANS' TRAINING INSTITUTE (NVTI), SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA), DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM (DVOP), LOCAL VETERAN EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVE (LVER), AND HOMELESS PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, there are numerous veterans' employment and training programs that need adequate staffing and funding; and

WHEREAS, those programs include the Veterans' Employment and Training Service of the Department of Labor, NVTI and SBA, DVOP, LVER, Homeless, and others; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, seeks and supports adequate funding and permanency for all veterans' employment and training programs.

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RESOLUTION NO. 041—LEGISLATIVE

FULLY FUND THE DISABLED VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAM AND LOCAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAMS WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WHEREAS, in past years, the Disabled American Veterans has promoted full funding of the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP), and Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) program through various resolutions and yet the programs have never been fully funded; and

WHEREAS, now the programs are in serious funding trouble which will result in the reduction in force of over 20 percent of the DVOP and LVER staff (who are state staff funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS)); and

WHEREAS, the majority of those veterans occupying the positions are disabled veterans and will be laid off from programs designed to assist unemployed veterans; and

WHEREAS, such a reduction of staff will have an adverse impact on employment services to all veterans who are seeking employment assistance nationally; and

WHEREAS, the past VETS administration did not actively promote full funding of DVOP/LVER staff and have not voiced concern in respect to the current situation; and

WHEREAS, the loss of over 20 percent of the DVOP/LVER staff nationally is a disgrace, which the new administration should remedy by funding the State Employment Security Agencies with adequate staff to assist the veterans who have honorably served our country; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, strongly supports the restoration of proper funding to the U.S. Department of Labor, VETS, and have the DVOP/LVER programs staffed according to congressionally mandated legislation.

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RESOLUTION NO. 047—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT INCREASED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, estimates have put homelessness among veterans as high as 280,000 or about 35 percent of the total homeless population, and these numbers may be a gross underestimate due to the fact many homeless veterans may not be counted because they are living with a parent, relative, or friend; and

WHEREAS, veterans in the homeless population are very diverse as to age, race, creed, and color, and ever increasingly more women, children, and families; and

WHEREAS, there is no single cause or cure for homelessness, and the reasons for homelessness vary to include physical, mental and economic problems, substance abuse, and in some cases separation or divorce; and

WHEREAS, there exists a critical need for homeless veterans nationwide to receive very basic medical care, financial counseling, vocational training and rehabilitation, and in some cases family counseling, to achieve a fair and reasonable chance to break the vicious cycle of homelessness and despair; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has been deeply involved and has actively initiated and operated various outreach and assistance programs to address the unique needs of homeless veterans, such as the Homeless Grants and Per Diem Program and has worked with dozens of communities at veterans' "Stand Down" operations to create new opportunities for homeless veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, Federal funding for homeless veterans programs is woefully inadequate as evident by the fact that the President's fiscal year 2000 budget requested only $2.5 million for homeless veterans' programs and Congress authorized only $15 million for

fiscal year 2001 veterans' programs which will continue the degradation of the numbers of homeless veterans assisted; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports increased Federal funding for homeless veterans initiatives such as "Stand Downs" to provide comprehensive medical care; psychiatric care; vocational training and rehabilitation; employment, financial and family counseling, and urges that appropriate agencies such as the VA, Department of Labor, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Defense, and other Federal, state and local entities assist in this effort; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each Disabled American Veterans chapter and department become actively involved in a local, state, or Federal homeless veteran program, thus living up to the mandate, "we don't leave our wounded behind," by helping to give these veterans a hand up and not a hand out in returning as productive members of society.

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RESOLUTION NO. 071—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE DISABLED TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the transition from military service to civilian life is very difficult for most veterans, who must overcome many obstacles to successful employment; and

WHEREAS, the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and the Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP) were created with the goal of furnishing separating servicemembers with vocational guidance to aid them in obtaining meaningful civilian careers; and

WHEREAS, continuation of the TAP and DTAP programs is essential to easing some of the problems associated with transition; and

WHEREAS, the level of funding and staffing is inadequate to support the routine discharges per year from all branches of the Armed Forces; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, hereby goes on record urging Congress to provide adequate funding for TAP/DTAP.

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RESOLUTION NO. 072—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT CHAPTER 31 VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT

WHEREAS, disabled veterans completing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) training program under Chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, are too infrequently placed in jobs leading to meaningful careers in their chosen occupation; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 96-466 requires the State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) to provide all services and assistance necessary to enable disabled veterans to become employable and to maintain suitable employment; and

WHEREAS, both Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPS) and Chapter 31 counselors are often unfamiliar with all the various avenues through which disabled veterans can receive employment referrals and placement; and

WHEREAS, there are many community, private, and public entities which are available and capable of providing employment-related services, but compete with each other for numerical success in making placements; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, urges and recommends that SESAs, VA Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service, who are partners under a formal memorandum of

understanding, make a coordinated effort to network with these public and private entities; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that they form a professional team in every major community that will cooperate to provide maximum placement of Chapter 31 disabled veterans at the lowest possible cost; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that they accomplish this through readiness assessments for Chapter 31 disabled veterans and sharing of resources and information by all members of each community placement team.

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RESOLUTION NO. 073—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT OUTREACH AND EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN VETERANS

WHEREAS, many women who have served in the military are not aware of services available to them through State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) in the United States and are therefore less likely to obtain employment and training than their male counterparts; and

WHEREAS, over the last decade there has been a definite increase 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 and underemployed women veterans continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, workforce trends indicate only job ready and highly skilled women veterans are able to find career employment; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, goes on record urging that (a) Congress enact legislation to establish and fund special programs and outreach to women veterans in need of employment assistance from the nation's basic labor exchange system and training assistance through programs operated under the Workforce Investment Act; and (b) that additional training in the needs of women veterans be provided to the veteran staff of all SESAs to correct the inequities in the delivery of services and the under-representation of women veterans in career employment.

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RESOLUTION NO. 075—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR DISABLED MILITARY PERSONNEL ON "TERMINAL LEAVE"

WHEREAS, many disabled military personnel are relieved from active duty prior to the end of their enlistment period by being placed on "terminal leave," and they do not receive their discharge papers (DD 214) until the official end of their enlistment period or until the military completes processing of that paperwork; and

WHEREAS, they are not considered veterans by State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) because they have not received their final discharge papers; and

WHEREAS, the transition from military service to civilian life is very difficult for most veterans, who must overcome many obstacles to successful employment, so transition can be even more difficult and stressful for disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, these disabled veterans need to be exposed to all available employment services and receive priority services as disabled veterans without unnecessary delays; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, hereby goes on record urging Congress to honor their commitment to our Nation's disabled veterans by mandating that all disabled military personnel placed on "terminal leave" prior to the end of their official enlistment period, or before final processing and receipt of their DD 214, be considered

veterans by the SESAs, so that they may receive all priority services to which disabled veterans are entitled.

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RESOLUTION NO. 128—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO DEFINE VETERANS PREFERENCE AS NOT AN "EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE" WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE LAW

WHEREAS, our grateful Nation bestows upon its veterans special rights and privileges not granted to the general civilian population; and

WHEREAS, among these rights and privileges is a preference in Federal employment under the Veterans Preference Act, which gives former members of the Armed Forces an advantage when competing against non-veterans for positions in the competitive service of the government workforce; and

WHEREAS, all veterans are statutorily entitled to have five points added to their scores on examinations for entrance into the competitive service of the government, and veterans having a service-connected disability are entitled to have ten points added to their scores on examinations for entrance into the competitive service of the government; and

WHEREAS, the United States Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) has overturned certain procedures adopted by the United Sates Office of Personnel Management for administering veterans' preference with respect to the process of selecting candidates for positions as Federal Administrative Law Judges; and

WHEREAS, the action of the MSPB will adversely effect the hiring of any veteran to fill the position of Federal Administrative Law Judge for the foreseeable future and, more importantly, calls into question the continued viability of veterans' preference in all areas of government hiring; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, strongly supports legislation to make clear that the administration of veterans' preference by the Office of Personnel Management, including the use of various scoring formulas applied equally to candidates for employment in the competitive service prior to the addition of any points required under the Veterans Preference Act, is not an "employment practice" within the meaning of the law.

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RESOLUTION NO. 129—LEGISLATIVE

SUBJECT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS IN VETERANS' PREFERENCE

WHEREAS, Congress is currently considering legislation to provide certain protections and enhancements to veterans' preference in Federal civil service; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would include all Federal agencies including the Postal Service; and

WHEREAS, the Postmaster General of the United States has contacted the Postal Board of Governors indicating his concern that such changes to veterans' preference would be "onerous" to the Postal Service; and

WHEREAS, the Postal Service should be subject to the veterans' preference provisions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation that would provide additional protections and other enhancements to veterans' preference and that such legislation should include the Postal Service and the Postmaster General be informed of our strong opposition to his language directed to the Postal Board of Governors.

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RESOLUTION NO. 130—LEGISLATIVE

AMEND LEGISLATION THAT GIVES DISABLED VETERANS PRIORITY IN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AS A GROUP WITHIN THE OTHER DESIGNATED GROUPS FOR WHICH AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IS REQUIRED

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 gave new and deserved emphasis to the employment problems of people with disabilities and recognized them as a specific group who needs special consideration; and

WHEREAS, the attempt is made in other laws to also address these problems, specifically the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 for the handicapped and title 38, United States Code, Chapter 42, for disabled veterans who have barriers to employment. Additionally, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, mandates non-discrimination in employment practices covering race, religion, age, sex, and national origin. Many employers are required to have a written "Affirmative Action Plan" in order to avoid discrimination against any of these groups; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, Chapter 42 also contains specific requirements for federal contractors and federal agencies to take affirmative action to hire and promote minorities and disabled veterans. However, in actual practice there is no breakdown by priority of affirmative action for minorities, disabled veterans, or the handicapped as specific groups; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the high incidence of employment problems among disabled veterans is not enough. In order to implement the plans and ensure actual practice of affirmative action, the disabled should be considered separately from minorities for preferential treatment by all entities who have affirmative action requirements under law; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, goes on record urging Congress to enact amending legislation that gives disabled veterans priority in affirmative action as a group within the other designated groups for which affirmative action is required.

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RESOLUTION NO. 134—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE VETERANS REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT (VR&E) STAFF WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the current Director, Department of Veterans Affairs' Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Service has no direct line of authority over the approximately 700 employees located throughout the VA Regional Office structure; and

WHEREAS, these individuals are responsible to and report to the VA Regional Office Director; and

WHEREAS, these individuals rely on the goodwill of the VA Regional Office Director to provide them with needed technological support to include computers, faxes, and even telephones, which are necessary to expedite and streamline the processes and which will result in earlier enrollments into rehabilitation programs; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported by the recently established "Design Team" set up to review how vocational rehabilitation does business, some VR&E offices do not have this type of equipment and in at least one instance, they do not even have phones; and

WHEREAS, this type of equipment is essential to help disabled veterans attain their employment goals; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, seeks change that would assure the Regional Office Directors are held accountable and all VR&C staff at the Regional Office level be provided state-of-the-art equipment in order for them to efficiently perform the duties of providing vocational rehabilitation and employment services to disabled veterans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 135—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE THE TRANSFER OF THE VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE TO THE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, past administrations have formulated recommendations to transfer the Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) to the Employment and Training Administration (ETA); and

WHEREAS, part of that proposal abolishes all the positions at the regional level, as well as the State and Assistant State Director positions; and

WHEREAS, any such proposal would effectively eliminates VETS; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, opposes any efforts by this Administration to transfer VETS to ETA.

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RESOLUTION NO. 136—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE THE TRANSFER OF THE VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND COUNSELING SERVICE

WHEREAS, veterans' employment programs began after World War I when the U.S. Employment Service helped place returning veterans in civilian jobs; and

WHEREAS, since 1980 the Department of Labor (DOL) Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) has been headed by the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training; and

WHEREAS, DOL/VETS' primary responsibilities include:

- Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP)—provides case management services to veterans with barriers to employment and conduct outreach in local communities by out-stationing at VA facilities, homeless shelters and community-based organizations.
- Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER)—oversees veteran services provided at the Job Service/One-Stop offices and coordinates Federal contractor program activities. Primary facilitator of Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshops at military bases.
- Veterans' Workforce Investment Program (VWIP)—serves targeted veteran groups such as: service-connected disabled veterans; veterans with employment barriers; campaign veterans, and recently separated veterans. Assisting approximately 2,240 eligible veterans with training and job placement assistance.
- Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project (HVRP)—administers project grants to assist the more than 250,000 homeless veterans in our country by partnering with other agencies such as: Housing and Urban Development; Veterans Affairs; State Labor/Workforce Agencies, and Community-based organizations. Continue to support Stand-Down efforts.
- Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)—monitoring veterans' preference for federal employment, in cooperation with the United States Office of Personnel Management. The Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 requires the Secretary of Labor to investigate complaints of alleged violations of veterans' preference rights to federal employment and attempt to resolve them. Supervising the listing of jobs by federal contractors and the frequent referrals of qualified veterans.
- National Veterans' Training Institute (NVTI)—provides distance learning and off-site training to minimize costs. Provides state-of-the-art classrooms, computer learning lab and web-based learning. Focus is to improve employment services for veterans and transitioning service members and provide resources, publications, and technical assistance to

support training; and

WHEREAS, DOL/VETS is organized with a national, seven regional, and 52 state-level offices by statute; and

WHEREAS, VA has no experience in employment referral and assistance; and

WHEREAS, DOL would continue providing employment-related services to non-veterans, creating a duplication of services detrimental to veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, goes on record opposing all legislative efforts to transfer the DOL/VETS to the VA.

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RESOLUTION NO. 138-LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ALLOW DISABILITY RETIRED SERVICEMEMBERS TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE IN CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, military personnel who are not injured from an instrumentality of war during time of war and then receive a disability retirement deserve the full benefits of their disability retirement; and

WHEREAS, men and women who are retired for disability from the military and seek employment with the Federal Government cannot count their few years of service toward civil service retirement unless they waive the receipt of disability retired pay; and

WHEREAS, retired reservists can draw retirement from civil service and the military service for the time of service rendered both the military and civil service during the same period of years without reduction to their civil service time or any requirement to waive military retired pay in order to receive civil service retirement and can count their military active service time toward civil service retirement; and

WHEREAS, many of these reserve and National Guard personnel can and do receive credit for many years of active duty service time, draw severance pay for up to a full year of their active duty military pay, then elect to join the military reserves or National Guard and concurrently work for the civil service and they are allowed to count their years of active military service toward civil service and military reserve/guard retirement; and

WHEREAS, ex-servicemen and women who only draw Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation for their service-connected disability can receive both the VA compensation and civil service retirement pay without waiver of one for the other; and

WHEREAS, equity should dictate that ex-service personnel who were disabled with less than 10 years of service and who were retired because of their service-connected disabilities (not for length of service) should be allowed to draw military retirement and count those years toward their civil service retirement the same way that those active-duty personnel who were forced to join, after many years of active service, the military reservist/guard units can count the same time for retirement from the reserves/guard and civil service; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, supports legislation to change the law which now prohibits disabled military retirees, disabled from any cause, except willful misconduct, and who served during a period of declared national emergency, war, or police action, to be entitled to count their service time towards both civil service retirement and Ready Reserve or National Guard retirements; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the veteran who elects to count his/her time toward both military and civil service retirement be required to pay a sum equal to seven percent of his/her military pay into the civil service retirement trust fund or FERS (without interest) to cover the pay they received during those years, for the purpose of counting their time toward civil service retirement.

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RESOLUTION NO. 139-LEGISLATIVE

AMEND THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE DIRECTORS AND ASSISTANT STATE DIRECTORS OF THE VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has enacted legislation providing for a Veterans' Employment and Training Service within the Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, the Act provides that the State Director and the Assistant State Director of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service shall be a veteran, and at the time of appointment shall be a bona fide resident of that state for at least two years; and

WHEREAS, this provision prohibits promotional opportunities for Assistant State Directors to other states and restricts them to their own states; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, goes on record in support of a waiver to substitute two years' experience as an Assistant State Director, Disabled Veterans Outreach Specialist, or Local Veterans Employment Representative in lieu of the current residency requirements, thereby allowing them the opportunity to compete for State Director positions as they become vacant.

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RESOLUTION NO. 188—LEGISLATIVE

AMEND SUBCHAPTER VI, TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 3771, LOAN GUARANTEE FOR MULTI-FAMILY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

WHEREAS, section 3772 of title 38, United States Code, provides that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may guarantee the full or partial payment of a loan that meets the legal requirements of title 38 in an amount that is not more than an aggregate amount of $100,000,000 in loans for nonprofit organizations for transitional housing projects to assist the homeless; and

WHEREAS, current costs, to include staffing and maintenance of such projects, have increased since the initial enactment of the law, November 11, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans believes an increase in funding is appropriate to ensure homeless veterans will be able to utilize transitional housing under section 3771 of title 38, United States Code; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, goes on record to urge Congress to enact an adjustment to maintain loan guarantees under section 3771, to ensure appropriate funds are provided under this section.

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RESOLUTION NO. 193—LEGISLATIVE

RETAIN NATIONWIDE PROGRAMS OF EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR AMERICA'S DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, throughout the nearly 225-year history of the United States, the men and women of this Nation have served in the Armed Forces in the interest of the collective body of states, united under a central federal government, to provide for the common defense; and

WHEREAS, these men and women served the United States under the constitutional authority vested in, and by direction of, the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in section 4301 of title 38, United States Code, the Congress expressed its purpose in enacting the Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Rights act of 1994 (USERRA) as, "to encourage non-career service in the uniformed services by eliminating or minimizing the disadvantage to civilian careers and

employment which can result from such service"; and

WHEREAS, it has been the finding of numerous surveys and studies that, for a variety of reasons, the vast majority of disabled veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States are disadvantaged in pursuing civilian employment and careers; and

WHEREAS, section 4101 of title 38, United States Code, states that "the Congress declares as its intent and purpose that there shall be an effective (1) job and job training counseling service program, (2) employment placement service program, and (3) job training placement service program for eligible veterans/disabled veterans and eligible persons."; and

WHEREAS, it is altogether fitting and proper that such programs of employment assistance for disabled veterans be provided by direction of, and subject to oversight by, the Congress of the United States to ensure that all veterans/disabled veterans who served the United States in uniform in times of war and peace are afforded such services in a uniform manner following completion of their service and return to the several states; and

WHEREAS, legislation is being considered by the National Association of Workforce Administrators that will seek to eliminate Federal oversight of the programs operated under title 38, by contracting out the program and giving the individual Workforce Development Boards the option of operating a veterans' program; and

WHEREAS, this legislation may also seek to delete the job descriptions of the Disabled Veterans Outreach Specialists (DVOPS) and Local Veterans Outreach Representatives (LVERs), which will effectively eliminate these positions allocated to serve disabled veterans and all veterans and promote contracting out or block granting of these funds (which are currently earmarked for veterans), to the state or local workforce development boards; and

WHEREAS, this devolution or contracting out of the DVOP and LVER program would eliminate the requirement that the individuals hired for these positions be disabled veterans, or even veterans, and eliminate the funding source for these programs; and

WHEREAS, such devolution or contracting out of program responsibility will then be based on each state's elected official's whim and will result in either no preference or such variations in employment assistance provided disabled veterans, which will effectively nullify the intent of the Congress, found in title 38, United States Code, and create an unstable program subject to frequent contractor changes, supervisor and program staff changes that are now typical of the currently contracted programs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, opposes any such elimination of federal direction and control over the employment assistance entitlement earned by America's disabled veterans through their honorable service; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans vigorously opposes contracting out of the DVOP and LVER program or removal of the enabling and resourcing provisions of the United States Code that provide for the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program, the Local Veterans' Employment Representative Program, the National Veterans Training Institute, and Wagner-Peyser State Employment Service Grants.

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RESOLUTION NO. 194—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING AND PERMANENCY FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND/OR TRAINING INCLUDING NATIONAL VETERANS' TRAINING INSTITUTE (NVTI), SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA), DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM (DVOP), LOCAL VETERAN EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVE (LVER), AND HOMELESS PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, there are numerous veterans' employment and training programs that need adequate staffing and funding; and

WHEREAS, those programs include the Veterans' Employment and Training Service of the Department of Labor, NVTI and SBA, DVOP, LVER, Homeless and others; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Miami Beach, Florida, July 28-August 2, 2001, seeks and supports adequate funding and permanency for all veterans' employment and training programs.

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COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. Do I hear a second? Mike 1.

MR. BIXBY: James Bixby, Chapter 29, Massachusetts, State Junior Vice Commander from District 2 seconds the motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. Again, let me remind you in accordance with Rule number 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read.

Are there any rejected resolutions you wish read? Hearing none, all in favor; against. The aye's have it. So moved. Thank you, Terry. (Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, please rise and I will ask Chaplain Brown to lead us in a closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN BROWN: Dear Heavenly Father, Bless and keep our Disabled American Veteran members as we are about to leave this meeting today.

Help us to be worthy and loyal members, forgiving in spirit, charitable to all mankind, and ever ready to assist all disabled American veterans. Let us say Amen and have a pleasant day. Amen.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. The Convention stands in recess until 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 2:20 o'clock p.m., July 30, 2001.)

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

July 31, 2001

The Third Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 80th National Convention convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Fontainebleau Hilton Resort, Miami Beach, Florida, Tuesday morning, July 31, 2001, and was called to order at 9:00 o'clock a.m. by Commander Armando C. Albarran.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: The convention will please come to order. Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Chaplain Brown, will you please lead us in prayer?

CHAPLAIN BROWN: Oh, Eternal Father, direct us, Oh, Lord, in all our doings with the most gracious faith and further us with the continual help that we need today; that in all our works begun, let it continue; and end it in Thee, we may glorify the Holy Name and finally by the mercy of our Lord.

Oh Father, again, we have a special prayer for one of our brothers. His name is Len Harris. He's a national service officer from St. Louis, Missouri.

We just got word that he has been hospitalized here in Miami and he had emergency surgery. Father, we ask that You reach out and touch him.

We ask that You bless him. Heal him with your tender love and care. We ask that You bless the nurses, the doctors and everyone, Father, because You're the doctor, the main doctor.

We ask that You do this and let his family know that everything is going to be okay, Father. And as the family departs today or during the middle of the night, we ask that You assign a special angel for him.

Give him love, Father. We know that You have the power to do anything. We leave it in Your hands. Let us say amen together. Amen.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I would like to remind you that in order for a delegate to be heard at this convention, he must be recognized by the Chair. Only those delegates at the microphones will be recognized. Upon being so recognized, the delegate must state his name, chapter and state he represents.

I will now call on the Credentials Committee for a partial report.

MR. FRANK L. WEBB: Commander.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Mike two.

MR. WEBB: Frank O. Webb, Chapter #9, Houston, Texas. I'm here in spirit of one of our greatest DAV members that has ever attended. We all know P.D. Jackson. Thank you.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you.

MR. LAY: Good morning, Commander Albarran and delegates. The Credentials Committee met this morning in the Imperial V Board Room of the Fountainebleau Hilton Hotel.

Roll call showed 1,044 delegates and 44 alternates present. This is a partial report for informational purposes only and reflects the registration at the close of registration at 4:00 p.m. on July 30, 2001.

At the present time we have 469 chapters, 41 departments, 34 national officers, 11 past national commanders for a total of 1,044 delegates, 44 alternates, for a total vote of 9,709.

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

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. Will you please join me in welcoming Imperial Golden Rodent, William Brzezinski, Imperial Red-Eyed Gnawer John Engwiller and the Imperial Council of the National Order of Trench Rats. (Applause)

MR. JOHN D. ENGWILLER: Good morning. I look out in the audience and I don't see too many members, and somebody asked me, "Where's everybody?" I said, "in bed."

That's where I would have been if they didn't tell me I had to be here. I thank you for coming. At this time it's a great pleasure for me to introduce our Imperial Golden Rodent all the way from Las Vegas, Bill Brzezinski.

MR. WILLIAM D. BRZEZINSKI: Sometimes known as Bill Smith. At this time it's my great privilege to introduce the following officers for the year 2000-2001:

First of all, our Imperial Red-Eyed Gnawer, John Engwiller, IR 73; Imperial Silver Rodent, Frank Cummings; Imperial Blue Rodent, Bernie Walkowiak; Imperial Turquoise Rodent, Gerald Horton; Imperial Bubonic Plague, Michael Stokes -- and anybody who knows him knows that's the perfect title for him --; Imperial Black Plague, Joel Devenish; Imperial Iron Claw, Albert Sorrentino -- the Godfather right here --; Imperial Cure Rat, Floyd Buell -- Pete Buell to everybody who knows him --; Imperial Holy Rat, Terrence Flick; Imperial Bench Rat, Vincent P. Reed, Jr., also IR 64; Imperial Historic Rat, and we call him the hysterical rat, Jerry Ogle; Imperial Rendezvous Rat, Irving Unger.

The IER of District 1, Rodney Zablan; the IER of District 4, William C. Phillips; the IER of District 7, right here in Florida, Robert O. Chute; IER for District 8, Willie Trahan; IER of District 12, George Isdale; IER of District 14 -- and someone who is going to get a fine here, I'll bet if he doesn't have his fez on -- Delbert Foster, Jr. -- no, pardon me, that's wrong. Bill screwed up. Okay, he's from D.C. Herbert Belton is here from D.C. There he is. Okay, Harold Wisely from District 15 in Missouri; Henri Opas, Los Angeles, California, District 16; IER for 18, Phil Seward.

At this time I would like to introduce the Imperial Rodents, starting with IR 76, Larry Polzin; IR 75, Jimmy Foster; IR 74, Harry Warburton; IR 70, Paul Bailey; IR 69, Fred Sutton; IR 65, Oswald Peterson; IR 58, Lee Henderson; IR 54, welcome back, Coleman Hewitt; IR 39, Sam Vigil; and Grampa, IR 37, Charles P. Merrifield.

And I'd like to now turn this back over to our Imperial Red-Eyed Gnawer, John Engwiller, for a presentation.

MR. ENGWILLER: For those that got the applause the loudest, who did they have to pay and where do I start paying from now on? That's all I want to know.

Before I make a presentation, as most of you have heard, I used to live in Pompano Beach. I moved to Bradenton, Florida, where our Imperial Headquarters was.

We sold our Imperial Headquarters and went to the West Palm Beach area. When I got to the West Palm Beach area, they told me I had to go to class to learn how to do a presidential vote.

I don't know what all this impregnation is, and I'm still

looking for a guy named "Chad" and, you know, I've been there four months. (Laughter) So maybe somebody can help me out from this great state.

At this time I would ask our National Commander, if he could come forward for a small presentation. At this time I would like to present to you, from the National Order of Trench Rats, so you can put it on your desk or at home that you remember us, this pride emblem with the clock in -- well, that's the batteries -- with the clock on the other side. I thank you very much for your cooperation.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, John. I really appreciate it. And thank you guys, all of you. (Applause)

MR. ENGWILLER: A couple years ago when we were out in Reno, I had the great privilege of going into the casino, and a good friend of mine happened to be in that area so I found something that if and when we get back to Reno, all the money that he won we have something that he can take it out of the casino in.

So, if Mr. Art Wilson would come forward. I understand you were in the Air Force, so we have a big bag that unzips so all the chips can be put in there, and maybe you'll let me share this one for the little bit that I take out. (Laughter and applause) Congratulations.

Before we leave the stage, the National Order of Trench Rats was chartered to aid and assist the Disabled American Veterans. We are now in the process of getting donations from our members, our dugouts and our sectors, and in the year 2003 we hope to stand up on this stage and present a key for a van for any state that the National DAV feels is necessary.

We want to pick up the whole price of that van and that will make us feel real good on being able to do something to help the veterans and get this transportation van. And thereafter, I'd like to see that we do at least one a year.

I thank you for your cooperation. I thank National for their cooperation, and we'll see you around for the next couple of days. And if anybody finds Chad, would you please bring him to me so I can meet this Chad person. I thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I will now call on Ken Musselmann, Chairman of Constitution and Bylaws, for the final report. Ken.

MR. MUSSELMANN: Good morning. Thank you, Commander. This will be the second and final reading of the proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws.

I will read each proposed change individually, call for a motion; and if there's any discussion, it can happen at that time.

Resolution 227. RESOLVED, to amend the indicated sections of the National Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans by adding or omitting text as follows: Article VIII, Section 8.3, paragraph, Page 34, to add the words, "A state commander may not serve as Adjutant or Treasurer."

Commander, I move for the adoption of Resolution 227.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Do I hear a second on that?

MR. THOMAS J. DALEY: Tom Daley, Chapter 49, Arlington, Massachusetts, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Call for the question. All in favor, say aye; anybody against. The ayes have it. So moved.

MR. MUSSELMANN: Resolution 228, RESOLVED, to amend the indicated sections of the National Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans by adding or omitting text as follows: Article VIII, Section 8.4, Paragraph 1, Page 34, to omit the words "All money must be deposited in the name of the state department" and substitute the following sentence, "All assets of the department must be titled or held in the name of the department. Fixed assets such as buildings, land and equipment must be maintained in a manner that will prevent waste and abnormal deterioration. All other assets except for minimal amounts of cash on hand must be safeguarded or deposited in a manner appropriate to the asset and consistent with sound business practice."

Commander, I move for the adoption of Resolution 228.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Do I have a second?

MR. DALEY: Tom Daley, Chapter 49, Arlington, Massachusetts, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: It has been seconded, thank you. You heard the second. Call for the question. All in favor; against. The ayes have it. So moved.

MR. MUSSELMANN: Resolution 229, RESOLVED, to amend the indicated sections of the National Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans by adding or omitting text as follows: Article IX, Section 9.2, Paragraph 1, Page 38, to add the words "A chapter commander may not serve as chapter adjutant or treasurer."

Commander, I move for the adoption of Resolution 229.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Is there a second?

MR. DALEY: Tom Daley, Chapter 49, Arlington, Massachusetts, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. Call for the question. All in favor; against. The ayes have it. So moved.

MR. MUSSELMANN: Resolution 230, RESOLVED, to amend the indicated sections of the National Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans by adding or omitting text as follows: Article IX, Section 9.3, Paragraph 1, Page 39, to omit the words "All money must be deposited in the name of the chapter" and substitute the following sentence, "All assets of the chapter must be titled or held in the name of the chapter. Fixed assets such as buildings, land and equipment must be maintained in a manner that will prevent waste and abnormal deterioration. All other assets except for minimal amounts of cash on hand must be safeguarded or deposited in a manner appropriate to the asset and consistent with sound business practice."

Comrade Commander, I move for the adoption of Resolution 230.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Mike three.

MR. DALEY: Tom Daley, Chapter 49, Arlington, Massachusetts, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. Call for the question. All in favor; against. The ayes have it. So moved.

MR. MUSSELMANN: Resolution 231, RESOLVED, to amend the indicated sections of the National Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans by adding or omitting text as follows: Article X, Section 10.2, Paragraph 1, Page 41, to omit the second sentence, the words "independent public accountant" and substitute the words "a certified public accountant".

Comrade Commander I move for the adoption of Resolution 231.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Mike three.

NEC 12TH DISTRICT DEMPSEY: Ray Dempsey, 12th District, Executive Committeeman, so seconds.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. Call for the question. All in favor; against. The ayes have it. So moved.

MR. MUSSELMANN: Resolution 232, RESOLVED, to amend the indicated sections of the National Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans by adding or omitting text as follows: Article X, Section 10.2, Paragraph 2, Page 41, to omit the second sentence, the words "All money received must be deposited in the name of the organization or subordinate unit" and substitute the words "All assets of the subordinate unit must be titled or held in the name of the unit. Fixed assets such as buildings, land and equipment must be maintained in a manner that will prevent waste and abnormal deterioration. All other assets except for minimal amounts of cash on hand must be safeguarded or deposited in a manner appropriate to the asset and consistent with sound business practice."

Comrade Commander, I move for the adoption of Resolution 232.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Do I hear a second?

MR. DALEY: Tom Daley, Chapter 49, Arlington, Mass, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. Call for the question. All in favor, say aye; against. The ayes have it. So moved.

MR. MUSSELMANN: Resolution 233, RESOLVED, to amend the indicated sections of the National Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans by adding or omitting text as follows: Article XII, Section 12.2, Page 52, to add a new Paragraph 11 as follows:

"Paragraph 11. The hearing and procedures provided by Section 12.2 will not apply if the discharge is subject to a mandatory arbitration policy implemented under Section 12.1, Paragraph 1. The protections afforded under Section 12.2 shall be unimpaired."

Comrade Commander I move for the adoption of Resolution 233.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Mike one.

MR. DALEY: Tom Daley, Chapter 49, Arlington, Massachusetts, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. Call for the question. All in favor; against. The ayes have it. So moved.

MR. MUSSELMANN: Resolution 234, RESOLVED, to amend the indicated sections of the National Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans by adding or omitting text as follows: Article XV, Section 15.4, Paragraph 2, Page 63, to omit the words "and the DAV National Executive Committee."

Comrade Commander, I move for the adoption of Resolution 234.

MR. DALEY: Tom Daley, Chapter 49, Arlington, Massachusetts, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. Call for the question. All in favor, say aye; against. The ayes have it. So moved.

MR. MUSSELMANN: Commander, that completes the report of the Constitute and Bylaws Committee, and I move that the report be accepted and the Committee be dismissed with a vote of thanks.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Mike three.

NEC 12TH DISTRICT DEMPSEY: Ray Dempsey, NEC 12th District, so seconds and that we also go for the vote of things with them. Thank you.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you for that second. All in favor, say aye; against. The ayes have it. So moved. Thank you, Ken, for a very wonderful report. (Applause)

The DAV National Service Officer is a rare individual, but within this group of outstanding individuals there are a few that rise to the top.

One of those individuals is Gary Burns. A combat-disabled Vietnam veteran who served with the 101st Airborne in Vietnam, Gary has given much of his life to assisting veterans.

After being wounded, he was befriended by his late DAV NSO John McPherson who gave him the opportunity to serve disabled veterans as a National Service Officer beginning on January 5, 1970.

His career as an NSO spanned 30 years before his retirement last year. Gary served as department commander in Maine and currently DAV Department of Maine treasurer.

He has been a member of the National Service Foundation Board since 1996 and has at this National Convention been elected as President of that important Foundation.

Through his guidance and foresight, he has helped build better lives for disabled veterans and their families for decades. We are very proud that he will continue his role as the new President of the National Service Foundation. Ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor to present Mr. Gary Burns. (Applause)

MR. GARY P. BURNS: National Commander Albarran, National Adjutant Wilson, National Officers, Delegates and guests:

I thank you, Commander, for that very kind introduction. I am pleased to submit to you today the 2000 annual report of the DAV National Service Foundation.

Before I tell you about the Foundation's record of growth over the last year, I'd like to ask National Adjutant Art Wilson to please join me at the podium. See what you can do once you become the President. (Laughter)

We want to pay special thanks to the endless contributions of two individuals; namely, Richard J. Cosgriff and William E. Leach, Jr.

For almost 26 years the National Service Foundation has thrived under the leadership of Richard J. Cosgriff. His legacy of contribution is a record that will never be equaled. His leadership has taken the Foundation to the prestigious place it enjoys today.

For the last 25 years Dick, as his many friends call him, has served as the Foundation's President. Sadly, we must report that Dick is retiring from the Board this year. It is with regret that we see him go, but it is with intense pride and a sense of overwhelming gratitude that we honor his service.

Dick, will you and your lovely wife, Rita, please join Art and

me at the podium. (Applause) Dick, it is our pleasure to present to you the resolution adopted by the Board of Directors convened in Miami Beach, Florida, on July 28, 2001. This is a resolution commending Richard J. Cosgriff and it reads:

WHEREAS, Richard J. Cosgriff serves as one of our nation's finest examples of devotion to disabled veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, the depth of his commitment is evident in his efforts at the DAV National, Department and Chapter levels, and also in his compassionate service to the DAV National Service Foundation; and

WHEREAS, his extensive, long-term involvement with the Foundation is one of the most significant examples of his dedication; and

WHEREAS, the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund has benefited from his insight, expertise and his active promotion in more ways than could ever be enumerated in this simple resolution; and

WHEREAS, he has been instrumental in preserving the Foundation's mission of ensuring that DAV services for America's disabled veterans and their families will always be available as long as there is one disabled veteran or a family of a disabled veteran; and

WHEREAS, he has held that vision during his tenure of more than 25 years as a Director of the DAV National Service Foundation, working diligently to further the Foundation's purpose; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the DAV National Service Foundation convened in Miami Beach, Florida, on July 28, 2001, recognizes Richard J. Cosgriff's extensive, life-long commitment to the growth and well-being of the Foundation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby officially commends and extends its gratitude to Richard J. Cosgriff for his superb contributions to the mission of the Foundation during his service as its President and Director.

In addition, on behalf of the Board of Directors, it's our honor to present a crystal clock in recognition of your many years of service, and that's 1975 to 2001. (Applause)

And I want to mention to Dick that this clock was made in Ireland. (Laughter) Congratulations.

MR. RICHARD J. COSGRIFF: Thank you.

MR. BURNS: You're welcome. You're more than welcome. Don't go away. Some of you may know that Dick enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II and served on the Aircraft Carrier Belleau Wood.

He was medically discharged in 1945 and immediately joined Chapter Number 2 in San Diego. He was elected Adjutant of Chapter 2 in 1946 and has continuously served as Chapter Adjutant since that time.

In addition to his DAV accomplishments at the chapter level, Dick has held many elected and appointed positions at the national and department levels as well.

Dick, would you step up here. We have specially designed a collage of memorabilia highlighting your service to America and your DAV career over the years.

Dick, we hope that you and Rita will treasure this for many, many years to come. Check this out!

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Again, Dick, we thank you. Please know that wherever you go, you have the thanks and blessings of millions of America's disabled veterans and their families.

MR. COSGRIFF: I just wanted to say thank you. This is far more than I ever expected. And it wasn't necessary, because it's because of you, the members of the organization, of our success. Thank you, again, very much. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: We have another Foundation officer who stepped down this year, William E. Leach, Jr. Bill was elected to the National Service Foundation Board in August of 1978 and has served continuously since then.

In 1982 he was elected as the Foundation's Secretary-Treasurer. His insight and fiscal knowledge have proved most valuable to the National Service Foundation.

In addition to his many years of service to the Foundation,

Bill gave more than 47 years of his adult life in service to America's disabled veterans as a National Service Officer.

Following his discharge from the United States Air Force in 1946, Bill entered the Educational Program for National Service Officers at the American University.

He was a graduate of Class 9 and was rehabilitated in August of 1948, at which time he was assigned to train under the supervision of his father in the St. Louis National Service Office. Bill served as an NSO there until his retirement in 1994. Bill, would you and Mary please join us up here. (Applause)

Of course, it is made in Ireland; of course, it is. It is truly an honor to present to you a crystal clock in recognition of your many years of service to the Foundation, and that was 1978 to 2001. (Applause)

MR. WILLIAM E. LEACH, JR.: I wish to take this opportunity to say a few words about the Foundation. Actually, when I went on the Foundation, I felt that it was an extension of service.

As you know, I was an NSO and the Foundation was established to help finance the National Service Officer Program into the future. Any success that we have had is directly attributable to the support that we received from you, the members.

We do not solicit monies from the general public but must rely on help from our departments, chapters and auxiliary units. We have had excellent support, and I especially wish to thank the National Service Officers who have made it happen. I appreciate it and thank you. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: When the history of the National Service Foundation is written, the names of Richard J. Cosgriff and William E. Leach, Jr., will be noted with honor because they are among the forefathers of this great Foundation.

Please join Art and me again in recognizing them for their outstanding service to our nation's disabled veterans and their families. These gentlemen leave a proud legacy for all of us to live up to. Thank you once more, one more time. (Applause)

Our National Service Foundation serves a leadership role in helping the DAV national organization create and fund programs of service for disabled veterans and their families.

The Foundation's record of success this past year truly reflects the pride and accomplishment of DAV. If you are a Foundation supporter, you also share in that great pride. Whether Foundation support comes from a chapter, an auxiliary unit or dugout, whether it comes from a DAV or Auxiliary Department or whether it comes from you as an individual, these contributions ensure services continue unabated for disabled veterans and their families.

I, personally, want to thank each of you, because you are the heart and soul of this Foundation. The National Service Foundation could achieve little without you being there to express your compassion for your fellow disabled veterans.

Our Foundation is the ultimate expression of the compassion that lies at the very fabric of each of its contributors. I am deeply honored to serve as the Foundation's President. And I mean that most sincerely.

The distinguished Board members who will serve with me during 2001-2002 include:

Vice President, National Adjutant Art Wilson; Secretary-Treasurer, Dennis Joyner of Florida; Directors: Bonnie Maile of Michigan, who, unfortunately, due to ill health, could not join us here at the 2001 National Convention; Mr. Michael E. Dobmeier of North Dakota; and Sal Tornatore from the state of New York.

I welcome the new folks on board and all of us look forward to a very successful future. In addition, I would like to recognize National Commander Armando C. Albarran and Bradley Barton, the Chairman of the DAV's National Finance Committee, who served during the 2000-2001 term. I thank both of you gentlemen as well. Much appreciated. (Applause)

I am pleased to tell you that the record growth the Foundation has enjoyed for the last several years has continued. On December 31, 2000, we had total net assets of $27.6 million, a 5 percent increase from 1999.

Our assets showed the following trends: a 10 percent growth in the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund, which ended the year at $12.8 million; more than $11.8 million at year's end in the General Fund; and the Colorado Trust included more than $2.6 million.
I also want to report that we have $195,794 in the National Order of Trench Rats Special Legislative Fund.

I am submitting to the Commander, or to Commander Albarran, a check for $9,378, the amount earned on this restricted fund last year.

At the request of the Trench Rats, this gift is designated to support the DAV's National Service Legislative Program. Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Gary.

MR. BURNS: During the past year the Foundation has done great work in enhancing the services offered by the National Organization to disabled veterans and their families.

Two key areas of the Foundation's ongoing work include office furniture and equipment for our National Service Offices and financial support of medical studies to help establish expert medical testimony in support of veterans' claims.

We are proud that we were able to allocate $11,000 for the purchase of new manuals for our NSOs. We also provided $155,000 for computers and projectors that will be used in DAV's new Transition Service Program.

In addition, the National Service Foundation is proud to be a sponsor of the PBS Documentary, "Korean War Stories" which was broadcast nationwide on May 27th.

This program, unlike any documentary before it, educated the American people about the service, dedication and sacrifice of our nation's veterans. You will have an opportunity to see this program while you are here at the Convention.

The Foundation's success is attributed to the achievements of leaders in the DAV and Auxiliary at every level. In the year ending December 31, 2000, NSOs were responsible for donations of $872,000, an increase of nearly $58,000 over the previous year.

National Service Director Ken Wolfe will assist me in recognizing the winning National Service Officers by category based on contributions received. Ken, would you come forward, please?

Division I -- and it better be, let me tell you that -- Togus, Maine, for the 11th consecutive year, and unfortunately the Togus National Service Office Supervisor, John Rogers, is not here at Convention.

Nine weeks ago he had a severe injury to his knee and he's at home still. He's working but he's at home, also, recovering from surgery, some very serious surgery.

However, we do have here from Togus, National Service Officer Peter Collins and he will accept Division I's award for the office. Pete Collins. (Applause)

MR. PETER S. COLLINS: Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Burns, on behalf of the DAV office in Togus, Maine, I'd like to thank you and am honored to accept this award as the winner of the Division I.

I would personally like to thank Gary Burns for his support and tremendous service to veterans for the last 30 years. It is his efforts that are reflected here today. Also, thanks to Jerry Elwell, Maine State Commander, and Norm Michaud, Department Adjutant, for their support.

While I am fairly new to this organization, I realize the importance of the National Service Foundation, as the monies raised for this Foundation are used to accomplish this great organization's ongoing mission -- to provide the best service to this nation's disabled veterans.

Again, I thank you for this award, and I look forward to winning it again next year. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Thank you, Peter. Division II is Syracuse, New York, and an old friend of many years, and this is the sixth consecutive year for the Syracuse office to win this award. Please come forward, Harold E. Schultz, Supervisor. (Applause)

MR. HAROLD E. SCHULTZ: Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Burns, National Commander Albarran, National Adjutant Wilson, and all of you out there, I would like to thank you and thank the Foundation on behalf

of my staff in Syracuse, New York, and also the staff of the DAV office in Buffalo, New York, without whose support this award would not have been able to be awarded to me today.

As Gary said, this is the sixth year in a row. I'm going to keep doing this. I really believe very strongly in what we're doing.

The Foundation has been fabulous and so helpful to the service that we provide. I encourage everyone out there to please be generous with the National Service Foundation.

I also would like to thank the Department of New York for their support. And with that, thank you and I'll see you next year. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Division III is Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and this is a first-year recipient for the Milwaukee office. And here to accept the award is Jon Price, Office Supervisor. Jon. (Applause)

MR. JON C. PRICE: Thank you. Commander Albarran, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Burns, on behalf of the National Service Office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, I'd like to accept this award.

We've got a great staff there, but I would be wrong in not recognizing the individual who actually achieved this award -- Mr. Scott Trimarchi.

Mr. Trimarchi was the previous supervisor before I went to Wisconsin in February. He is currently the assistant supervisor in the state of New York, in New York City. So, Wisconsin's loss was New York City's gain. He's a very bright individual when it comes to service work, and you'll be proud of him.

All I can say is I promise to do my best for the state of Wisconsin. Without the Department of Wisconsin, my service staff, it's a great office and thank you and I hope to be here next year. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Division IV, and this is becoming somewhat repetitious as well, is Boston, Massachusetts. This is the fifth consecutive year and the donations to the Foundation from Boston exceeded $121,000. (Applause) And to receive the award, representing the Boston office and, in fact, the supervisor, Daniel Patrick Stack. Danny.

MR. DANIEL PATRICK STACK: Ladies and gentlemen, to do $121,000 in a service foundation takes a lot of dedication. And that dedication is basically my staff. I'd like to introduce them, because there are individuals on our staff that have outdone every other office in the country.

I'd like to introduce my assistant supervisor, Mac Carpenter; the dean of our staff, Leroy Kennedy. Tim Voner, unfortunately, is not with us, he's on a Committee assignment right now; and the gentleman who has lead the nation for the past four year in the most donations brought in, Bob Sinclair. (Applause)

We also had a couple of gentlemen who were very instrumental in getting the $121,000 and they have moved on to other offices: John Rogers was just mentioned, he has taken over the Togus, Maine, office, but he is going to have a run for his money because I don't know if they're going to get the 12th in a row very easily, because we sent another dedicated Service Foundation guy to Providence, Rhode Island, and he's going to challenge John all the way, and that's Mason Sullivan. Thank you, Mason, for your help. (Applause)

Many of you don't realize to raise that kind of money the DAV needs to be out and be exposed to the community so that when you do request something from them, they willingly give to you. And we would not be able to do that if it wasn't for the fine department under the leadership of Joe Costa and Tom Daley.

Let me tell you folks, there isn't a thing that goes on in Massachusetts that the DAV isn't involved in, whether it be our HSC program, whether it be our VAVS program, parades, community functions, that they're not out there doing something, giving us recognition, so that when we ask for those donations people willingly give it.

And I want to thank the delegation and delegates from the Department of Massachusetts for your fine help. Thank you, folks. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Division V, Oakland, California, a first-year

winner as well, and here to receive that award for Division V, the Oakland office, is Brandan Blackburn the office supervisor. Brandan. (Applause)

MR. BRANDAN A. BLACKBURN: First off, I'd like to recognize those people that I feel are responsible for the National Service Foundation and us receiving it in Northern California.

That's the men and women that donated and the department service officers and national service officers that put this forth and asked that they donate.

Lastly, I want to recognize Department of California and their efforts, and I want to accept this on behalf of Dick Cosgriff and recognize his 50 years of dedicated service to Disabled American Veterans. Thank you, Dick. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Please join me in thanking these officers for their outstanding performance and support. (Applause)

MR. WOLFE: As the National Service Director, I'm proud to come before the National Convention year after year and pleased to report that the record-setting pace has continued. The folks that make it happen have already been thanked, and it starts with the Chapters, the Departments, the National Service Officers and all of our members.

You should be very proud of your accomplishments. The funds that are raised go directly to building better lives for America's disabled veterans, their dependents and their survivors. Thank all of you so very much. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: I want to also report the outstanding and continued success of the Colorado Trust. As you know, one of the greatest strengths of the DAV is our unity of purpose. We are disabled veterans who are building better lives for other disabled veterans and their families.

The purpose of the Colorado Trust is to provide the funds necessary to help build those better lives. The Colorado Trust is maintained as a separate fund within the National Service Foundation and its use is limited to programs of service for disabled veterans and their families.

Expenditures for service projects are decided with advice from representatives from each of the DAV's 21 National Districts. Through December 31, 2000, $6.4 million has moved into the Colorado Trust since its inception in 1996.

This includes the initial $500,000 grant from the Department of Colorado, which got the Trust underway; contributions from Chapters, Departments and members across the nation; matching funds and contributions from the DAV's National Organization; and appropriations from the National Service Foundation which supervises the Trust.

Using those funds at December 31, 2000, grants totalling $6 million have been awarded to deserving Chapters and Departments. Yes, that's $6 million. The grants have been used in support of the Transportation Network and Hospital Service Coordinator Programs and other worthy service initiatives at the local and state levels.

Even in the early history of the DAV, there have been Chapters and Departments that have more funds than they have opportunities to serve. Unfortunately, we've had others without the necessary resources to fund important services in their communities.

Thanks to the Colorado Trust we've reached some equilibrium. Wealthier Chapters and Departments now have a golden opportunity to ensure that no disabled veteran goes without DAV services because less fortunate Chapters and Departments weren't able to fund the necessary help.

My thanks to the Chapters, Departments and members whose generosity enables the Trust to fulfill its mission. I also thank the National Organization which has matched one for one every dollar that our Chapters, Departments and members donate to the Colorado Trust.

Mr. Commander, this concludes my report. As is our tradition, the Foundation now stands ready to accept donations from the Convention floor. These donations will be placed in the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund, the Trench Rats Fund or the Colorado Trust as specified.

I thank you; and with that, I would like to call up here for the first presentation the Department Commander from the state of California, Gary Crossland, and he has a check that he is going to present to the Foundation which is going to be received by Richard Cosgriff. One more time to the podium if you would, Dick.

MR. GARY CROSSLAND: Thank you, Gary. It's nice to know that somebody named Gary can become president so my hopes and dreams are still alive.

Commander Albarran, Line Officers, Adjutant Wilson and all your staff and all the members of the DAV, it gives me great pleasure to present this check from the great Department of California to the Colorado Trust for $50,000. (Applause)

But more than great pleasure, it is with great pride that I am allowed to present this check from the 120,000-plus members of California in honor of Mr. Richard Cosgriff who has given so much of his heart and soul and life to the DAV for so many years.

He is, indeed, one of the greatest leaders by example this organization has ever had or ever will have, definitely the greatest role model I've ever had in the DAV.

So, in Dick's honor, I give this check for $150,000 -- I wish it was -- $50,000. (Laughter) I'm reaching in my own pocket there. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: When you come forward would you please state your name and chapter if you would, very clearly. Step right up, sir.

MR. MICHAEL W. TEMPESTA: Mike Tempesta from Fresno, California, Chapter 1. That's the home of your new Commander, George Steese. We don't have a check for $150,000.

I think Kenny must have had a heart attack back there. We have a small check here for $2,500, but every little bit helps. With this check it makes our total contributions from Fresno $82,000. Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Thank you, sir. Ma'am, come right forward, please.

MS. MICHELLE TOWNSEND: Commander Townsend, Arlington-Fairfax Chapter 10, Virginia, District VI, in honor of our Chapter 10 and Unit 10 members, volunteers and our fallen comrades and their families, we contribute $100. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much. Good morning.

MR. ALBERT H. LINDEN, JR.: Al Linden, Department of Florida Adjutant, $100 in the name of our immediate Past Department Commander, Dick Guise. It's a tradition we've had for many years in Florida.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. CLIFFORD W. DILLARD: Clifford Dillard, Wichita, Kansas, Chapter Number 4, $500. (Applause)

MR. FLOYD W. BUELL: Pete Buell, Chapter 12, Henderson, Nevada, $200. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Thank you, sir. Thank you, Pete. Good morning.

MR. GERALD L. OGLE: Jerry Ogle, Department Commander of Nevada. It is my pleasure to present $300. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. BILL TERRY, JR.: Bill Terry, Department Commander and on behalf of Fort Smith Chapter 1 in Arkansas, $100.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause) Good morning.

MR. WILLIAM B. TAYLOR: Bill Taylor, Chapter 31, Big D, $500. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: $500, thank you. Good morning.

MR. J.W. MARTIN: Jay Martin with Chapter 2, Kansas City, Missouri. We have $5,000 for the Foundation, Colorado Trust another $5,000. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much. Good morning.

MR. JOSEPH COSTA: Joe Costa, Department of Massachusetts Commander. I'd like to present you a check in memory of Joseph R. Harold for $1,000. (Applause)

MR. HENRY H. SADLER: Hank Sadler, District 14, NEC. This contribution is in memory of Hiram Fuller, Robert Hannah and Jack Hilabuall of our District 14 for -- it's a collection we made for $266.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much.

MR. KENNETH F. KETCHUM: Ken Ketchum, Department Commander,

state of Kansas. It is my pleasure to give you a check for $500.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause)

MR. CHARLIE L. STEPHENS: Charlie Stephens, Chapter 11, Salina, Kansas. I'm pleased to present this check for $1,000 to the National Service Foundation.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. NICOLA LUCIANI: Department of New York, Nick Luciani, Commander, proudly presents a check from our Department to the National Service Office in the amount of $1,000. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much.

MR. LUCIANI: And we also have a check for the Colorado Trust in the amount of $25,000. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much.

MR. KENNETH J. WINGETT: Ken Wingett, past state commander, California, a couple C notes here, one from Chapter 48 and one from myself for the Trust. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Total of $200, $100 from the Chapter and $100 from himself.

MR. RALPH M. HANEY: Good morning. Ralph Haney, Chapter 20, Des Moines, Iowa. We wish to present $2,000 to the Fund.

MR. BURNS: $2,000. Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. WILLIAM A. BOWMAN: Bill Bowman, Commander, Chapter 7, Lincoln, Nebraska, $100.

MR. BURNS: Thank you. (Applause)

MR. COY HENNIS: Coy Hennis, Department of North Carolina Commander. On behalf of all the members of North Carolina, the great state, presents $1,000 to the Service Foundation.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much, sir. (Applause)

MS. KATHY SHURLICK: Kathy Shurlick, Chapter 67, Franklin, Pennsylvania. I'd like to present a check to the Colorado Trust for $1,500 and a check to the DAV National Service Foundation, also for $1,500.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. LAVERLE PIPER: Senior Vice Commander of Wisconsin, giving an IOU for $1,500, guaranteed to be in the mail as soon as Mr. Mars gets back from Wisconsin.

MR. BURNS: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. JULIE K. BOTTS: Julie Botts, Commander, Chapter 11, San Jose, California. Check for $500 to the Foundation.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. FRANKLIN D. FELDMAN: Frank Feldman, past Commander of Chapter 4, state of Maryland, District 6.

I'd like to make a personal donation of $100 to the DAV National Service Foundation in recognition of Paul Sedorka, National Appeals Officer. and Kevin Gregory for their service for me in reference to my claim.

I want to congratulate both of them for their exemplary service to all servicemen and women. Thank you very much.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause)

MS. DELPHINE METCALF: Delphine Metcalf, Chapter 21, Vallejo, state of California. A personal check for $100. (Applause)

MR. RICHARD WILLIAMS, SR.: Richard Williams, 9th District, which includes North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, $300.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much, sir. (Applause)

MR. ARNOLD M. FLUSTER: Arnold Fluster, Chapter 2, San Diego, Commander of Chapter 2, the home of Dick Cosgriff, a check for $2,500.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. NATALE CAMINITI: PDC Nat Caminiti, Chapter 52, Enfield, Connecticut. And on behalf of Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 52, Enfield, Department of Connecticut, I'm honored to present this check for $400 to the National Service Foundation. With this installment Chapter 52 has met it's goal of reaching the Foundation Chapter cap of $5,000. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much.

MS. TERRY M. LIVINGSTON: Terry Livingston, Commander of the Blind Veterans National Chapter. On behalf of the departed comrades of our Chapter, a check for $100.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, Terry. (Applause)

MR. STACK: Gary, on behalf of the National Service Officers

out in the audience today and the fact that Mr. Cogriff is leaving, we want to donate $5,000 in his memory for all the fine work he has done for us all these years. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much.

MS. ENID B. ZYSK: Enid Zysk, Commander, Department of Virginia. We would like to donate $1,000 in honor of our Roanoke National Service Office. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Roanoke. Thank you very much.

MR. DANIEL T. MILLER: Dan Miller, Senior Vice Commander, Department of Virginia. I'm presenting this check from the Murray-Raye Peninsula, Chapter 6 in Hampton, Virginia, for a check of $1,000.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. JAMES FLYNN: I'd like to present, on behalf of H.H. McKenzie, Chapter 3, Roanoke, Virginia, our annual donation of $1,000 in honor of the hard-working Chapter Service Officer Bernie Pruitt. I'm James Flynn.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much.

MR. JACOB N. STAFFORD: Jacob Stafford from West Virginia, Wyoming/McDuff County, Chapter 56. I'd like to place a challenge to all other chapters, $1 per member, $307, $1 for each member, and we'd like to do this in honor of Past Commander Mac Hatfields, deceased and Past Chapter Commander. Thank you very much.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause)

MR. RICHARD C. AMOS: Dick Amos, State Commander, Department of South Dakota. I have $500 here for the Foundation in recognition of our outstanding National Service Officer, Larry Bouska.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. KENNETH LINDSAY: On behalf of New Hampshire -- I'm the Department Commander -- for the National Service Foundation, we donate $500; to the DAV Colorado Trust, we donate another $500.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, Ken. Good morning, Jerry.

MR. JERRY A. ELWELL: Jerry Elwell, Department of Maine. It is with great honor that I'd like to give the National Service Foundation a check for $500. This is in memory of Christy Anne M. Burns. It is a great honor to give this check to Gary.

MR. BURNS: Thank you. (Applause)

MR. CHARLIE O. FISH: Charlie O. Fish, Pennsylvania Department, State Commander. It's my honor and privilege to present $1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much, sir.

MR. SALVATORE LOSAURO: This is Sal LoSauro, NEC, District 4. On behalf of my Chapter in New Jersey, Chapter 16 -- Chapter 15, that is -- I'm proud to present a check of $1,000. Thank you.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. DANIEL T. FLYNN: Dan Flynn, Department of New Jersey Commander, proudly presents a check for $5,000. Thank you.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. HERBERT J. WILSON: Herb Wilson, Commander, Paul L. Thompson Memorial Chapter Number 1, Baltimore, Maryland, presents $250 to the National Service Foundation.

MR. BURNS: A good man, I knew him well. (Applause) Ma'am.

MS. ELIZABETH A. GRIEBEL: Good morning. Liz Griebel, Minnesota Chapter 1. We're presenting $2,500 to the National Service Foundation and $2,500 to the Charitable Trust Foundation, bringing our cumulative donation to in excess of $112,000.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. LEW SNOWBECK: Lew Snowbeck, Minneapolis Chapter Number 1, $100 to the National Foundation and another $100 to the Charitable Service Trust.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, Lew. (Applause)

MS. EVELYN E. DICK: Good morning. Evelyn Dick, Commander, First State, Delaware. I present this check in honor of our immediate past Department Commander, Charles Keshner, for $100 to the National Service Foundation.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, ma'am. (Applause)

MR. ARTHUR E. RHOADS: Good morning. Art Rhoads, Commander of Chapter 7, General Washington Chapter in Fredericksburg, Virginia. I present this check to the Colorado Trust for $200.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. VICTOR J. LAMPE: Victor J. Lampe, Commander of Cincinnati Chapter 1, the mother chapter of this great organization, the DAV, presents you with a check for $2,000.

The reason that's low is because upon hearing of the Disabled Veterans Memorial being built in Washington, D.C., we figured being as we was the mother chapter, that we would give $30,000 to that fund.

In conversations with Art Wilson, there were two options, either we could send it right to the Foundation or hopefully get national involved and everything else. Art said they were two good ideas, but maybe we should hold up and give it at National Headquarters at the Commanders' and Adjutants' meeting on July 9th.

I'm throwing this out as a challenge to all chapters, hoping somebody can go over that. It would make me feel real great if somebody went over that.

That's the reason why the check is so low this year. And another thing, that was on July 9th. Another thing, on July 10th, our chapter, a few months before, was contacted by the Cincinnati VA Medical Center, and they were wondering if we could give them anything towards a van that had a lift so it would pick up --

MR. BURNS: Careful now.

MR. LAMPE: -- wheelchair patients and put them right up in the van. So, that was in the amount of $34,017, and we presented that to the VA Medical Center on July 10th.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much.

MR. LAMPE: And furthermore, it is a Ford van but we didn't go through the thing because it wasn't about that time.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much. We appreciate that. (Applause)

MR. ROBERT T. REYNOLDS: Robert Reynolds from the Department of Virginia. I have a friend, Ray Troutman, who is here as a guest, and he asked that I extend his thanks to the service this organization provides and he would like to make a personal donation of $500. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much.

MR. WILSON W. SPENCE, III: Good morning. Wilson Spence, Senior Vice, Department of Minnesota. On behalf of our Commander, Mike Curran, and the Department of Minnesota, I present this check for $2,000 to the National Service Foundation and $2,000 for the Charitable Trust.

MR. BURNS: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. MAGGIE L. CHRISTENSEN: Good morning. Maggie Christensen, Commander, Chapter 58, Marina Valley, California. I'd like to give this $500 check to the DAV National Service Foundation in the name of Dick Cosgriff for all of his hard work he has done over the years.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, ma'am. (Applause) Hi, John.

MR. JOHN O. OGNIE: I'm John Ognie. I'm the Commander of the Department of Colorado, and I have a check for $5,000, but it's not in the mail, it's on its way. That's going to go to the Colorado Trust.

And I also have from Murphy Borelli, Chapter 7, the DAV Chapter in Colorado, I have a check for $5,000 for the Colorado Trust, and that's in the mail, though, so hopefully, you get them both.

MR. BURNS: Both to the Colorado Trust?

MR. OGNIE: Yes. I was going to bring them all the way here but I didn't have enough room. Thank you.

MR. GILLES BLAIS: Commander Gilles Blais from the greater Daytona area, or Daytona Beach, home to the U.S. Air Force Academy of the East, Embry-Riddle, also the race track. Also, we provide transportation from Daytona to Gainesville five days a week.

I have a check of $1,600 to the DAV National Service Foundation. Also attached to the check is a City of Holly Hills centennial pin which goes to the recipient of this check.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause)

MR. ROGER L. JENSEN: On behalf of the members of Holland Chapter 14, Holland, Michigan, I present a check of $250 to the Service Foundation.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause)

MR. JOSEPH J. McDOWELL: Jay McDowell, PDC., state of Arizona. On behalf of the PDC Association, state of Arizona, I'd like to present this check in memory of all those PDC's who departed the ranks and files of this fine organization this year. Thank you.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause) Three hundred dollars.

MR. JIMMIE P. TARTT, JR.: I'm Jimmie Tartt, Commander of the great state of Mississippi, and we'd like to donate a check for $1,000 to the National Service Foundation.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, Jimmie. (Applause)

MR. BARRY A. JESINOSKI: Barry Jesinoski, Chapter 2, San Diego. I'd like to donate $100 in honor of my very dear friends, Dick and Rita Cosgriff. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: One hundred dollars, cash.

MR. CROSSLAND: Hi, Gary Crossland, again, Department of California Commander. I used to give money to Mr. Joyner back here and always enjoyed that, and I thought to maybe save my job and make up that other $100,000 that I mistakenly said a while ago for the $50,000 check, I'll take $100 out of my pocket and I will give $100 to the Foundation. Thank you.

MR. BURNS: Thank you once again. (Applause)

MR. GEORGE W. POOL: George Pool, Chapter 22 Commander, Alhambra, California. Not being too well prepared for this situation, I'm offering $100 humbly. Thank you, sir.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause) One hundred dollars in cash.

MR. GERALD E. HUMPHRIES: Gerald Humphries, Treasurer of DAV Chapter 11. We wish to present this $1,000 in the name of the Jackson NSO Office.

MR. BURNS: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. RONALD J. KANTORSKI: Ron Kantorski, Commander, Department of Vermont. We have a check for $1,000. It's on its way, it just hasn't made it yet.

MR. BURNS: Okay, thank you. (Applause) The mail up there is different. Good morning, Anthony, how are you, sir?

MR. ANTHONY C. GIANTONIO: Good. Anthony Giantonio, Commander, Northern Valley Chapter 32, Bergenfield, New Jersey.

I've got two checks here, one for the Colorado Trust for $500, and this one is made out to the Transportation Fund. They told me, my comrades on line, I'd have no problem of you taking it.

MR. BURNS: We can work it out.

MR. GIANTONIO: I figured you would. They assured me you'd take it. (Laughter and applause)

MR. BURNS: Thank you. Five hundred and 500.

MR. JAMES H. TANNER: Good morning, Gary. Good morning, members. Jim Tanner, Joseph R. Harold Memorial Chapter 10, Boston, Mass, presents a personal check in the honor of John Rogers, Chapter Service Officer.

MR. BURNS: All right, thank you very much. (Applause) One hundred dollars.

MR. JAMES SANTOS: Good morning, sir. Jim Santos, Commander, Department of Hawaii. Aloha to one and all. We pledge $250. Unfortunately, I did not have any department checks. You have my personal pledge and promise the check will be in the mail.

MR. BURNS: Okay, thank you. (Applause)

MR. JAMES M. COX: Good morning. Mike Cox, Department Commander, State of Louisiana, and I'd like to make this $100 cash donation on behalf of Louisiana Chapter 30 in memory of our departed Department Commander, Albie Cullanton, from 1951-1952.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause)

MR. I. ARLEQUIN-MENDEZ: Good morning, everybody. Puerto Rico is here one more time. I am Arlequin-Mendez, Past Department Commander, Past Chapter 5 Commander. Chapter 5 is in my home town in Cagua. I bring $200. (Applause)

MR. RAYMOND E. GUISE: I'm Ray Guise, Senior Vice Commander for Department of Oregon, $250 for the Colorado Trust. (Applause)

MR. WILLIAM L. COWARD: Bill Coward, Department of Georgia Commander, and there's a check for $1,000 for the Colorado Trust and a check for $1,000 for the Foundation.

It's on my dresser, and I had a senior moment but it will be in the mail as soon as I get back to Georgia. (Laughter and applause)

MR. ROBERT F. GRAF: Good morning. My name is Bob Graf with one "F" from Chapter 73, Woodland Hills, California.

And it's my personal check in memory of a great man from California, a friend of mine over 50 years. He's also known at the national level. I'm referring to Hank Vilette. (Applause)

MR. BURNS: Thank you. Fifty Dollars.

MR. BOBBY G. WILLIAMS: Good morning. Bobby Williams from Chapter 12. I've got $100 here in honor of Ron Hoake, the NSO Supervisor at Winston-Salem, and he's also my Chapter Commander.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause) North Carolina, $100 cash. Good morning, Commander.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Good morning. I have a personal donation of $300 to the Service Foundation.

MR. BURNS: Personal donation. (Applause) Thank you.

CHAPLAIN BROWN: Your DAV Chaplain, National Chaplain. I have a personal donation from my wife and myself, Mrs. Annie Brown, for $125.

MR. BURNS: Thank you, Mr. Brown. (Applause) Retired Assistant National Adjutant and Executive Director Fred Bristol donates $500 in honor of Dick Cosgriff. (Applause)

Thank you, Fred. I also have one more check here, and it's made out to the Foundation in the amount of $1,000 from the Disabled American Veterans Argon Chapter 18, Patterson, New Jersey.

They were not able to attend this session and asked that this check be received and recognized. Thank you people as well. (Applause) And Mike Dobmeier, Past National Commander, donation of $100. (Applause)

Now, Art, is that correct that the checks in the mail are sent to my home in Maine or do they come here? No, just kidding.

I want to thank all of you for being patient with this report, thank everyone that made it possible for me to become the President of this tremendous group early and a special thanks to Nancy O'Brien.

I read the report, but Nancy is the nuts and bolts, she put it together and without her, I can assure you, I'd be lost, and the entire Board would have some problems, so thank you very much, Nancy, and thank you again to all of you. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Could we have a motion to accept that excellent report from President Burns for the National Service Foundation?

NEC DISTRICT 20 MIKE BAKER: Comrade Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ALBARRAN: What mike? Mike two.

NEC DISTRICT 20 BAKER: Mike Baker, NEC District 20 so moves.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Mike three.

MR. VINCENT C. MORRISON: Vincent Morrison, Chapter 9, Houston, Texas. I second that motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. You heard the motion and the second. All in favor, say aye; against. The ayes have it. So moved. (Applause)

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

Financial Statements for the Years Ended December 31, 2000 and 1999 and Independent Auditors' Report

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Deloitte
& Touche

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors,
Disabled American Veterans
National Service Foundation:

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of the Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation (the "Foundation") as of December 31, 2000 and 1999 and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Foundation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Foundation at December 31, 2000 and 1999, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Deloitte & Touche LLP

February 2, 2001

Deloitte
Touche
Tohmatsu

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

	2000	1999
ASSETS		
CASH, (including $580,048 and $834,351 relating to The Colorado Trust in 2000 and 1999, respectively) (Note 2)	$ 762,239	$ 967,567
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	177,323	156,270
PREPAID EXPENSES	26,444	28,185
INVESTMENTS - Marketable securities (including $2,117,678 and $1,193,386 relating to The Colorado Trust in 2000 and 1999, respectively) (Note 2)	26,612,768	25,071,307
TOTAL	$27,578,774	$26,223,329
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES:		
Due to DAV (Note 3)	$ 58,828	$ 61,413
Due to DAV legislative program (Note 2)	9,378	8,454
Other liabilities	96,007	
Total liabilities	164,213	69,867
NET ASSETS (Note 2):		
Unrestricted net assets:		
General	8,745,107	7,524,676
The Colorado Trust	2,000,000	1,500,000
Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund	12,780,244	11,633,817
Accumulated net unrealized appreciation of investments	3,087,321	4,773,901
Total unrestricted net assets	26,612,672	25,432,394
Temporarily restricted net assets - The Colorado Trust	606,095	526,274
Permanently restricted net assets - National Order of Trench Rats		
DAV Legislative Fund	195,794	194,794
Total net assets	27,414,561	26,153,462
TOTAL	$27,578,774	$26,223,329

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

	2000				1999			
	General, The Colorado Trust, Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund (Unrestricted)	The Colorado Trust (Temporarily Restricted)	National Order of Trench Rats (Permanently Restricted)	Total	General, The Colorado Trust, Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund (Unrestricted)	The Colorado Trust (Temporarily Restricted)	National Order of Trench Rats (Permanently Restricted)	Total
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES (Notes 2,3):								
Public support - contributions and bequests	$ 1,146,427	$ 1,085,477	$ 1,000	$ 2,232,904	$ 1,307,850	$ 1,269,906	$ 1,000	$ 2,578,756
Net assets released from restrictions (Note 4)	1,101,756	(1,101,756)			1,745,952	(1,745,952)		
Revenues:								
Interest and dividend income	974,017	96,100		1,070,117	777,829	69,920		847,749
Gain on sale of investment securities	1,254,341			1,254,341	1,080,909			1,080,909
Total revenues	2,228,358	96,100		2,324,458	1,858,738	69,920		1,928,658
Total public support and revenues	4,476,541	79,821	1,000	4,557,362	4,912,540	(406,126)	1,000	4,507,414
EXPENSES:								
Program:								
Grants in accordance with The Colorado Trust (Note 2)	1,101,756			1,101,756	1,745,952			1,745,952
Transfers to DAV National Headquarters (Note 1)	294,424			294,424	113,454			113,454
Total program expenses	1,396,180			1,396,180	1,859,406			1,859,406
Supporting services	213,503			213,503	193,241			193,241
Total expenses	1,609,683			1,609,683	2,052,647			2,052,647
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) OF INVESTMENTS	2,866,858	79,821	1,000	2,947,679	2,859,893	(406,126)	1,000	2,454,767
CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	(1,686,580)			(1,686,580)	740,198			740,198
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS AFTER NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) OF INVESTMENTS	1,180,278	79,821	1,000	1,261,099	3,600,091	(406,126)	1,000	3,194,965
NET ASSETS, Beginning of year	25,432,394	526,274	194,794	26,153,462	21,832,303	932,400	193,794	22,958,497
NET ASSETS, End of year	$26,612,672	$ 606,095	$195,794	$27,414,561	$25,432,394	$ 526,274	$194,794	$26,153,462

See notes to financial statements.

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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

	2000	1999
ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES (Note 3)	$116,744	$112,388
TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES	15,450	16,475
INSURANCE	3,673	3,673
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	6,100	6,200
AWARDS	12,402	3,130
PRINTING, POSTAGE AND SUPPLIES	17,157	17,339
REGISTRATION FEES	65	15
INVESTMENT TRUSTEE FEES	41,421	32,852
MISCELLANEOUS	491	1,169
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	$213,503	$193,241

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

	2000	1999
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets	$ 1,260,099	$ 3,193,965
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Change in unrealized appreciation on investments	1,686,580	(740,198)
Gain on sale of investment securities	(1,254,341)	(1,080,909)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest and dividends receivable	(21,053)	(36,488)
Prepaid expenses	1,741	(4,478)
Due to DAV	(2,585)	(7,087)
Due to DAV legislative program	924	567
Other	96,007	(10,250)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,767,372	1,315,122
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchases of investments	(18,236,349)	(18,877,643)
Proceeds from sale of investments	16,262,649	17,355,831
Net cash used by investing activities	(1,973,700)	(1,521,812)
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Contributions of permanently restricted assets	1,000	1,000
NET DECREASE IN CASH	(205,328)	(205,690)
CASH, Beginning of year	967,567	1,173,257
CASH, End of year	$ 762,239	$ 967,567

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

The 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 Disabled American Veterans, 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.

Contributions - Contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted or permanently restricted support depending on the existence and nature of any donor restrictions. The Foundation recognizes contributions with donor imposed restrictions that are met in the same period as unrestricted contributions.

Unrestricted Net Assets - All contributions and bequests to the Foundation are designated by the Board of Directors (the "Board") for permanent investment in the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund as a reserve for future needs. Investment income derived from these invested amounts is used for current operations of the Foundation or appropriated for use by DAV. Donated assets are recorded at their fair market value at the time of the donation. $2,000,000 and $1,500,000 of total unrestricted net assets were designated by the Board for The Colorado Trust at December 31, 2000 and 1999, respectively.

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets - In 1996, The Colorado Trust was established to provide funds for service programs of needy DAV state departments and local chapters. Funds contributed to The Colorado Trust are matched 100% by DAV, up to a maximum of $3,000,000 per year. In 2000 and 1999, respectively, The Colorado Trust received $150,477 and $269,906 in contributions which were matched by DAV. In 2000 and 1999, DAV made an additional contribution of $349,523 and $230,094, respectively, to The Colorado Trust.

Permanently Restricted Net Assets - Contributions by the National Order of Trench Rats for the DAV Legislative Program are permanently restricted. Investment income of $9,378 and $8,454, in 2000 and 1999, respectively, from the National Order of Trench Rats DAV Legislative Fund is transferred to DAV and is temporarily restricted for use by DAV's Legislative Program.

Investments in Securities – Investments, which consist of equity securities, corporate bonds and U.S. Treasury Notes, are recorded at fair or market value. The fair value of the Foundation's investments is determined based on the quoted market price of the related securities. 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.

The cost and market value of investments in securities and the net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31 are summarized below:

2000	Cost	Market	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
Cash Equivalents	$ 2,939,609	$ 2,939,609	
Corporate Bonds	6,560,033	6,711,294	$ 151,261
U.S. Treasury Notes	4,391,323	4,509,398	118,075
Common Stocks	8,464,869	11,348,589	2,883,720
Common Stock Funds	1,169,613	1,103,878	(65,735)
Total	$23,525,447	$26,612,768	$3,087,321
1999			
Cash Equivalents	$ 2,399,567	$ 2,399,567	
Corporate Bonds	6,573,094	6,402,885	$ (170,209)
U.S. Treasury Notes	3,865,035	3,751,157	(113,878)
Common Stocks	6,714,146	11,528,748	4,814,602
Common Stock Funds	745,564	988,950	243,386
Total	$20,297,406	$25,071,307	$4,773,901

Income Taxes - As a not-for-profit service organization, the Foundation has been approved as exempt from federal income taxes as a 501(c)(4) organization. Contributions made to the Foundation are tax deductible by the contributor.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The DAV provides the Foundation with the use of DAV personnel, facilities and equipment. DAV charged the Foundation $116,744 and $112,388 in 2000 and 1999, respectively, for personnel services.

At December 31, 2000 and 1999, the Foundation owed $58,828 and $61,413, respectively, for personnel services and administrative charges. Facilities and equipment are provided by the DAV at no charge.

In 2000 and 1999, respectively, the DAV Charitable Service Trust made a $435,000 and $500,000 contribution to The Colorado Trust for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grants administered through The Colorado Trust.

As discussed in Note 2, DAV contributed $500,000 to The Colorado Trust in both 2000 and 1999.

In performing the duties of their positions, the DAV's National Commander and National Adjutant serve on the Board of the Foundation. The DAV National Finance Committee Chairman serves as an ex officio member of the Board.

4. NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS

Net assets are released from restrictions by incurring expenses to satisfy the restricted purposes or by occurrence of other events specified by donors and are summarized as follows:

	December 31,	
	2000	1999
Grants to DAV chapters and departments in accordance with The Colorado Trust:		
Hospital Service Coordinator Program	$ 426,549	$ 421,813
National Transportation Network Van Program	606,355	1,323,744
Other Grants to Service Programs	68,000	-
Miscellaneous expenses	852	395
Total	$1,101,756	$1,745,952

* * * * * *

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Our next guest is someone who really needs no introduction, Dick Marbes, who lost his right leg in military service, served as DAV National Commander, 1993-94. A resident of Green Bay, Wisconsin, Dick has been actively involved in the DAV for more than 30 years.

Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm DAV welcome to Mr. Dick Marbes, Chairman of the DAV Charitable Service Trust. (Applause)

MR. RICHARD E. MARBES: Good morning, everyone. National Commander Albarran, National Adjutant Wilson, National Officers, delegates and guests:

I am honored to present the annual report of the DAV Charitable Service Trust. Over the last year our remarkable Trust has continued its outstanding record of service and growth to help disabled veterans and their families, and I can't wait to tell you about it.

But before I do, I want to give special thanks to all those that serve on the Board of the Charitable Service Trust and the hard work they've put in to make our efforts more successful each year.

The insight and wisdom they have provided are endless resources. The Trust was also created to utilize donations from those who wish to support DAV through special gift arrangements, such as pledges through the Combined Federal Campaign, The United Way, state and corporate work place campaigns or employee matching gift programs.

The beneficiaries of the Charitable Service Trust are disabled veterans who depend on a variety of service programs, including those offered by the DAV, the VA and other public and private service organizations.

The primary goals of the DAV Charitable Service Trust are to address the real, immediate needs of disabled veterans. Those needs include shelter and assistance to homeless veterans; the special needs of veterans suffering extraordinary disabilities such as amputation; and support for physical and psychological rehabilitation projects to help our nation's most profoundly disabled veterans.

The mission of the Charitable Service Trust also extends to the families of disabled veterans. The Trust, like you, never forgets our mission to improve the lives of disabled veterans and their families.

In 2000 the Trust received net pledges and contributions totalling more than $932,000. The Charitable Service Trust is grateful for those contributions and the hard work expended by so many in DAV, including our tremendous corps of National Service Officers.

Each year our NSOs play key roles in expanding the list of new contributors to the Charitable Service Trust. NSOs attend CFC kickoffs and fairs to tell federal and civilian government workers about the benefits of the Trust.

They get their message across. New marketing materials are developed each fall to promote the trust when the work place campaigns begin across the nation.

Bulletin board posters, easel displays and give-away items are some of the materials we have provided to promote the message of the DAV Charitable Service Trust.

During 2000, I am proud to tell you that the Trust provided $965,000 to various charitable programs that directly benefit disabled veterans.

The programs include providing $435,000 to support the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program to ensure veterans have transportation to VA medical facilities for needed care; granting more than $215,500 to provide food and shelter to homeless veterans, in addition to medical, vision and dental aid; awarding $74,500 to support significant therapeutic initiatives; providing $20,000 to support veterans' health services; providing $200,000 to fund programs designed to educate the public about our nation's veterans so that our nation remembers and understands their service and sacrifice.

The DAV Charitable Service Trust has an outstanding record of

success in serving disabled veterans in a special, flexible way that is so necessary in our rapidly changing world.

There are a few programs that we supported for the first time that I would like to tell you more about, programs that distinguish and show the pride of the DAV.

Students visiting Washington, D.C., and those that don't have the opportunity to see our nation's capital, can learn more about the Vietnam War and the sacrifice of veterans thanks to the Trust partnership with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

This includes a unique education project, "Echoes from the Mall," a program that educates children about the significance of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and other memorials in Washington dedicated to those who have sacrificed for our nation's liberty.

In addition, we're supporting a traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and museum exhibition entitled, "The Wall that Heals."

The traveling museum includes a half-scale replica of the memorial commonly called, "The Wall." The museum exhibits are designed to help visitors understand the Vietnam War and its era and the sacrifices of our nation's veterans.

Support of programs of assistance for homeless and needy veterans has long been a cornerstone of the Trust. Through a unique program in Jamaica, New York, homeless and elderly disabled veterans are receiving furniture, appliances and other housing necessities thanks to first-time funding from the Trust.

Right here in Florida we're helping to put a state-of-the-art medical vehicle on the road to provide acute intervention and case management for homeless veterans in rural areas.

In addition to these valuable programs supporting homeless, needy and elderly veterans, several therapeutic and rehabilitative programs for disabled veterans are making notable advancements thanks to support from the Trust.

We are also supporting programs that help amputee veterans gain new assurance in their abilities to move into the mainstream of life.

In the area of health care, the Trust makes possible many programs designed to give the greatest aid to sick and disabled veterans, including an educational program to assist highly trained nurses in the VA health system who care for them.

DAV Charitable Service Trust grants also allow the DAV's National Transportation Network Program to provide vans to transport sick and disabled veterans to and from VA medical centers for treatment.

This year 116 new vans were put into operation throughout our country. Trust grants also support training for DAV National Service Officers who assist disabled veterans and their dependents in their claims and appeals for disability compensation and benefits.

I and the other members of the DAV Charitable Service Trust governing board are proud to share this record of achievement with you: National Commander, Armando Albarran; Vice Chairman, National Adjutant Art Wilson; Secretary-Treasurer, Lew Snowbeck from Minnesota; David Tannenbaum from Virginia; Bruce Nitsche from Florida; and Dennis Nixon from Texas.

The DAV Charitable Service Trust is completing a watershed year of service to disabled veterans and their families, but there are more needs to respond to.

There are more programs which desperately need our support and, most important to us, veterans who now need our help more than ever. The DAV Charitable Service Trust is looking to you for assistance. You need to promote the Trust by telling others of DAV's important work.

When the story of our work is told, our mission is realized. We on the Board, all the members of the DAV, and especially those veterans we are helping, thank you for your service.

In fact, this report is an expression of thanks to all of you who have helped and especially to all those wonderful NSOs who give some unselfishly to help the Trust.

As we fulfill another year of dedication and honor to our fellow veterans, please help us to continue this legacy of service,

honor and distinction.

Thank you for all you have done to build better lives for our nation's disabled veterans and their families. As you rest tonight, enjoy that warm glow around your heart -- the one you get when you extend charity to your fellow veteran -- knowing that you have done well.

Comrade Commander, this concludes my report. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Dick. Could I have a motion to accept that informative and wonderful report.

MR. CLAUDE J. BOGGS: Comrade Commander, Claude Boggs.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Mike two.

MR. BOGGS: Claude Boggs, Department of Texas, Commander, moves to accept that report.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Do I hear a second? Mike three.

MR. THEODORE RICHARDSON: Terry Richardson, Chapter 9. I second.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. You heard the motion and second. All in favor say aye; against. The ayes have it. So moved. (Applause) Believe it or not, that concludes today's agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen, please rise as I ask the Chaplain to lead us in closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN BROWN: Lord, we pray Thee this afternoon that Thy grace may always be present within the Disabled American Veterans organization, and make us continuously to be given to all our DAV good works and to our DAV sick lists.

Again, God, give thanks and blessing and upliftings to our DAV brothers, Milen Speckman, Minnesota Vice Commander, who was taken to Mt. Sinai Hospital this morning in Miami, here, and also keep both brothers in our prayer, for brother Len Harris, the National Service Officer of St. Louis. Let us say amen together. Amen. Thank you.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: The Convention stands in recess until 9:00 o'clock Thursday morning. Thank you for attending.

(Whereupon the meeting recessed at 10:50 o'clock a.m., July 31, 2001)

FINAL BUSINESS SESSION

August 2, 2001

The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 80th National Convention convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Fontainebleau Hilton Resort, Miami Beach, Florida, Thursday morning, August 2, 2001, and was called to order at 9:00 o'clock a.m. by Commander Armando C. Albarran.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: The convention will please come to order. Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I now will call on Chaplain Brown. Will you please lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN BROWN: Good morning. God, be merciful unto us and bless us. Cause Thy face to shine upon us that Thy way may be known upon earth and Thy saving strength among all people.

Let the people be glad and sing for joy for Thou shalt judge them righteously and govern the nations upon earth. Especially, do we pray that we may have Thy guidance to the end, that we may, each of us, firmly uphold all of the great principles of the Disabled American Veterans organization.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come unto His presence with singing for the Lord is good, His steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations. Let us say amen and let us be seated. Amen. Thank you.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: As a reminder, in order for a delegate to be heard at this convention, he must be recognized by the Chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. Upon being so recognized, the delegate must state his name, chapter and state he represents.

At this time I would like to introduce again National Chaplain

Brown for the presentation from Chapel of Four Chaplains, please.

CHAPLAIN BROWN: Good morning, again. To National Commander Armando C. Albarran, I bring greetings on behalf of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, which, unfortunately, could not send a representative this year.

Therefore, it is my privilege today to present the Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award. This award is one of the most precious traditions in our society and one that represents the true spirit of selflessness and sacrifice.

The Chapel of Four Chaplains is a national non-profit organization founded upon one shining moment in our heritage. As you may recall the story, when the troop ship USAT Dorchester was torpedoed in the frigid waters off Greenland during World War II, four Army chaplains, one of them Catholic, two Protestant and one of the Jewish faith, gave up their own life jackets to help save the lives of those aboard.

The chaplains were George L. Foxx, Alexander D. Goode, Clark V. Polling and John P. Washington, whose selfless acts of courage have inspired so many others over the years by their example.

The Legion of Honor was established in memory of these brave men of faith and patriotism, and it is my great honor and privilege to present this award in recognition of truly outstanding humanitarian service to disabled veterans and their families to National Commander Armando C. Albarran. Commander. (Applause)

The plaque reads: "The Chapel of Four Chaplains is pleased to present the Legion of Honor bronze medallion to Armando C. Albarran on August 2, 2001, in recognition of his service to all people regardless of race or faith.

This award symbolizes for all Americans and for all time the unity of this nation, founded upon the fatherhood of one God."

It's signed "in unity without uniformity." And it's signed by the executive, Kimberly Pierce, Executive Director.

It is my privilege to give you this award. God bless you. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Chaplain Brown.

CHAPLAIN BROWN: Also, this is the medallion that is awarded to Commander, the sacrifice of the four chaplains -- and that's what this reads. And thanks again and God bless you and best of luck to you.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. (Applause)

It is, indeed, a pleasure to welcome Irvin Eddy of Oklahoma, newly elected President of the Commanders and Adjutants Association for 2001-2002. Irvin. (Applause)

MR. IRVIN D. EDDY: Good morning. National Commander Albarran, National Adjutant Wilson, delegates, guests, national officers and national staff, it is with great pleasure that I come before this convention body and bring greetings from the Commanders and Adjutants Association.

I hope that you are having a great convention this year, and I hope that you are having and enjoying the fun, the beaches; and if you're from Oklahoma, the rain. (Laughter)

I want to tell you about the Commanders and Adjutants Association, which is founded on the principle of positive people who are optimistic about serving veterans, who are interested in working together to bring motivational programs to veterans and their families with enthusiasm, dedication and sincerity.

These are the principles that I believe in. We, the Commanders and Adjutants Association, are looking forward to working with our parent organization, the DAV, to help make life just a little bit easier for our disabled veterans and their families. We are here to serve you. Thank you a lot. (Applause)

At this time, Adjutant Wilson, I would present a check to you, sir, for the National Service Foundation for $1,500. (Applause) Thank you.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Will you please welcome the newly elected Imperial Golden Rodent of the National Order of Trench Rats, Frank L. Cummings of Louisiana. (Applause)

MR. FRANK L. CUMMINGS: Good morning, everyone. Commander Albarran, Adjutant Wilson, ladies and gentlemen, and my brother Rats, it is, indeed, a pleasure to be here today and know that I

will have one year of very extended service as a member of the National Order of Trench Rats and as the Imperial Golden Rodent.

I know, with your help and your understanding, that the National Order of Trench Rats will continue in the high esteem that we have in the past and our, of course, mission is service to veterans.

We want to continue that to the highest esteem. Commander, thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you.

MR. BRZEZINKSI: National Commander Albarran, National Adjutant Art Wilson, comrades, and brothers, the National Order of Trench Rats at this time donates $1,000 to the DAV National Service Foundation, $2,000 to the Colorado Trust.

The National Order of Trench Rats promise that in two years we will donate a $20,000 van to the DAV Transportation Network to be placed wherever the DAV Transportation Network feels it is needed most with only one requirement. There must be a Dugout in that state.

And at this time, also, I'd like to read the following resolutions.

God has seen in his infinite wisdom to call to the great beyond Joe Gibbs, Imperial Rodent Number 52; and

WHEREAS, he did by his acts and diligence as an Imperial officer help lead the National Order of Trench Rats to the prominent position it holds today in the service to the Disabled American Veterans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the National Order of Trench Rats assembled at the 77th National Rendezvous in Miami, Florida, that we recognize his outstanding service by contributing a sum of $100 as a memorial to him to be placed in the trust accounts of the Perpetual Rehabilitation Funds of the Disabled American Veterans Service Foundation, the income of which shall be used from time to time toward the maintenance of nationwide rehabilitation activities of the disabled American veterans and their dependents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, his name be inscribed on the memorial honor rolls so all may see and appreciate his sacrifice and devotion to the cause of the disabled American veterans as exemplified by Joe J. Gibbs, Imperial Golden Rodent 52, 1976-77.

And, God has seen in his infinite wisdom to call to the great beyond Robert Veitz, Imperial Executive Rat, 19. His name may be inscribed on the memorial honor roll so that all may see and appreciate his sacrifice and devotion to the cause of the disabled American veterans as exemplified by his actions.

Commander, I turn this over to you. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you very much, National Order of Trench Rats.

At this time I would like to announce that the registration of delegates is closed. I would like to call for the final report of the Credentials Committee.

MR. LAY: Thank you, Commander Albarran and delegates. Prior to letting you know the final report, I'd first like to thank the members of the committee and the representatives from the National Office, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Galian, to assist us. With that, I will read the final report.

This report reflects the total registration as of noon on August 1, 2001. At the present time we have 470 Chapters, 41 Departments, 34 National Officers, 11 Past National Commanders, for a total of 1,051 delegates and 44 alternates, for a total vote of 9,728.

This completes the final report of the Credentials Committee, Commander, and I move for its adoption.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I will now entertain a motion to adopt the final report. Mike 2.

MR. PATRICK J. CARROLL: Patrick Carroll, Chapter 12, California, makes a motion to accept the Chairman of the Credentials Committee's report.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Number two, will you second that? He made the motion.

MR. CARROLL: Well, I'll second it, of course.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. You heard the second. All in favor of accepting the report, say aye; against. The ayes have it. So moved. Thank you.

I will now call for the report of the Committee on Nominations of National Officers.

MR. DENNIS A. JOYNER: Thank you, Commander. Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Nomination of National Officers was called to order for its first business session on July 30, 2001, by the committee advisors, Gene Murphy and Bill Leach.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chair. Dennis Joyner was nominated for the Chair. There being no further nominations, they were closed and Dennis Joyner was elected Chair.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of a secretary. Michael Tempesta was nominated and elected as secretary of the committee.

The Nominating Committee interviewed fourteen candidates for National Office. The Committee nominates the following individuals to serve as National Officers for the next year:

For the Office of National Commander: George H. Steese, Jr., from California;

For the Office of Senior Vice Commander: Edward R. Heath, Sr., from Maine;

For the Office of First Junior Vice Commander: Alan W. Bowers, from Massachusetts;

For the Office of Second Junior Vice Commander: James E. "Jim" Sursely from Florida;

For the Office of Third Junior Vice Commander: Paul W. Jackson, Colorado;

For the Office of Fourth Junior Vice Commander, Bradley S. Barton, Oregon;

For the Office of Judge Advocate: Edward G. Galian from New York;

For the Office of Chaplain: Reverend Gerald Stump from North Carolina.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Nomination of National Officers, and I move the adoption of this report and that the committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I will now call for a second of that report of the Committee on Nominations of National Officers to be adopted and that the committee be discharged. Do I hear a second? Mike two.

MR. DALEY: Tom Daley, Chapter 49, Arlington, Massachusetts, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Tom. You heard the second, all in favor, say aye; against. The ayes have it. So moved. (Applause)

You have heard the report from the Committee on Nominations of National Officers, and they have nominated George H. Steese for National Commander.

Here to second the nomination is Past National Commander Ken Musselmann of California. Ken. (Applause)

MR. MUSSELMANN: Thank you, Commander. George Steese, a native of Los Angeles, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1968. In 1971, while serving with the 475th Combat Support Group at Masawa Air Base in Japan, he suffered a severe injury to his back that ultimately cut short a promising career in the U.S. Air Force and he was honorably discharged in 1979.

George earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration with an accounting emphasis from California State University in Fresno in 1984.

His wealth of business knowledge includes budgeting, general ledger, financial support, inventory control, production scheduling and supervision.

George joined the DAV in 1983. He is a life member, past commander and current treasurer of Fresno Chapter Number 1. In 1995-96 he served as Commander of the Department of California.

After his term as commander, George was appointed as State

Chairman of California's VAVS program and is responsible for many new and innovative ideas that have raised the level of participation in all volunteer programs in California.

George was the recipient of California's Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year Award for 1998 and has served on many committees at the department and national level.

George's dedication, devotion and loyalty to the DAV earned him the respect and admiration of the national membership, and he has been elected to serve as a national line officer for the last four years.

George's achievements would not have occurred had it not been for the unwavering love, loyalty and support of his mother, his wife, June, his daughter, Ellie, his son-in-law, Gary, and his entire family, who almost all of them are seated right down here in the front row with us this morning.

George's professionalism, initiative and steadfast devotion to veterans is truly in keeping with the highest tradition of the Disabled American Veterans.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure, and I am honored on behalf of Fresno Chapter Number 1, the Department of California and all members of the DAV to second the nomination of our next National Commander, George H. Steese, Jr. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: The Chair will now call for any further nominations for the Office of National Commander. Do I hear any further nominations? Do I hear any further nominations? Do I hear any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare George H. Steese elected as National Commander and instruct the National Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for his election. (Applause)

ADJUTANT WILSON: I, Arthur H. Wilson, National Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, hereby cast one unanimous ballot for George H. Steese for the Office of National Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: The Nominating Committee has nominated Ed Heath for the office of National Senior Vice Commander.

I will now call for any further nominations for National Senior Vice Commander. Do I hear any further nominations? Do I hear any further nominations? Do I hear any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Ed Heath elected as National Senior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Alan W. Bowers for the office of National First Junior Vice.

I will now call for any further nominations for National First Junior Vice. Do I hear any further nominations? Do I hear any further nominations? Do I hear any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations, I will now close the nominations and declare Alan Bowers elected as National First Junior Vice. (Applause)

The Nomination Committee has nominated James E. Sursely for the Office of National Second Junior Vice Commander.

I will now call for any further nominations for National Second Junior Vice Commander. Do I hear any further nominations? Do I hear any further nominations? Do I hear any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations, I will close the nominations and declare James Sursely elected National Second Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Paul W. Jackson for the Office of Third Junior Vice Commander.

I will now call for any further nominations for the National Third Junior Vice Commander. Do I hear any further nominations? Do I hear any further nominations? Do I hear any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations, I will close the nominations and declare Paul W. Jackson elected as National Third Junior Vice. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Bradley Barton for the

Office of Fourth Junior Vice Commander.

I will now call for any further nominations for the National Fourth Junior Vice Commander. Do I hear any further nominations? Do I hear any further nominations? Do I hear any further nominations?

MR. JACK E. WARE: Mike three.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Mike three.

MR. WARE: Jack Ware, Department of Arizona Commander, proudly nominates Jay McDowell for the Fourth Junior Vice Commander.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Jay McDowell has been nominated for Fourth Junior Vice Commander. Do I hear a second on that nomination? Mike three.

MR. JAMES SANTOS: From the great state of Hawaii, Commander Jim Santos, Department of Hawaii, would like to second the nomination of Jay McDowell.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Jim. You heard the nomination and the second. Are there any other further nominations? Any other further nominations? Are there any other further nominations?

Hearing none, I now close the nominations for Fourth Junior Vice, Bradley Barton and Jay McDowell.

I will now call for a 15-minute recess to assemble the tellers and required equipment. We will reconvene at 9:45. Thank you.

(Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: The Convention will please come to order now. I will ask each candidate to send a registered delegate to serve as a teller.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Are tellers in place? Okay.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I would ask the National Adjutant to begin roll call of chapters in alphabetical order by departments.

ADJUTANT WILSON: I will call the department and the chapter name. As you approach the microphone, please state your name and the chapter number that you are from. Alabama, Chapter Number 12, J. Paul Pitts, 33 votes.

MR. THOMAS TUCKER: This is Thomas Tucker, DAV Chapter Number 12, Montgomery, Alabama. 33 votes for Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter Number 25, Pratville, six votes.

MR. TUCKER: They're absent.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter Number 26, 22 votes.

MR. HOLLIS BRIDGES: PDC Hollis Bridges from the great state of Alabama, home of the Honorable George C. Wallace and the great Paul "Bear" Bryant, casts 22 votes for Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 51, James L. Daniels, seven votes.

MR. HAL HICKS: Hal Hicks, seven votes for Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Department of Alabama, one vote.

MR. NEAL SCHULTZ: Neal Schultz, Chapter 12, Department of Alabama. I cast one vote for Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Alaska, Chapter Number 2, Fairbanks, 11 votes.

MS. HELEN H. BARKLEY: Chapter Number 2, Helen Barkley, casts 11 votes for Department of Arizona. Thank you, sir.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Ms. Barkley, would you list the candidate's name, please.

MS. BARKLEY: Jay McDowell, sir.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 6, Delta, three votes.

MR. JIMMY W. MAYO: Jim Mayo, Chapter 6, votes Jay McDowell.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Arizona, Chapter Number 1, Phoenix, 72 votes, Chapter Number 2, Cactus, 49 votes. Chapter Number 4, Tuscon, 16 votes.

MR. JACK E. WARE: We had the color guard up here and Chapter 1 would vote now -- Jack Ware, Department Commander, Arizona.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Just a minute, please. I'll start that again, but please be prepared at the microphones when I call the department. Chapter Number 1, Phoenix, 72 votes.

DELEGATE: Seventy-two votes for Jay McDowell.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter Number 2, Cactus, 49 votes.

DELEGATE: Cactus Number 2, 49 votes, Jay McDowell.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter Number 4, Tuscon, 16 votes. Chapter Number 8, East Valley, 42 votes.

DELEGATE: Chapter Number 8, Jay McDowell.

ADJUTANT WILSON: I didn't hear that, would you please repeat it?
DELEGATE: Chapter Number 8, Jay McDowell.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Sir, you have 42 votes, how do you cast those 42 votes?
DELEGATE: Jay McDowell.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter Number 16, Prescott, 19 votes. Chapter Number 20, Glendale, 57 votes.
MR. ROBERT T. FLETCHER: Chapter Number 20, 16 votes for Jay McDowell.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Excuse me, Chapter Number 20, you have 57 votes.
MR. FLETCHER: Fifty-seven votes for Jay McDowell.
ADJUTANT WILSON: And kindly state your name when you come to the microphone.
MR. FLETCHER: Terry Fletcher, Chapter 20.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you. Chapter 22, Scotsdale, 18 votes. Chapter 28, the working chapter, 18 votes. Department of Arizona, one vote.
MR. WARE: Jack Ware, one vote for Jay McDowell.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Arkansas, Chapter 7, Little Rock Chapter, 66 votes.
MR. ROBERT W. ELLIS: Greater Little Rock Chapter, Robert Ellis, 66 votes for Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 10, John Dunn, nine votes.
MR. VIRGIL AHNBERG: Virgil Ahnberg, Chapter 10, nine votes for Brad McDowell -- or Brad Barton, excuse me.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Would you state your name, please.
MR. AHNBERG: Virgil Ahnberg, Chapter 10.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Nine votes for --
MR. AHNBERG: Nine votes for Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 46, Ouachita, eight votes.
DELEGATE: Not here. They're absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 57, Houston Memorial, eight votes.
DELEGATE: They're absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Department of Arkansas, one vote.
MR. BILL TERRY, JR.: Bill Terry, one vote for Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: California. Chapter 1, Homer Blevens, 44 votes.
MR. TEMPESTA: Mike Tempesta, Chapter 1, casts all 44 votes for Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 2, San Diego, 292 votes.
MR. ARNOLD M. FLUSTER: Arnold Fluster, San Diego Chapter 2, 292 votes for Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 3, San Francisco, 40 votes.
MR. NEAL: Raymond P. Neal, Chapter 3, San Francisco, Barton, all votes for Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Forty votes, Barton. Chapter 5, Los Angeles, 81 votes.
DELEGATE: Absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 6, Sacramento, 70 votes.
MR. SHELLEY DYER: Chapter 6, Shelley Dyer, all 70 votes --
ADJUTANT WILSON: Please get closer to the microphone, sir.
MR. DYER: All 70 votes for Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: And your name?
MR. DYER: Shelley Dyer.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 7, Oakland, 36 votes.
MR. BRANDAN A. BLACKBURN: Brandan Blackburn, all votes for Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Thirty-six votes?
MR. BLACKBURN: Thirty-six.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Barton. Chapter 11, Machado Memorial, 51 votes.
MS. JULIE K. BOTTS: Julie Botts, Chapter 11, all 51 votes for Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 12, San Bernardino, 38 votes.
MR. DAVID M. DIEHL: David Diehl, San Bernardino, Chapter 12, all votes for Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Thirty-eight votes, Brad Barton. Chapter 16, Edmund Parrott, 26 votes.

MR. EDWARD BASTILLE, JR.: Chapter 16, Ed Bastile, all votes for Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Twenty-six votes, Barton. Chapter 17, Long Beach, 44 votes.

MR. JOSEPH J. PHILLIPS: Joseph Phillips, Chapter 17, votes for Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Forty-four votes, Barton. Chapter 19, Lakewood, 33 votes.

MR. MICHAEL JOE O'NEAL: Michael O'Neal, 33 votes for Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 21, Vallejo, 17 votes.

MS. DELPHINE METCALF: Delphine Metcalf, all votes for Brad Barton.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WILSON: Seventeen, Barton. Chapter 22, Alhambra, 15 votes.

MR. THOMAS L. KING II: Thomas King, Chapter 22, all 15 votes for Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 23, Jack Fisher, 92 votes.

DELEGATE: Absent.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 28, Charlotte Faye, 30 votes.

DELEGATE: Absent.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 39, Antelope Valley, 18 votes.

DELEGATE: Absent.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 40, David Lawton, 26 votes.

MR. DENNIS W. WEBER: Dennis Weber, Chapter 40, all votes for Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Twenty-six, Barton. Chapter 43, Gardena, 24 votes.

MR. JOEL DAVIS: Joel Davis, Chapter 43, all votes to Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Twenty-four, Barton, Chapter 48, Sonoma, 28 votes.

MR. WINGETT: Ken Wingett, 28 votes for Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 55, Simi Valley, ten votes.

MR. DANIEL CONTRERES: Chapter 55, Simi Valley, Dan Contreres, ten votes, Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 58, Moreno Valley.

MR. RICHARD TURBEVILLE: Richard Turbeville, Chapter 58 --

ADJUTANT WILSON: Excuse me.

MR. TURBEVILLE: -- casts all votes --

ADJUTANT WILSON: Excuse me just a minute. Let me finish, please. Chapter 58, Moreno Valley, 28 votes.

MR. TURBEVILLE: Chapter 28, Richard Turbeville casts all votes for Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Twenty-eight, Barton. Could you state your name, sir?

MR. TURBEVILLE: Richard Turbeville.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 73, Birmingham Hospital, 47 votes.

MR. GRAF: Bob Graf with one "f", all 47 votes for Brad Barton, Chapter 73.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 84, Vacaville, 14 votes.

MR. FRED A. WHITE, JR.: Fred White, Chapter 84, all votes for Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Fourteen for Barton. Chapter 85, General Stilwell, 13 votes.

MR. JAMES C. BOGAN: Chapter 85, James Bogan, all votes for Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thirteen, Barton. Chapter 92, Bill Kinnard, 21 votes.

DELEGATE: Absent.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 106, Paradise, eight votes.

MR. JOHN R. STINNETT: John Stinnett, all votes for Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Eight, Barton. Chapter 117, Old Adobe, seven votes.

MR. GORDON A. THOMPSON: All votes for Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Your name, sir.

MR. THOMPSON: Chapter 117.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Your name, sir.

MR. THOMPSON: Gordon Thompson, Chapter 117.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Seven votes, Barton. Chapter 144, William Hearst, 20 votes.
DELEGATE: Absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 154, Mount Diablo, 23 votes.
MR. JOHN M. PARKER: John Parker, Chapter 154, all votes, Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Twenty-three, Barton. Department of California, one vote.
MR. CROSSLAND: Gary Crossland, Department Commander, one vote, Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Colorado. Chapter 2, San Isabel, five votes.
MR. NORBERT W. WENDHOLD: Norbert Wendhold, all votes for Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Five votes, Barton. Chapter 7, Murphy-Bor-Klumker, 115 votes.
MR. TERRY: Mike Terry, Chapter 7, 115 votes, Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 8, Greeley, nine votes.
MR. RICHARD C. MALLARD: Richard Mallard, nine votes for Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Nine votes, Barton. Chapter 16, Longmont, seven votes.
MR. KENT A. HOFFMAN: Kent Hoffman, Longmont 16, all votes for Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Seven, Barton. Chapter 21, Clyde Seiler, 41 votes.
MR. SHANE L. LIERMANN: Shane Liermann, Clyde Seiler, all votes for Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Forty-one, Barton. Chapter 39, Steel City, 19 votes.
DELEGATE: Not here.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Department of Colorado, one vote.
MR. JOHN OGDEN: John Ogden, Colorado, one vote for Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Connecticut, Chapter 5, James McNamee, 21 votes.
DELEGATE: Chapter 5 is absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Where are you? What mike are you at?
DELEGATE: I'm at mike three, Art.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 6, Meriden --
DELEGATE: Chapter 6 is absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 10, John Morse, 13 votes.
DELEGATE: Absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 12, Unknown Soldier, 28 votes.
DELEGATE: Absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 17, Charles Varca, eight votes.
MR. LECHAUSSE: Charles V. Varga, Chapter 17, votes eight for Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Your name.
MR. LECHAUSSE: Woody LeChausse.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 18, West Haven, 13 votes.
DELEGATE: West Haven is absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 48, Newington, four votes.
DELEGATE: Newington is absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 52, Enfield, six votes.
DELEGATE: 52 is absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Department of Connecticut, one vote.
MR. TIMOTHY J. KELLY: Department of Connecticut casts one vote, Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Your name, please.
MR. KELLEY: Kelly, Commander.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Delaware, Chapter 1, First State, 12 votes.
DELEGATE: Art, nobody is here from Delaware.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Department of Delaware, one vote.
DELEGATE: Nobody is here from Delaware.
ADJUTANT WILSON: District of Columbia, Federal Chapter 1, 22 votes.
MS. TORI S. JOYNER: Tori Joyner, Federal District 1, casts all votes --
NATIONAL ADJUTANT WILSON: For?

MS. JOYNER: I'm sorry, for Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Twenty-two votes, Barton. Chapter 3, Colonel Young, 16 votes. Is someone there from Chapter 3?
DELEGATE: No, absent. I'm just getting in line. I'm number five.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Is someone there from Chapter 3?
DELEGATE: No, Chapter 3 is absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: REA Chapter #5, nine votes.
MR. WALLACE: Paul Wallace, Chapter 5, all votes for Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Nine votes for Barton. Chapter 14, Dorie Miller, eight votes.
DELEGATE: Absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Department of District of Columbia, one vote.
MR. HERBERT L. BELTON: Department of District of Columbia casts one vote for Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Your name, sir.
MR. BELTON: Herbert Belton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: One vote, Barton. Florida, Chapter 3, Sarasota, 15 votes.
MR. FRED R. BRISTOL: Bristol, Chapter 3, Sarasota, Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 4, Tampa, 67 votes.
MR. G. JOSEPH PECK: G. Joseph Peck, 67 votes, Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 9, Sunshine City, 40 votes.
MR. JOHN T. BROCKES, JR.: John Brockes, Sunshine City Chapter, Florida, all votes, Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Forty votes, Barton. Chapter 10, Miami, 16 votes.
DELEGATE: Absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 11, Clearwater, 25 votes.
MR. RAY ROLLERSON: Ray Rollerson, Chapter 11, all votes for Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Twenty-five, Barton. Chapter 12, Coral Gables, 12 votes.
MR. ELADIO RIVERA: Eladio Rivera, Chapter 12, Coral Gables, 12 votes, Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Twelve votes, Barton. Chapter 13, Bay Pines, 21 votes.
MR. GILBERT W. FARLEY JR.: Gil Farley Jr., Chapter 13, 21 votes, Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 16, Central, 56 votes.
MS. MARY L. REDDING: Mary Redding, Chapter 16, Florida, all votes for Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Fifty-six, Barton. Chapter 18, Manatee County, 39 votes.
MR. EDWARD BARNSHAW: Ed Barnshaw, Chapter 18, 39 votes for Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 24, Miami Beach, eight votes.
MR. IRVING J. HALLER: Irv Haller, Chapter 24, eight votes for Dan Burton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Would you say that again, please?
MR. HALLER: Correction, Dan Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Eight votes, Barton. Chapter 28, Polk County, 38 votes.
MR. GEORGE J. PASSWATER: George Passwater, all votes for Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Thirty-eight, Barton. Chapter 29, Pembroke, six votes.
MS. KIM VIRGIL: Kim Virgil, Chapter 29, Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Six votes, Barton. Chapter 30, Seminole, 30 votes.
MR. MICHAEL G. CABRAL: Mike Cabral, Chapter 30, Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Thirty votes, Barton. Chapter 39, Sergeant Mullins, seven votes.
DELEGATE: Absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 40, Frank Oliver, 35 votes.
MR. IRVING P. UNGER: Irv Unger, Brad Barton, Chapter 40.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Repeat your name, please.
MR. UNGER: Irv Unger.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Thirty-five votes, Barton. Chapter 42, West

Palm Beach, 38 votes.
MR. JOSEPH K. JAKUBOSKI: Jake Jakuboski casts all his votes for Chapter 42 for Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Thirty-eight, Barton. Chapter 57, Crestview, seven votes.
MR. SAMUEL H. HAYES: Samuel H. Hayes, Crestview, Chapter 57, Chapter of Past Commander Harry McDonald, casts seven votes for Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Seven votes, Barton. Chapter 65, Zephyrhills, ten votes.
MR. JOHN F. McCOY: John McCoy, Chapter 65, Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Ten votes, Barton. Chapter 67, Cada Haddon, 24 votes.
DELEGATE: Absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 72, Playground, 32 votes.
MR. JOHN S. CONNORS: John Connors, Chapter 72, 32 votes for Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 73, Tamarac, 16 votes.
DELETATE: Absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 78, New Port Richey, 32 votes.
MR. SAMUEL SABINO: Sam Sabino, New Port Richey, all votes, Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Thirty-two, Barton. Chapter 81, North Miami Beach, 16 votes.
DELEGATE: Absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 82, R.L. Cochran, 20 votes.
MR. HARRY WARBURTON: Harry Warburton, Chapter 82, 21 votes, Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: You have 20 votes, sir.
MR. WARBURTON: Take the 20, thank you. (Laughter)
ADJUTANT WILSON: Twenty votes, Barton. Chapter 84, Greater Daytona, 32 votes.
MR. BLAIS: Gillis Blais, Greater Daytona, 32 votes, Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 85, South Marion, 17 votes.
DELEGATE: They're not here.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 87, Sergeant Hill, 19 votes.
MR. ROGER SULLIVAN: Roger Sullivan, Chapter 87, all votes, Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Nineteen, Barton. Chapter 90, Gator, 20 votes.
MR. ALBERT H. LINDEN: Al Linden, Gator 90, 20 votes, Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 91, Pinellas Park, 21 votes.
MR. DENNIS J. WISNOSKY, JR.: Dennis Wisnosky, Chapter 91, 21 votes, Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 93, Louis Goi, ten votes.
MS. SYLVA E. ROYER: Sylva Royer, Chapter 93, ten votes for Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 94, Gustafson, five votes.
MR. ERNIE F. HARTMAN: Ernie Hartman, Chapter 94, five votes for Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 96, John Hensley, seven votes.
DELEGATE: Absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 99, Bradenton River, five votes.
MR. LEE A. HENDERSON: Lee Henderson, Chapter 99, five votes, Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 103, Dunedin, 15 votes.
MR. JOHN B. MCNATT: John McNatt, Chapter 103, 15 votes, Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 104, Mid-Florida, ten votes.
MR. JOYNER: Dennis Joyner, Chapter 104, ten votes, Brad Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 109, Titusville, 12 votes.
DELEGATE: Absent.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 110, South Hillsborough, nine votes.
MR. ALEXIS MARTINEZ: Alex Martinez, all votes, nine votes, for Barton.
ADJUTANT WILSON: Nine for Barton. Chapter 113, Port St. Lucie, 16 votes.
MR. DOMENICK SCARLATO: Domenick Scarlato, Chapter 113, all

votes for Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Sixteen for Barton. Chapter 117, Collier County, ten votes.

ABSENT No.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 121, Silver Springs, five votes.

MR. DONALD G. HOLCOMB: Don Holcomb, Chapter 121, five votes, Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 123, Space Coast, 14 votes.

DELEGATE: Absent.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 129, South Brevard Beaches, nine votes.

DELEGATE: Absent.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 133, The Gold Coast, 23 votes.

DELEGATE: Absent.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 143, Largo, 13 votes.

MR. DERRICK L. RAYNOR, SR.: Chapter 143, Derrick Raynor, all 13 votes, Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 144, La Belle, three votes.

MR. CHARLES C. PERKINS: Chapter 144, Charles Perkins, all votes, Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Three votes, Barton. Chapter 149, Greater South Ocala, 13 votes.

MR. SALVATORE STANZIONE: Chapter 149, Salvatore Stanzione, all votes for Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thirteen votes, Barton. Chapter 150, Orange Blossom Gardens, five votes.

DELAGATE: Absent.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Chapter 152, Jesse Stein, 12 votes.

DELETATE: Absent.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Department of Florida, one vote.

ALBERT M. SORRENTINO: The great Department of Florida, Albert Sorrentino casts one giant vote for Brad Barton.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Georgia, Chapter 1, William Tate, 70 votes.

MR. MARQUIS D. BAREFIELD: Mike two, Marquis Barefield casts all votes for --

MR. JACK E. WARE: Comrade Adjutant, mike three.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Hold on a minute, there's a gentleman casting his vote. William Tate Chapter 1, 70 votes.

MR. BAREFIELD: All 70 votes for Brad Barton, Mark E. Barefield.

MR. WARE: Comrade Adjutant, mike three.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Mike three.

MR. WARE: Jack Ware, Department Commander, Department of Arizona. Jay McDowell proudly and graciously concedes to Brad Barton (applause and we wish Brad Barton the best of luck the coming year and all the other officers, too. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. MUSSELMANN: Comrade Commander.

COMMANDER ALBERRAN: Mike two.

MR. MUSSELMANN: Ken Musselmann, Past National Commander makes a motion that we suspend Rule 17, which calls for a roll call by chapters, and declare Brad Barton the winner of this election.

COMMANDER ALBERRAN: Thank you. I need a second. Mike 3.

MR. LACHAUSSE: Comrade Commander, Woody LaChausse, Chapter 17, Manchester, Connecticut, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: You heard the motion and you heard the second. All in favor, say aye; against. The ayes have it. So moved. (Applause)

I now declare Brad Barton elected as National Fourth Junior Vice. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Edward G. Galian for the office of National Judge Advocate.

I will now call for any further nominations for National Judge Advocate. Do I hear any further nominations? Do I hear any further nominations? Do I hear any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Ed G. Galian elected as National Judge Advocate. (Applause)

The National Committee has nominated Reverend Gerald Stump for the office of National Chaplain.

I will now call for any further nominations for National Chaplain. Do I hear any further nominations? Do I hear any further nominations? Do I hear any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations, I will now close the nominations and declare Gerald Stump elected as National Chaplain. (Applause)

I will now instruct the National Adjutant to cast one vote, unanimous ballot, for each of the offices.

ADJUTANT WILSON: I, Arthur H. Wilson, National Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, cast one unanimous ballot for:

Edward Heath for National Senior Vice Commander;

Alan Bowers for National First Junior Vice Commander;

James Sursely for National Second Junior Vice Commander;

Paul Jackson for National Third Junior Vice Commander;

Bradley Barton for National Fourth Junior Vice Commander;

Edward Galian for National Judge Advocate;

and the Reverend Gerald Stump for National Chaplain. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I will now request the elected officers to be escorted to the stage. Officer of the Day, would you escort Brad Barton to the stage, please. I'd like to also invite the wives and the families of the officers to come up here, too. Thank you.

I would like to also have the Officer of the Day escort Reverend Stump to the stage, please. (Applause)

I will now invite our newly elected National Commander, George Steese, for some remarks. (Applause)

COMMANDER-ELECT GEORGE STEESE: Thank you. National Commander Albarran, National Adjutant Art Wilson, Department and Chapter Commanders, honored guests, friends and delegates of the 80th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans, I am just amazed at such an outpouring of warmth and support.

Thank you all so very much for the honor of allowing me to be your National Commander. There is nothing quite so overwhelming as having the support of an organization of more than a million men and women, united in a common cause, with a single noble purpose; building better lives for this nation's disabled veterans and their families.

As Albert Einstein once said, "Only a life lived in service of others is worth living." So, let me just say to you now, I am at your service. (Applause)

I also want to take a few minutes to introduce and thank a few people who made today possible. Ken Musselmann, you've been my mentor, and a friend and I thank you for all of your support. (Applause)

Mike Tempesta met me the first day I ever went to a Chapter meeting and he has been pushing me ever since. Well, Mike, thank you. It's paid off. (Applause)

To Dave Phillips, I thank you for your friendship and certainly your encouragement to continue to go and we'll be together for a long time. (Applause)

And to Dick Cosgriff, who without his wealth of knowledge and experience I would not know the history of this organization, and to Dick I really appreciate all you've done for me and I certainly respect you greatly. (Applause)

To the entire California delegation, thank you, guys. (Applause) And to all my friends across the country, I really could not have been here today without all of you. Thank you. (Applause)

I also want to thank the many people from the VA, our partners, that are here today. Thank you for your support.

National Adjutant Art Wilson has put together a team of men and women whose expertise and dedication have made it possible for the DAV to remain the unquestioned leader amongst veteran service organizations.

We are the best because they are the best. I pledge to them, as I do to all of you, that I will do all in my power to be worthy of the honor and trust you have placed in me today.

Please allow me to introduce my wife, June, (applause) whose love and support and understanding have made it possible for me to

serve my fellow disabled veterans and to reach the pinnacle of my career.

I also want to introduce my daughter, Ellie, and her husband, Gary, who have gotten up many mornings to put me on a plane, and they were happy to see me go, I'm sure. (Applause)

Now, I want to introduce the president of my fan club, my mother, Esther. (Applause) I also have a row of all my sisters -- four of my sisters and their families. Would they please stand. (Applause) I thank them all for their support.

As I think back on how much the DAV has meant to me, I am reminded that I am just one of millions of other disabled veterans who have found hope, compassion and support throughout the organization's history.

We are in a very real sense an organization of possibilities. I am here today because I believe in possibilities. Possibilities are born out of dreams, the dreams that come from new hope when our visions are clouded by a smoke screen of despair.

The Wright brothers believed in possibilities when they made that historic first flight at Kitty Hawk. Judge Marx and the founders of the DAV believed in possibilities and I, for one, am glad that they did.

Thanks to their vision and commitment, the groundwork was laid for a national veterans health care system. Today the VA provides high quality medical care for nearly 4 million veterans a year. Thanks to the vision and commitment of the DAV's founders, more than 2 million disabled veterans currently receive compensation benefits for their service-connected disability. Yes, the DAV believes in possibilities.

The past four years have been a very exciting and rewarding time for me as a national officer. It has afforded me an opportunity to travel around the country meeting many of the members of the greatest service organization, The Disabled American Veterans.

In meeting so many of the members, it humbles me to know that you have put your trust in me to represent our organization to the general public and to the lawmakers in Washington.

With my family's support, I take this commitment very seriously and hope that I will live up to the members' expectations.

This is the biggest commitment of my life. As I assume the Office of National Commander, I pledge to continue the fine tradition that Armando Albarran and all Past Commanders have set for this organization.

Armando, you along with the staff at both headquarters, have helped keep the DAV at the top of the veteran's service organization. Thank you for all your service. (Applause)

The DAV has the number one National Service Officers' Program in the country. The outstanding men and women who work for this organization are the best trained and the most knowledgeable, thanks to the foresight of many of the Past National Commanders and National Adjutant Art Wilson.

This is a program that we must continue to nourish and grow well into the future to protect and serve the very people who have made this country great.

Just this year the DAV mounted two brand new programs to help make sure all of our fellow veterans get the assistance they need. First, we launched the new Mobile Service Office Program. In these offices on wheels, DAV Service Officers travel the nation visiting small towns and rural communities. They're bringing DAV services directly to the veterans who need the assistance.

Second, our new Transition Service Program is bringing DAV services to men and women as they prepare to leave the military. As we all know, this kind of preparation and assistance can make a huge difference as a veteran returning to civilian life.

Not only will our TSOs make these men and women aware of their veterans' rights and benefits, it will help clear the path for future claims for VA disability compensation, medical care and other earned benefits and services. Yes, the DAV believes in possibilities.

Membership continues to be the major concern, not only to the

DAV but also for all service organizations. A strong membership is essential, and under the direction of Art Wilson and his staff, I have great confidence the membership will continue to be strong.

One thing I am certain, we must encourage veterans to get involved. This is essential to gain the support we need to show Congress and the Administration that the veterans' community is a force to be reckoned with.

And, of course, the Auxiliary needs to grow its membership as well so that we can combine our strength for all we need to accomplish.

As you heard the other day, the DAV has just completed a most successful membership recruitment campaign. Everyone of our departments not only met, but also exceeded their recruitment goal for the year. At a time when we're losing nearly 1,500 veterans a day, I think it is incredible that the DAV's membership has grown by 110,000 in the past year.

Just think of the possibilities with 1,181,708 DAV members. The stronger our membership, the more we can accomplish. We are less than 100,000 members from reaching that fantastic accomplishment of having 1 million life members.

When you add that to our strength, nothing is impossible. (Applause) When it comes to advocating for veterans' rights, top-quality health care, disability compensation and other earned benefits, the DAV will negotiate with strength.

Our national legislative staff and the many members of our grassroots organization across the country, both in the DAV and the Auxiliary, can be very proud of all they've done in keeping Congress aware of the debt the country owes its disabled veterans.

Our Washington staff works hard to keep the membership informed, and the membership really responds to their calls to action when needed.

With your help, the DAV has achieved much more over the last year. We played a major role in getting additional funding for VA health care and services.

Although we don't always get everything we believe is necessary to meet veterans' needs, we are successful in a lot of causes because we believe in possibilities.

Over the past several years, the DAV has had to fight hard to protect the rights of disabled veterans, but we must resolve to redouble our efforts.

It is absolutely critical that we exercise our rights as citizens. We must hold Congress and the Administration accountable for their actions on issues that affect our lives and the lives of our families.

Our voluntary service program is strong and well. We have one of the largest groups of volunteers in VA facilities. Our volunteers in the Transportation Network travel millions of miles and donate thousands of hours to keep the vans rolling.

We can thank our lifesavers for keeping the DAV name in the forefront of American conscious. (Applause) Yes, thank you, drivers. The DAV does believe in possibilities.

Today's sick and disabled veterans are among the most vulnerable members of our society. Many suffer debilitating illnesses and crippling disabilities all alone. Can volunteers help solve these problems? You bet they can, but where do we start?

It has often been said that the solution to a problem begins in the hearts of people who want to make a difference. As you know, volunteer programs figure prominently in the DAV's strategic plan, and we have a number of specific goals and objectives in this area.

We need to begin rebuilding our corps of volunteers with younger people to take the place of our aging volunteers. One way to do this is with the National Commander's Volunteer Recruitment Initiative which will kick off early in 2002.

This is one of the most exciting campaigns we have ever undertaken. I can't think of a better project for the Departments, Chapters, and Auxiliary units to really sink their teeth into.

Our goal is to increase the DAV corps of volunteers by 10 percent above the current level. The goal will be to add 820 new

DAV volunteers.

And I'll challenge our Auxiliary to increase their volunteers by 10 percent as well. We would then have a combined total of more than 11,000 volunteers in the hospitals.

Like always, I know we can count on the Auxiliary to be a full partner. I can't tell you how vital it will be to have all of you involved in this important new volunteer recruitment campaign.

But let me just take a minute to tell you that the DAV Department of California has announced its goal for recruiting volunteers in its home state. Department Adjutant Ken Musselmann and I have pledged to make the 10 percent goal just a starting point for California.

And Adjutant Musselmann wants to challenge every other Department to do the same. Well, it looks like California also believes in possibilities. (Applause)

But it's not enough just to bring new volunteers. We need to expand the opportunities for volunteering to the communities all across the country because the need is so great.

We need to branch out beyond the traditional roles at VA medical centers and into the state veterans' homes and other facilities where veterans reside.

We can take a lead role in providing in-home respite care, meals and just visiting the shut-ins on a regular basis. Just think of the possibilities if we want to make a difference.

I recently heard of the difficulty a wife of a home-bound World War II veteran is having taking care of her husband. In addition to his disabilities and being quite frail, he has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

The veteran is 87 and his wife is almost 80 herself, so you can imagine how difficult it is for her to cope with the physical and emotional demands of this situation.

Her once robust husband now requires constant care. She can no longer enjoy her painting, a hobby that brought her so much pleasure for years, out of concern for her husband. She has become a prisoner of his disability. She must rely on others for so many things, as she can't leave her husband alone in the house, even for a short period of time.

Think what a respite care volunteer would mean for these folks and thousands like them. Just three or four hours once or twice a week, that's all it would take.

I know because I visited a home recently of a home-bound person. He greeted me at the door with tears streaming down his face, and I will never forget the words he said, "I thought I was forgotten."

Sure, the DAV already has the largest volunteer corps of any other veterans' service organization. People like this year's George H. Seal Award recipients and the National Commander's Youth Scholarship winners are fine examples of the hundreds of volunteers who generously donate their time and compassion to sick and disabled veterans in their communities.

The trouble is that we need hundreds and hundreds of others who can do what they do and so much more -- people who want to make a difference.

Won't you join me in making a difference? Won't you join me in finding others who have the same spirit in their own hearts? Together, we can make a difference. We can do our part in solving the problems faced by our sick and disabled veterans, and we must join forces with others; our families and friends, people we work with, men and women in the business community, other civic and social organizations and those we worship with.

Just think of the possibilities. But if we don't ask them to, they probably won't become volunteers. So let's you and I start a new tradition.

Actually, it's not a new tradition in the DAV, but let's make this year a year that really makes a difference for our future, a new tradition of volunteering that truly does help build better lives for disabled veterans and their families.

Just think of the possibilities we can make. After all, what could be better than to love what you do and to know that it really makes a difference?

I can assure you that the DAV will continue to make a difference in the lives of the people we serve. We have an extraordinary mission of service and hope, and I pledge to you that I will do all in my power and all to the best of my ability to further our cause and represent the DAV in a manner befitting the legacy that has been placed in my hands.

It is truly a privilege to serve you as your National Commander. I thank you, again, for your confidence you have placed in me and I look forward to serving you in the years ahead.

Just think of the possibilities. May God bless America, God bless the DAV, and God bless all of you. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: George, it is an honor and a privilege to present to you the National Commander's cap for 2001 and 2002.

COMMANDER-ELECT STEESE: Thank you. (Applause) And I proudly wear it.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I will now ask our newly elected Senior Vice Commander, Ed Heath, for some remarks.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT EDWARD R. HEATH: Thank you, Commander Albarran. It has been a distinct honor for me to represent Commander Albarran across the country this year. I would like to say thank you to him for giving me the opportunity to represent him.

I would also say to our newly elected Commander Steese, I look forward to representing you across the country, and I know year to year we raise the bar a little higher, and our expectation of ourselves and others continues to increase.

I also want to take this opportunity at this point to publicly congratulate and recognize my good friend from Maine, Gary Burns, as being elected as the President of the National Service Foundation.

I'm sure Gary has some big shoes to follow in following Richard Cosgriff and Bill Leach out there, but Gary is a great guy, and he's going to fill those shoes and he'll do a great job, I guarantee. A good hand for Gary Burns, please. (Applause)

The bad news is that with Gary leading the National Service Foundation, he wanted to set an example of austerity and he cut the size of my Heath candy bars. (Laughter)

I'm sure you noticed that this year, but with a little bit of help, I'm going to pledge to you next year we're going to return to each and every one of you a full size Heath candy bar. (Applause)

A few people that I need to recognize, and I would start off with Art Wilson and thank him for providing us with the leadership, guidance and instilling an inspiration in each one of us to serve this great organization.

Also, Dave Gorman and his Washington staff as well as Rick Patterson and the Cincinnati staff, they do a fantastic job.

I want to thank my folks from the Third District who take up the states of Rhode Island, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire, with our new NEC Richard DeCoteau.

Thank you, guys, for all your help and support and for the work that you've done for me throughout this Convention and throughout the year for that matter.

Also, a big thank you from myself to the Massachusetts delegation and to Tom Daley, the Adjutant, for the work that he does in preparing a hospitality room for myself, and thanks to Alan Bowers for sharing Tom with me through the Convention. Thank you. (Applause)

I'm not going to make the same mistake that I made one year. I want to introduce to you my very good friend of the past 28 years, my wife, Sylvia, who is back here somewhere. (Applause) Also, my daughter Geri and her friend, Greg, are here. (Applause) I brought a new supporter with me from Maine this year, my 15-year-old grandson, Nicholas. (Applause)

Nicholas has been hanging around with young Jim Sursely, and they've spent a lot of time around the hotel pools, and I don't think they were inquiring into DAV activities from what I've seen. (Laughter) But, anyway, I hope they did have a good time.

But, finally, thank you to the membership of this great organization. As I travel across the country I draw my energy from

you and from people like you. You make it fun for me to conduct the serious business of representing the National Commander across the country.

And with that having been said, I just want to say thank you to each and every one of you. I will continue to do the best job that I can possibly do for you. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I will now call on the newly elected First Junior Vice Commander from Massachusetts, Alan Bowers. Alan. (Applause)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT ALAN W. BOWERS: Thank you, Armando. Newly elected Commander George, National Adjutant Art Wilson, fellow line officers, national staff and delegates:

Teresa, my wife, has traveled with me since I have become a National Officer, and she's my biggest supporter so I will start by introducing her -- Terry. (Applause)

When I was first elected National Fourth Junior Vice Commander and went to the orientation at Cold Spring, we had just gotten into the hotel and I was standing by the elevator, and Mike Dobmeier came up to me and he said, "Al, how long have you been in sales?"

And I said, "Mike, I've never been in sales."

And Mike said, "You are now."

A couple of the attributes that a great salesperson has to have is to believe in the product and to have a great product to believe in.

Every single person in this room believes in the DAV, and we all know it is the greatest veterans' service organization in the world and I am proud to be out there to project that image. (Applause)

To the Massachusetts delegation, to Commander Joe Costa, to Adjutant Tom Daley, to NEC Frank Drogo, to all of the delegates, and to the Auxiliary, when you stood out front presenting the Bowers bio, you showed the nation the kind of support that you have given me from day one, and you are terrific and I thank you. (Applause)

To Dan Stack and the NSOs in the Boston office -- and I was particularly pleased when Bob Sinclair was recognized from the podium. Bob, you're a champion. Thank you for all you do. And to all of the NSOs across the country, you are all champions.

You are all champions because our mission to build better lives comes alive every single day because of the work you do. So, to the NSOs, thank you. (Applause)

Finally, to each of you, each of you, by virtue of the fact that you are in this room, you are a leader in the DAV. Thank you. Thank you for all you do for The Disabled American Veterans. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I will now call on newly elected Second Junior Vice Commander, James Sursely from Florida. (Applause)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT JAMES E. SURSELY: Thank you, Armando, and good morning everyone. Let me first of all say thank you very much for your overwhelming support and your vote of confidence in electing me to be your new Second Junior Vice Commander.

I want to, first of all, say to Armando, Armando, it's been a fantastic year, and the DAV and all of our disabled veterans are better off for your year of service, for the fantastic job you've done. (Applause)

Also, congratulations to my fellow line officers, to our new chaplain, and, of course. to Ed Galian our judge advocate.

Let me start out by saying thank you to Art Wilson, all the national staff at both national headquarters and, of course, to the great folks in the state of Florida.

Let me start out by saying I'm the luckiest person in the world for a couple of different reasons; one, to have the leadership and guidance of three Past National Commanders.

Dennis Joyner, Harry MacDonald and Al Linden, it has been remarkable for me, to have them with their input and guidance to lead me along the way. Thank you, gentlemen. (Applause)

Also, to Al Sorentino, our current Department Commander; Frank Tracy, our Immediate Past NEC; to Bob Melcher, our newly elected NEC; to Sal Stanzioni, our Assistant Adjutant at Department and to

all the members and Chapters throughout the great state of Florida for all the things you've done for me to make this a little bit easier for me to accomplish, thank you. (Applause)

Now, again, in continuing to say that I'm the luckiest person in the world, I have always said that I'm lucky just to be alive, lucky to have the opportunity to serve a great organization like we have in the Disabled American Veterans, and probably first and foremost, lucky to have the great family and love and support that I have.

Three of those members are with me today that I'd like to introduce. First of all, I guess if I describe it as "big, blond and beautiful", that would sound like one of the good looking ladies around the pool, but that's the way we're going to describe Jimmy this morning -- my 17 year old son, Jimmy. (Applause) Would you stand.

Jimmy has missed a couple of conventions, once with an ankle injury two years ago, once with arthroscopic surgery last year before the football season or right at the beginning of it, so we're glad he's healthy and glad that he's here with us. Thank you, Jimmy.

And my daughter, Mary, Daddy's pride and joy. (Applause) School starts in Florida about the 10th or something of August every year, so it makes it a little difficult for them to attend, so we're fortunate that the dates are what they are and that they could be here.

Now the lady that -- you know, the statement is "behind every successful man is a loving and supportive woman", and in my particular case that continues to be my wife, Jeanne.

It's easy for Jim to pack his bags and go down the road and travel on behalf of the DAV, but somebody has got to stay home, take care of the business that I leave behind as well as the family and things around the house, and she's certainly the gal that does that. Jeanne, I love you. I appreciate all the great things you do for me. Thank you very much. (Applause)

Let me just close by saying this isn't really about me or about all of us up here on the stage. It's about each and every one of you chapter members and department people who day in and day out continue to do the great things that you do on behalf of disabled veterans everywhere.

For that I congratulate you and I challenge you to keep up that great work. Thank you very much and God bless all of you. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I will now call on newly elected Third Junior Vice Paul W. Jackson from Colorado. (Applause)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT PAUL W. JACKSON: Thank you. Commander Albarran, it has really been a pleasure. You are a friend. You are a fighter. You are someone that I will always remember, and I am your friend. I told you before I had your back. I've still got your back.

To my friend, the newly elected Commander George, you took my thunder because I was going to say the same thing that you said in your speech. (Laughter)

But now I'm going to -- but a good boy scout is always prepared, so I wanted to say this to you, George. If you see what is small as it sees itself and accept what is weak for what strength it has, and use what is dim for the light it gives, then all will go well. Really, George, this is called "acting naturally."

George, I know you will have a good year. I'll go wherever you send me. I will do whatever you ask me to do. And I will promise you one thing; that I will always will do all things for the good of the order. (Applause)

I was elected last year, and, naturally, when you're the new boy on the block, it requires a lot of information to be passed to you in order for you to do the things that we do best. I want to thank Art Wilson. I want to thank the staff of the other gentleman in Cold Spring, Rich Patterson.

I want to thank Dave Gorman. I called most of the people personally, and I told them how gracious they were to provide me with information where I could go out and do the things that we all

do best.

I really want to say to Sandy, you are my angel. Thank you very much, Sandy. (Applause)

I believe everyone remembers your first kiss, your first date, your first whatever. And when you are a -- Art sent me to the Ninth District, which encompasses North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

That was my first assignment as a National Officer. I want to thank the DAV and DAVA or the people that were a part of that district meeting. It catapulted me into a high that I have not returned down to earth yet. I want to thank them for their gracious hospitality in allowing me to do what we do best.

I journeyed to Virginia. I journeyed to South Dakota. I journeyed to Pennsylvania, Oregon and New Hampshire. The same applies to those DAV and DAV delegates. I thank you very much for your hospitality. (Applause)

I want to thank the -- and, please, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico, if we have any delegates, would you please stand, please. (Applause)

I want to thank the 17th District for your support for the years that I've been involved with the DAV. You've been great. I also want to thank the two Past National Commanders, Peter L. Dye, Billy Hightower, and our newly elected NEC, Billy Taylor, who is a former NSO, now retired. Thank you, Billy.

I want to thank my friend, my comrade, Mike Terry, who is the Executive Director and the Adjutant of the state of Colorado who has been a friend of mine for years. Mike, I really appreciate all that you do for me.

And, no, I'm not going to forget my wife. She's Jean Jackson. She's my foundation. She was my foundation in the past. She's my foundation right now. And she will be my foundation in the future. Jean. (Applause)

To my fellow National Officers, the only thing that I've got to say to you, it has been a joy, but I would appreciate it if you would keep my chair up front. Thank you very much. (Laughter and applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I will now invite our newly elected National Fourth Junior Vice, Brad Barton, for some remarks. Brad. (Applause)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT BRAD BARTON: National Commander Albarran, National Adjutant Art Wilson, National, newly elected, Commander George Steese and my fellow line officers:

I would like to start by recognizing my district from the Northwest part of the country. Would District 19 kindly stand up and receive a round of applause. (Applause)

I am truly grateful for the support and effort they have put into my campaign. I would particularly like to recognize Raymond Ed Guise, the Senior Vice Commander of the Department of Oregon, my campaign manager. (Applause) Thank you, Ed.

Also, I would like to thank Past National Commander Gregory Reed. Greg has been a friend, a mentor and an avid supporter of me throughout the years, not only with DAV but in every endeavor I've undertaken. I am truly grateful for his friendship and his love. Thank you, Gregory, wherever you are. (Applause)

I would also like to thank all the delegates here to the 80st DAV National Convention. It is truly an honor to see your vote of confidence today when you cast your ballots. Thank you very much. (Applause)

I make this promise to you. I will do my very best to honor and reward that confidence that you placed in me today by electing me your Fourth Junior Vice Commander. Thank you. (Applause)

Finally, but not last in my life -- first in my life -- I would like to introduce you to my best friend, my companion, my biggest supporter. She makes me want to be a better man -- my wife, Donna Barton. (Applause) Thank you, Donna, for all the sacrifices you've made this past year on my behalf. As others have said, without our wives, without our families, we would be nothing.

I thank all of you today for all the efforts that you make on behalf of the greatest veterans' organization in this country, the Disabled American Veterans. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I will now ask our National Judge Advocate, the most senior member of line officers, to come up for some remarks. (Applause)

JUDGE ADVOCATE GALIAN: Commander Albarran, Commander-elect Steese, Commanders-elect all along the line, and as far as Art Wilson is concerned, that's a special recognition because this man has been extraordinarily helpful to me as well as everybody on the dais here.

David Gorman and Rick Patterson and Sandy Buchanan; I'm always calling on these people for help and I thank them all for what they've done for me through the years.

When it comes to thanking people, I should start, I suppose, with my lovely wife, Janet. Many of you know her. (Applause) She is the greatest. I can't describe to you all the ways she is so great.

I also have other people to thank. I guess the closest relationship I have to national staff, all of whom are the greatest in the entire country as far as veterans' organizations are concerned, would be our pal Bob Gushee, the Inspector General of this great organization, as well as Chris Clay. Chris Clay always comes through when I need some help on a legal matter.

I guess you'd call him a lawyer's lawyer because I'm a lawyer, he's a lawyer so I call on him for help. (Applause) He's my lawyer. So they're wonderful people. You're all very, very fortunate to have them working for us.

Finally, I must -- not finally, but let's get there -- let's get to the Department of New York. I've got 64,000 members -- 74,000 members -- sorry, fellows -- members in that great state.

They do great things in the state of New York, and we've got some of the greatest transportation programs, hospital service coordinators in the country, the greatest volunteer drivers -- that's a staff of hundreds in the state of New York -- and many of them are right here.

If they're not here, some of the leaders who tell them what to do and where to drive, they're here. So, I thank you all very, very much.

Now, those 74,000 New York members do a lot of good things. But, lately they've assumed a new role, and I think now they perform a different kind of service. It's called "food service for the National Convention." (Laughter)

So many of you took advantage of it and you're all welcome. But I must thank the guys that put that together every day for the last three days. So, keep going. I don't know about today, but you've got a place to go if you're hungry. (Applause)

Of course, when I talk about New York people, I'm not going to limit myself to the state of New York. We have a saying, "Once you are a New Yorker, always a New Yorker" so those of you who lost your way and ended up in states like Florida, California, Arizona, I feel sorry for you. (Laughter)

When I hear about the forest fires, earthquakes, floods, liquid sunshine here in Florida, you have our sympathy. And we never turn you down, you're always welcome with open arms to come back to the great state -- God's country, New York. (Applause)

But, it has been my privilege to be up here many times, and I thank God and I thank you all for allowing me to have an additional season. Thank you all so much.

I want to convey to our Commander-Elect that I will do what I can. I pledge to you to be impartial, be fair in all the things that I'm required to do to function as the National Judge Advocate. If there's anything you need from me, if I can ever be of help to any one of you all, I'm ready, able and I hope willing. So, thank you all again and that's it. Bye-bye now. (Applause)

MR. CARROLL: Patrick Carroll, Chapter 12, state of California, makes a motion to release the Credentials Committee with a vote of thanks.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Not yet, we can't do that until afterwards. I'll do that later. Thank you. Out of order.

Now, I will ask our newly elected National Chaplain Reverend Gerald Stump of North Carolina to say some remarks. (Applause)

CHAPLAIN-ELECT GERALD STUMP: Commanders, officers, Adjutant

Wilson, staff and DAV family, I'm privileged to be called out to serve this wonderful family.

Many years ago God called me, and I was humbled and honored to be called out to be his servant. I feel that same honor and that same humility here today as you have called me out to be your servant, as your National Chaplain.

Ladies and gentlemen, my first call from God for you, for our commander, for our officers, for our staff, for this family, my first call from God is to pray for you, and not just casually pray for you, but to pray for you every day, pray that God will give you the wisdom that you will surely need, that he will strengthen you to perform and to do the task that he has called you to do and honored you to do, for this, the greatest family, Disabled American Veterans.

I'm truly honored to be your servant. I want to thank you for the opportunity to do that. I will give it all of my heart, first of all in prayer, secondly in service.

I'd like to thank not only you but I'd like to thank my precious and most beautiful wife, Sharon, (applause) my soulmate and helpmate that God has given as a gift to me.

I need to thank the leadership of District 9 and also my DAV family in Greensboro, Chapter 20. (Applause) I want to thank Wally Tyson, our Adjutant, our State Adjutant, and I want to thank Coy Hennis, our commander, for all that they have done.

From the day one since I put on this hat, they have been encouraging me and they have given me direction and they have prayed for me. My chapter prays for me, and I want to thank God for them.

Again, I'm your servant. It's an honor to serve you. I'm looking forward to it and I pledge to you not only to be your servant but also to be your intercessor in praying to God. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you. I would like, at this moment, if I can, to thank the national staff, Art Wilson, all the national staff, national line officers for all the support that you all have given me this past year, or actually all the past four years as I have been a national officer.

I'd like to especially thank the Department of Texas. The Department of Texas, please stand up and be recognized. (Applause)

And a very special thanks to my wife, Tilly, for all the support and help she gave me all this year as we traveled throughout the country. Thank you, Tilly. Please stand up and be recognized. (Applause)

A final note, all the NSOs throughout the country, as I traveled, they were there to help me and to assist me. Thank you NSOs. (Applause)

We will now continue with unfinished business of the Convention. Now, Mr. Carroll, you can make that motion to discharge the Credentials Committee.

MR. CARROLL: Patrick Carroll, Chapter 12, California, makes a motion that we dismiss the Credentials Committee with a vote of thanks.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Carroll. Mike 1.

MR. LINDEN: Al Linden, Gator 90, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Al. You heard the motion and the second. All in favor, say aye; against. The ayes have it. So moved.

I will now call on our National Adjutant to read the list of newly elected members of the National Executive Committee.

ADJUTANT WILSON: The following members have been elected to a two-year term to the National Executive Committee for the years 2001 to 2003:

NEC 1st District, Frank Drogo; Alternate, John Regan; NEC 3rd District, Richard Dakota, Alternate, Steven Moffitt; NEC for the 5th District, James Brown; Alternate, Kirby Lindsey; NEC 7th District, Robert Melcher; Alternate, Harry Warburton; NEC 9th District, James Stewart; Alternate, Michael Drascilio; NEC 11th District, Arthur Leach; Alternate, William Mosley; NEC 13th District, Lee Ewing; Alternate, Sam Buer; NEC 15th District, Thomas

Morrissey; Alternate, Lyle Dean; NEC 17th District, William Taylor; Alternate, S. Joe Amaho; NEC 19th District, Larry Croger: alternate, Harold "Bud" Wise; NEC 21st District, Robert Cahoun and the Alternate, Irving Eddy.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Thank you, Art. I will now ask the Chaplain for closing prayer. Chaplain.

CHAPLAIN BROWN: Now, unto the King eternal and visible, the only wise God be honored forever and ever; in God's name we pray. Let us say amen. Amen. Thank you.

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: I will now ask the Department of Arizona Honor Guard to retire the colors.

(Retirement of Colors)

COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Will you join me in thanking the Department of Arizona Color Guard. (Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, would you believe it, the 80th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans is now adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 o'clock a.m., August 2, 2001.)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 79TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY HELD AT MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

July 27-August 2, 2001

OPENING BUSINESS SESSION

July 30, 2001

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The Opening Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in Fountainebleau Ballroom C/D of the Fountainebleau Hilton Resort, Miami Beach, Florida, Monday morning, July 30, 2001, and was called to order at 9:30 o'clock a.m. by National Adjutant Maria M. Tedrow.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Will the national sergeant-at-arms please present National Commander Carol Gray to the platform. (Applause)

Will the national sergeant-at-arms please present the national officers to the platform: National Chaplain Vicky Grier; National Judge Advocate Shelia Allred; National 4th Junior Vice Commander Judy Steinhouse; National 3rd Junior Vice Commander Gertrude Tidwell; National 2nd Junior Vice Commander Janet Bennett; National 1st Junior Vice Linda Trulio; National Senior Vice Commander Renee Jones; National Convention Chairman Kay Egan.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: And now will the national sergeant-at-arms have the past national commanders escorted to the chairs in the front of the room and the immediate past national commander escorted to the platform: Past National Commander Lucille McCarthy, Florida; Past National Commander Pauline Wright, Colorado; Past National Commander, Dorothy Van Hoy, Missouri; Past National Commander, Chris Maguire, Maryland; Past National Commander Florence Valgardson, Utah; Past National Commander Betty Hall, Texas; Past National Commander Loneita Shoemaker, Arkansas; Past National Commander Katherine Pearson from Minnesota; Past National Commander Rose Schilpp from Missouri; Past National Commander Claudia Roy, Vermont; Past National Commander Jane Troutman, North Carolina; Past National Commander Barbara Hicks, Tennessee; Past National Commander Margaret Hass, Youbetcha, North Dakota; Past National Commander, Evelyn Dorsey, District of Columbia; and Immediate Past National Commander Paula Raymond from Illinios.

Now comes the exciting part. Will the national sergeant-at-arms please see that those delegates who are casting the state department vote be escorted down front:

From Alabama we have Joan Monroe, commander; from Arizona we have Leslie Dumas, commander; from Arkansas, Sara Douglass, past state commander; from California, June Adema, immediate past commander; from Colorado, Carolyn Shaver, commander; from Delaware, Arline Phillips, past state commander; from the District of Columbia, Juanita Giles, commander; from Florida, Alice Sears, commander; from Georgia, Dorothy Smith, commander; from Idaho, Janine Henson, past state commander; from Illinios, Mary Ellen Scarsdale, commander; from Indiana, Claudia Skoczylas, commander; from Iowa, Kathy Weatherly, past state commander/state treasurer; from Kansas, Christine Cornelius, commander; from Kentucky, Michelle Ellison, commander; from Louisiana, Fannie Holland, commander; from Maine, Lillian La Chance, past state commander; from Maryland, Toni King, commander; from Massachusetts, Donna Tanner, commander; from Michigan, Cornealia Jansen, commander; from Minnesota, Darlena Broady, commander; from Mississippi, Lou Hollis, commander; from Missouri, Mary Pealer, commander; from Nebraska, Jane Henning, commander; from Nevada, Past National Commander and Commander Evelynn Dunn; from New Jersey, Doris Martelli, past state commander; from New Hampshire, Donna Folcarelli, commander; from New Mexico, Romana Ganong, past state commander; from New York, Anita Tears, commander; from North Carolina, Patricia Wright, commander; from North Dakota, Mary Lou Weber, commander; from Ohio, Marge Davies, commander; from Oklahoma, Debbie Huddleston, commander; from Pennsylvania, Cathy Watkins, past state commander.

I'm sorry, I want to make a correction. I said Donna Folcarelli from New Hampshire and that is not right. Donna Folcarelli is from Rhode Island.

Rhode Island, Donna Folcarelli, commander; South Carolina, Mary Tison Edwards, commander; South Dakota, Judy Perry, past state commander; Tennessee, Gail Sutton, commander; Texas, Patsy Mitchell, commander; Utah, Shirley Wright, commander; Vermont, Beverly Cleveland, past state commander; Virginia, Annis Craft, commander; Washington, Ardelle Stevens, commander; West Virginia, Ellen Griggs, senior vice commander; Wisconsin, Joanne Mingus, commander; Wyoming, Bonnie Wegman, commander; and Puerto Rico, Mildred Velazquez, past state commander.

And now will the national sergeant-at-arms please present and post the State of Florida colors.

(Presentation of State Colors.)

ADJUTANT TEDROW: And now will the national sergeant-at-arms present the National Colors.

(Presentation of National Colors.)

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Will the national sergeant-at-arms post the colors. Will the national sergeant-at-arms at this time dismiss the color bearers. We will now have our prayer by our National Auxiliary Chaplain, Vicky Grier.

CHAPLAIN VICKY L. GRIER: As we bow our heads, let us remember our members who are no longer with us.

Eternal God, our Father, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, open our eyes of understanding. Help us to be quick listeners as Commander Carol and her line officers lead this auxiliary.

May we be filled with pride and love. Watch over us, Father, this day and forever more. Amen.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by our National Americanism Chairman, Getrude Tidwell.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Our national musician, Nancy Coulombe, will now play the National Anthem, and let's all sing.

(National Anthem)

ADJUTANT TEDROW: The Constitution and Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary states that the supreme 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, Maria M. Tedrow, National Auxiliary Adjutant, declare the 79th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary be convened, at Miami, Florida.

Consideration and disposition of business brought before this convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws and the ritual of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, as most recently amended. To all present, take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

At this time, it gives me great privilege and honor to introduce the lady who has served as the head of this organization this year, and has served it well, Carol Gray, National Commander. (Standing ovation)

COMMANDER CAROL GRAY: Good morning. It's nice to see so many of you here, and welcome to this convention. We expect to have a full schedule. You're going to have fun. You're going to hear lots of good reports that people have made.

And the kind of day we're going to have is going to be up to us because everything we do -- I have this little thing here to read. It says, "It's up to you":

One song can spark a moment; one flower can wake the dream; one tree can start a forest; one bird can herald spring; one smile begins a friendship; one hand clasp lifts a soul; one star can guide a ship at sea; one word can frame the goal; one vote can change a nation; one sunbeam lights a room; one candle wipes out darkness; one laugh will conquer gloom; one step must start each journey; one word must start each prayer; one hope will raise our spirits; one touch can show you care; one voice can speak with wisdom; one heart can know what's true; one life can make the

difference. You see, it's up to you. (Applause)

At this time I would like to introduce to you the lady who is our National Convention Chairman this year.

When searching for a person to serve as the National Convention Chairman, you need someone who can see what needs to be done and can also solicit others to share the load.

This year's Convention Chairman fits that description to a "T". At just six years of age, she saw a job that needed to be done and also solicited the help of her three-year-old brother.

Their neighbor had received a load of coal that needed to be put down the chute into the bin. They did a super job and even managed to get coal dust all over themselves.

This did not put her in the good graces of her mother and grandmother, who then got to clean these two volunteers.

You will find that the letters of her last name are fitting and proper. Ladies, I present to you, energetic, gracious, able and nifty, this year's National Convention Chairman, Kay Egan. (Applause)

MRS. KAY EGAN: That's one of the problems in having the National Commander one of your dearest friends -- she knows all your secrets. No, not all, truly.

Madam Commander, Past National Commanders, National Executive Committeewomen and Alternates, Officers, National Adjutant Maria Tedrow, guests and Delegates, welcome to the sunshine state, and welcome to Miami Beach, the jewel of the Atlantic side of our peninsula.

We have some unusual critters here, which are not seen in all the states of America. We have things like alligators, geckos -- how many know what geckos are? Good girl, you've met them -- dolphins, and, yes, even sharks.

Now these babies have been giving us pretty bad press over the last couple of weeks. We really have more miles of coastline than any other state in the United States of America, and that includes the state of Michigan. (Laughter)

Our three biggest industries are citrus, tourism and beef -- not beefcake, beef. Take time to drive inland, and you will see acres and acres of grazing beef cattle.

So, when you go into your favorite steakhouses, do not assume that that wonderful beef you are eating comes from Texas. We ship beef there, too. (Laughter)

For those of you that are interested in gardening, we have a 12-month growing season, and we grow our vegetables in the winter because our summers are too hot and too humid.

Our rainy season lasts from June 1 to November 1; and even during the rest of the year, it is always raining someplace, somewhere in Florida.

I am not a native Floridian, and few members of our organization in Florida are. One of the nice things about Florida is that most everybody is from someplace else; a melting pot, just like America was.

The concierge has a few "Welcome to Miami Beach" brochures, which will give you a fair idea of what is available to you in your free time in Miami Beach.

If you would like one of these, stop at her desk in the lobby and pick one up. She has a rack of them sitting right in front.

We have marvelous DAVA members in the state of Florida, and a lot of them are here at this convention. Will the Florida Delegation please stand up? (Applause) And the rest of you -- I should have told you -- take a good look at these girls, because they're the ones that are going to have two helping hands, a big smile on their faces, so if you get lost, if you get confused, check with one of Florida ladies, and she will tell you where to go. (Laughter)

That goes for me, too. You can find me hovering around the registration desk, if, indeed, I am not here in a meeting.

It is the hope of all of us that you have a joyful convention and be able to take back home information and pleasant memories of the 2001 Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary in Miami Beach, Florida.

Now, I have a question for Carol. Please stand. I want to

know who pays the electric bill that keeps your Auxiliary light shining so brightly?

I also have a message. Her daughter and I were having secret conferences.

"Mom, sorry I couldn't be with as you conduct your convention as National Commander. I hope you know how proud of you your whole family is. "I know you will remember all the places you've been and the people you have met, and the things you've done with them all.

"And we all know that even when this convention is over, you will continue to let your Auxiliary light shine.

"Have a great convention, one that you will always remember. We all love you and wish that we could be there. Jill." (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: That's what keeps my light bill paid. She tells me she knows how to get to me -- and she does -- but I don't care.

All last night and all this morning, people say, "We saw you cry yesterday", and I said, "You and probably a thousand other people, and I don't care".

What I heard yesterday from the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, the letter he has to read, I don't care if you see me cry. I'll cry again if I hear it again. I may cry harder each time I hear it. But that's fine.

And now, it is my privilege and honor to introduce to you some ladies who I have admired over the years.

As you know, I've been around quite awhile, and I have seen all of you over the years and admire you, and I thought "Wow, I don't know how they can do that".

But with the membership behind you, you can do anything you want to do.

Past National Commander Lucille McCarthy; Pauline Wright; Dorothy Van Hoy; Florence Valgardson; Maureen Pederson; Maria Tedrow; Betty Hall; Lonieta Shoemaker; Katherine Pearson; Rose Mary Schilpp; Chris Maguire; Shelia Allred; Claudia Roy; Jane Troutman; Barbara Hicks; Margaret Hass; Evelynne Dunn; Eveyln Dorsey and Paula Raymond. Thank you, ladies. (Applause)

And Past National Commander Eveyln Dorsey, if you would come forward, please.

MRS. EVEYLYN B. DORSEY: Good morning, ladies. You are, indeed, a beautiful sight. For the last couple of days, we have assembled here and we've just had a great time, a great reunion, hugging and kissing and reminiscing, checking each other out.

We've seen who has gained weight, (laughter) who has lost weight, who has new hairdos, who got married.

We've shared the joys of graduations, births, and we've had some not-so-pleasant times, but encouraging times.

We have come and consoled those who have had sorrows and storms since we last met. But this is always a pleasure to come and to greet you.

It's especially heartwarming for me this morning to greet you on behalf of the past national commanders.

We certainly wish for all of you a most enjoyable and productive convention. And those of you who are delegates, we certainly hope that you're going to take good notes and go back and share this experience and information with those who were unable to come.

Commander Carol, would you please stand? Again, on behalf of the past national commanders, it is, indeed, a joy to congratulate you on all of your many years of service, of letting your light shine, and to wish you all the best for this your convention.

It is an experience that I know you will cherish the rest of your life. So, I would like to present to you, from the past national commanders, this little memento of the occasion.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you all very much. (Applause) The paperweight is beautiful.

Now we will have a preliminary report of the Credentials Committee by the Chairman, Winona Eastin.

MRS. WINONA O. EASTIN: Commander Carol, past national commanders, NECs, delegates and guests, we have total units

registered as 214; total departments registered, 45, making a total of 259.

Delegates registered, 413; alternates registered is 26; guests, 44; total of 483.

Total unit votes, 1,504; total department votes, 45; National Officers, 8; PNCs, 15. We have a grand total of votes, 1,572. Thank you.

COMMANDER GRAY: At this time, do I hear a motion that the preliminary report be accepted as read? And your name? Toni King. And when you do speak, preferably go to a microphone or speak very loudly so that the stenographer can hear because sometimes the sound does not pick up very well for her.

And it's Toni King, Department of Maryland. Do I hear a second? Fanny Holland, State Department of Louisiana seconds the motion. Is there any discussion? All in favor; any opposed? The motion is carried.

The first order of business is the adoption of the National Convention Rules. Printed copies of the convention rules have been furnished to all registered delegates.

The Chair will now entertain a motion for adoption of these rules.

MRS. KATHERINE WILEY: Katherine Wiley, District 19, Unit 46, Washington state. I move that we adopt these rules.

COMMANDER GRAY: I have a motion. Do we have a second?

MRS. GERTIE RICHARD: Madam Commander, Gertie Richard, Unit 17, Lake Charles, Louisiana. I second the motion.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you. You've heard the motion and the second. Is there any discussion? All in favor; any opposed? The motion is carried.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander R. Renee Jones assumed the Chair.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER R. RENEE JONES: Leaders find themselves in the spotlight from time to time. That doesn't make a person a leader. The leader is the light.

And letting her Auxiliary light shine brightly this year has been our Auxiliary National Commander, Carol Gray.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to present to you our Auxiliary National Commander for the purpose of her annual report. Commander Gray. Please, let's give her a warm welcome. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: National Officers, Past National Commanders, National Executive Committee Members and Alternates, National Chairmen, National Staff, Delegates and Guests; how can I to tell you just how it feels to have been honored and privileged, to have had the opportunity to be your National Commander this past year?

The word that best describes this would be "wow!". And that is the word that I repeated time after time when I wasn't saying "cool".

From my acceptance address in Reno on August 24, 2000, until I returned from my final convention assignment on June 27, 2001, your support and your friendship traveled with me.

You were with me in Pittsburgh for the Sharing and Caring Cruise for hospitalized veterans on the Three Rivers; the Allegheny and the Manongahela as they meet to form the mighty Ohio.

For many hospitalized for long term, this is the only outing they have from year to year, and to cruise down these rivers and breathe the fresh air, being served a delicious lunch, to have the opportunity to dance -- whether ambulatory or confined to a wheelchair -- wow!

The Pittsburgh Fire Department comes to the park at the point where the rivers converge and sprays a salute to these veterans with their firehoses, while a wreath of flowers is presented by those who have been fortunate enough to have been invited.

They called us the "dignitaries", but in my remarks I stated that the dignitaries are those veterans who were selected to attend the cruise that day.

Down the river in Cincinnati, I was anticipating another super National Fall Conference, and it was even more fantastic than I imagined that it would be.

The programs that were presented were informative, imaginative, and the fact that the national staff and the national

chairmen put it together in just three short weeks is astounding.

If you would please stand as I call your names so we can again thank you for such great presentations, and hold your applause until all have been introduced:

Renee Jones, May Holmes Chairman; Linda Trulio, Membership; Janet Bennett, Legislation; Gertrude Tidwell, Americanism; Judy Steinhouse, Community Service; Jean Jackson, Junior Activities; Jacki Fossiano, Hospital; Brenda Reed, VAVS; Ethel Bussey, History Chairman; Shelia Allred, Judge Advocate, for keeping us informed on procedures; National Musician Nancy Coulombe for your musical interludes; Vicky Grier, National Chaplain for your prayers and vocal inspiration; Maria, Judy and all the staff at National Headquarters for all of the arrangements you made to bring the conference together. Our thank you is never enough. (Applause)

If not for the combined efforts of all of you ladies, that conference would not have been a success. It was a pleasure to attend state conference in Michigan, where I presented them a plaque honoring their 65th Anniversary as a department; Montana, Alabama, Florida and California, and the tours in Massachusetts and Utah where places and events that shaped our nation's history are available for all to see and visit will remain in my memories of this year.

It is very humbling to stand on the marble floors in the Rotunda of the State House in Boston where our forefathers -- men who shaped the documents that are the basis of our country -- walked so many years ago.

The day that we were there, a group of 7th and 8th graders were in the State House, standing on the beautiful double-wide marble staircase singing while the orchestra played.

During this time, we were viewing flags from the revolutionary period in our history, when each town and village made their own flags.

Our next stop, after touring this beautiful State House, was a shelter for homeless veterans. This shelter is a place where a homeless veteran can go for rehabilitation and reenter the work force and begin life again for as long as it takes, as many times as they need to make a fresh start.

In Utah we sat on the balcony listening to the marvelous voices of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir as they rehearsed for the services where they would sing on Sunday morning.

The next day we were waiting for the director of the Salt Lake City VA to join us for the tour, and this fantastic looking vehicle pulled up in front.

Again, I said, "Wow!". It was one of the new DAV mobile service vans. Their timing could not have been better if it had been planned.

They had come to the VA because one of the NSOs had to seek treatment for something that had been sprayed into his eye.

While he received the treatment that he needed, the van was opened and we were afforded the opportunity to see the way it will be when it comes to your area to assist veterans.

When it does come to your area, why not get your Auxiliary members to go there to see how they can help. Bake some cookies and bring them to serve to the veterans and their families as they wait to see an NSO.

I received a letter from a lady who had been to one of the service vans when it came to her area. She stated, "I took advantage of the Mobil Service Office. They were very helpful, and I wrote to them today and to Mrs. Tedrow, too. It gave me a sense I had done everything for my son.

"I know my husband would also be appreciative. It really is difficult to be a widow, but they assured me I had done the right thing.

"And in view of all the circumstances, social security increases are all that would be available to my son in the future".

To attend and participate in the Veterans Day Observance in Birmingham, Alabama, held special meaning for me as my grandfather, who gave me my eligibility for membership in our organization, was one of the "doughboys" from World War I.

As Julius Davis, who drove the car I was riding for that

parade, was trying to make his way around the closed streets to take me back to the hotel, we were greeted by well-wishers on the street, who had but one comment to make: "Look, it's Freeman and Ms. Daisy". (Laughter)

And they had other business operators come out to the street to see us, too. It really did happen. The inauguration of President Bush and Vice President Cheney was exciting to see; and to be there for such an historic event -- Wow!

The day prior to the inauguration was a day that I shall never forget. Incoming Vice President Cheney wanted the event that would have been to honor him to be a salute to America's veterans, and what a salute it was.

From the moment that Gerald McRaney came to the microphone until the final words of "God Bless the USA", sung by none other than Lee Greenwood, there were presentations by many whose lives had been changed and affected by service to our country, and by others who had felt the effect that war had in their lives and in their countries.

Yesterday I told you of the escorts that I had in Colorado on the mountain side. Well, in Washington D.C., I attended the swearing-in ceremony of President Bush, with a very handsome, younger man, too. That was Steven Tedrow, Maria's son.

You know, after being with all -- maybe that's the reason my husband kept saying he's going to put a sign in the window that said "part-time wife wanted". (Laughter)

When I left Washington, D.C., my flight took me to LaGuardia Airport in New York City, and I had my first glimpse of the Statue of Liberty.

The view of Lady Liberty was from a little window in the airplane, but she looked no less majestic and welcoming to me than she must have to the masses of immigrants when they caught their first glimpse of her, when they arrived from their homelands to begin new lives in this country, our America.

In February the light of Auxiliary and DAV members was sent in my direction. All of your cards, e-mails, floral expressions and prayers were appreciated following the death of my twin sister.

March saw me back in our nation's capitol for the DAV C&A Conference and Commander Albarran's presentation to the Joint Veterans Affairs Committee, and joined other DAV and Auxiliary members from Michigan in visiting our congressional representatives.

While attending the 15th Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, it was my honor to assist with the registration of participants, exercise helping hand dogs and to help in the cafeteria with lunch trays.

Lest you think that it was all work and no play, I went ice skating for the first time in 25 years and amazingly stayed on my feet.

Since this was also the rink where sludge hockey was played and some of the hockey team was there and showed DAV Commander Albarran and others how to get into the sled and were on the ice batting that puck around, I decided it was time for me to go to a safer place, and that was off the ice.

Later, I tried my hand at climbing the Wall of Challenge. No, Paula, I did not make it to the top as you did last year, but managed to get two-thirds of the way to the top before deciding that was enough. Your record remains. (Applause)

One of the evening events was a show featuring local musicians, and very good ones at that. When I left to go to my room, it was snowing, and snowing, and kept snowing, bringing a Currier and Ives look to the area that had been missing since our arrival.

By the time the snow stopped, there were four inches of it that had fallen in a matter of only a couple of hours.

When I returned home and showed my husband the picture of me on that wall, he asked who talked me into that since he is aware of my dislike of heights.

Notice, I didn't say I wasn't afraid of them, I just don't like them very much. I told him that no one had talked me into it; that the wall was there, and if the veterans who came to the clinic

were willing to try to do something new, who was I to say, no?

If you could see the looks on the faces of the veterans who have mastered the skill of skiing down the mountainside, when only a short three days earlier there had been apprehension and nervousness, you would know why this program is so important.

The confidence in their accomplishments can change lives, seemingly in an instant.

Next it was to Texas to attend the testimonial dinner held in honor of DAV National Commander Albarran. The voice on the lead singer of the Mariachi Band was tremendous.

Without the assistance of a microphone, his voice filled the room with the clearest tones I have ever heard.

And on behalf of all 200,000 Auxiliary members, I was honored to present a plague to Commander Albarran that was inscribed with thanks for his service to the Auxiliary.

Before I left San Antonio, I spent the afternoon visiting the Alamo and the River Walk area. It was a beautiful, peaceful afternoon to see some more of the history of America.

The next weekend was time for the testimonial dinner held in my honor, and it was an event that I shall never forget.

The lighthouse that you see over here is one that my husband, Ken, made while I was out of town. My cousin, who is also a life member of the Auxiliary, took some old family photos and had them enlarged and presented them to me there.

I have brought them with me for you see, too. A couple of weeks ago at our family reunion, I was telling her how much I had liked them and where I had hung them in the house.

And she said, "Oh, I put them together for a joke". And I said, "No, I treasure those. Those are history. I love it".

To my Unit 11, to the State Department of Michigan, thank you for hosting the events of the weekend. All three of my kids, Jill, Ken Jr. and John, were there with their families, as well as my husband, Ken.

For someone who usually has little to say at Auxiliary and DAV functions, Ken was in rare form that night, and my daughter threatened to take the microphone from him.

My youngest son and child, John, whom I call my baby, and a former marine, sang "God Bless the USA", and then spoke to the audience and thanked all of the members of the DAV for their service and sacrifices.

Later that evening I was asked why I did not join him earlier in singing, as he gets very emotional about this song, and replied that when he was ready for me to sing with him, he would. And he did.

The next weekend it was time to get to work with the Finance Committee and Education Loan Fund Committee at the Drawbridge Estates in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky.

I arrived a day early to spend the day at National Headquarters with Maria, Judy and the entire staff. And what a day it turned out to be.

Since the first Saturday in May in Kentucky is the day for the Kentucky Derby, National Headquarters held their own version of Derby Day.

Decked out in their fine hats and silks were teams of four members, each sporting their own vest of their own design to compete in a horse relay race.

Team members -- yes, of course, the Auxiliary had an entry in the race -- team members Judy, Sandy, Connie and Bunny ran a good race.

They didn't win, but they ran a good race. Their trainer, Maria was wearing a hat that would make the finest of horse owners jealous.

Derby pie and a non-alcoholic version of mint julep was available for refreshments. Fun was had by all who participated or witnessed the event of the day.

Let me tell you the staff prepares one good lunch as we came back into the building and ate and ate. Thank you, Maria, for allowing me to join in the fun of the day.

The following week I was in Oregon for the first of the conventions I attended this year. Then it was off to the beautiful

island state of Hawaii. My husband won a trip there through our 7-11 store supplier and allowed me to go with him. (Laughter)

It was a fantastic trip and made even better because of an event that had happened a few months earlier.

You see, Ken and I were married 40 years last November, and this trip to Hawaii was a second honeymoon. Maybe it was the first honeymoon. I don't think we ever had time for our first one. (Applause)

The end of May and all of June was busy as I attended state conventions in Texas, Michigan, Indiana, Puerto Rico and New York.

The hospitality and friendship extended to me by the Auxiliary and DAV members everywhere I visited this year has been outstanding and very much appreciated.

There are so many people to thank for making this a wonderful year to remember; first of all, my family and especially my husband for giving me virtually the entire year off work with pay; to my Unit 11, the State Department of Michigan, which is also the 10th District, for all of your support; to the national officers and chairmen for all you have done for the Auxiliary; to the past national commanders for paving the road to where we are today; to Jim Hall for all the pictures he takes in magazine articles devoted to Auxiliary functions; to the NSOs who took time from their work to shuttle me to and from airports, even at extremely early hours; to Kathy Genosco, whose eloquent thoughts and words about the incident with the USS Cole meant so much to me that I needed to share them with you in the magazine.

And for that we presented her with a membership in the Auxiliary. To my best friend, Kay Egan, for all of your support, your e-mails and your love. You are truly special to me and to my family, and now for all that you have done here as convention chairman.

Maria, it seems that we always keep our words for you until last, probably because of the emotions that tumble from us, because there are not enough words to thank you for your friendship, your professionalism, your counsel, your keeping not only the national commander and all of the national officers informed and up to date on Auxiliary happenings, but that you do this for all of the members.

I purposely have not mentioned the total membership of the Auxiliary in my remarks because the membership drive that enabled us to not only achieve, but to surpass the quota for this year, was done through National Headquarters under your guidance.

I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done to make this year one that I shall always remember.

As I said last year in Reno, I could not imagine being national commander without you as such a big part of it. I love you from the bottom of my heart.

I have a little something for you that I found in Pataski. No, it's not Garfield. If you would open it, please.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Betty Hall, you can't have this. (Laughter) It's a ladybug birdhouse.

COMMANDER GRAY: So now, I've packed up all the memories of this year, from the heart of all of you. I can't believe this year is closing and this chapter in my life is through.

But friends are friends forever, and this Auxiliary is my life. And a friend will not say "never" and your Auxiliary light shines bright.

And I'll pass this gavel on to another's hands, I know. But for all my lifetime long, we'll all be friends. Yes, for all my lifetime long, we'll all be friends. Thank you all for this year, and for the way that you let your Auxiliary light shine. (Standing ovation)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JONES: The Chair would like to recognize Kay Egan.

MRS. EGAN: Kay Egan, national convention chairman, delegate from Florida. I move that we accept the commander's report.

MRS. NANCY COULOMBE: Nancy Coulombe, Massachusetts; second.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JONES: A motion has been made and properly seconded to accept the report of National Commander Carol Gray.

I'm sure there's no need for discussion, so all in favor; and no oppose. The motion carries. Congratulations, Commander. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Commander Gray resumed the Chair.)

COMMANDER GRAY: Will the National Membership Chairman please come forward for the purpose of presenting the membership awards.

1ST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER LINDA A. TRULIO: Madam Commander Carol, National Adjutant Maria, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests; it gives me a privilege today to present the National Membership Awards.

COMMANDER GRAY: The Nominating Committee would like to be dismissed so they could get back to work. If you would like to go now, please. Thank you, enjoy your day.

1ST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER TRULIO: I just have this little announcement to make. Monetary awards are given in each category of each program to the first place winners.

Checks will be mailed from National Headquarters after the convention. Now, ladies, first of all, I would like to thank the four states -- and my apologies do go to the state of Vermont, because I did not have that information when my bulletin went out -- the states of Vermont, Wyoming, Idaho and New Jersey who made their quota this year. Let's have a round of applause. (Applause)

Now, you didn't think I'd leave part of my costume home? We made our quota. We are over 220,000 members, and it won't be long before we catch up to our parent organization.

All of you were given some sunglasses, and at this time I would like you to put them on. We are in Miami. And this is part of your Wonder Woman disguise, and our officers are going to put their tiaras on.

If you didn't get a pair of sunglasses when you came in, put sunglasses on if you have them. Okay, are we all set?

If you think of the reasons why we made our membership; our national organization, with Maria at its helm here in the office, and our parent organization helped greatly to send out messages to many members and helped us with our membership.

We also had in many states great membership drives. Susie from Massachusetts, New York, different states I visited, Gail Sutton from Tennessee, who borrowed the costume, you all gave it a try, and that's one of the most important things is that you tried.

Even if you didn't reach your quota, you did try. You gave it a great shot. And I would expect states that didn't have a membership drive this year, let's get on board.

And even if you send out one roll of stamps with one batch of labels, it is a good shot. Now the reason we made quota is because we, our sisters together, joined together.

We are a family and together we can accomplish anything. So, I want you to all now to get up, grab a sister, and we're going to get down and party for a few minutes.

(Dancing and singing)

1ST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER TRULIO: Okay, now that we've got ourselves all revived and rejuvenated, we can get back to business. Okay, everybody back to your seats for business.

Now, ladies, all that energy and that love that you feel for each other, when you get home to your states and your units, take it out there and tell people about us.

Let them know who we are and bring them into our family. Okay, membership awards.

In Group Number 1, 10 to 50, goes to Robert Johns, Erie Number 73 in Pennsylvania. (Applause) Will someone from Pennsylvania please come up to get the award?

Group Number 2, 51 to 100, Modock, Number 113, California, 13 member increase. (Applause)

Group Number 3, 101 to 200, Fort Monmouth, 29, New Jersey, 31. (Applause)

Group Number 4, 201 and over, E. A. Tony, Senior, Number 40, Massachusetts. (Applause)

Group Number 5, a new unit with the most new members, Central, Number 45, Texas, with 23 members. (Applause)

Group Number 6, the department with the largest percentage increases was a tie. The Department of Idaho, 1 percent, and the

Department of Wyoming, 1 percent. (Applause)

Group Number 7, the department with the largest numerical increase. I'm very proud of my state, the Department of New Jersey with 26 over. (Applause)

Special Membership Award goes to Jan Walters, Indiana Number 19, with 51 new senior members. (Applause)

And a Special Membership Award goes to Brenda Godfrey, Number 1, Arizona, with 18 new senior members. (Applause)

Thank you all for all your hospitality extended to me during the year, and I look forward to this year's members going out and helping us to reach another quota. We did it before, and we can do it again. Thank you. (Applause)

DELEGATE: This has been a goal I've been after for many years. I've come in second place a couple of times, so I finally reached my goal. (Applause)

MRS. MARY BIXBEE: I would like to accept this award for Brenda Godfrey, who is not here. She has done a wonderful, wonderful job for the state of Arizona. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: At this time we'll have the Finance Committee Report and the adoption of the budget, Sunny Barzelogna, the Finance Committee Chairman.

NEC 7TH DISTRICT SUNNY BARZELOGNA: Good morning. National Commander Gray, National Adjutant Maria, national officers, PNCs, NECs and guests; the National DAV Auxiliary Finance Committee met May 6, 2001, at the Drawbridge Inn, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky for the purpose of preparing a budget for the fiscal year January 1st to December 31, 2002.

After going over the 2001 budget and considering the debits and credits of each category and discussion on the same, the committee started to work. Considerations were taken on membership and the loss of units, which affects income -- all things must be considered -- income and expenditures plus higher costs of all supplies and postage.

After much input, discussion on the economy, organizational income and expenses, the committee came up with a workable and fair budget for the year January 1st to December 31, 2002.

Much thanks to National Adjutant Maria Tedrow and Assistant National Adjutant Judy Hezlep for furnishing forms and pertinent information the committee could not have done their job without.

Would the ladies from the committee stand as your name is called, and do not applaud until all introductions have been made:

National Commander Carol Gray, National Senior Vice Renee Jones, Ruth Koon, NEC District 9; Gloria Boozer, NEC District 10; Earlene Cole, NEC District 20.

Madam Commander, it has been an honor for me to serve on the National Finance Committee, and I have enjoyed it very much.

The committee members were great, and I love them all. Thank you. (Applause) I move that this budget be adopted.

NEC 10TH DISTRICT GLORIA A. BOOZER: Gloria Boozer, Michigan, Unit 20. I second that motion.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you. Is there any discussion on the budget? Hearing none, are you ready for the question? All in favor; any opposed? The motion is carried; the budget is accepted. Thank you, Sunny.

We will now have the first reading of the Constitution and Bylaws.

MRS. LUCILLE O. MCCARTHY: Good morning everyone. Madam Commander, national officers, past national commander, national executive committee, delegates and guests; the National Convention Constitution and Bylaw Committee was called to order by National Judge Advocate Shelia Allred on July 29, 2001, at 10:10 a.m in the Lafayette Room, Fountainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida.

All elected committee members were present. Lucille McCarthy was elected chairman and Loneita Shoemaker was elected secretary.

At this time I would like to present the members serving on the Convention Constitution of Bylaw Committee.

Please stand as your name is called, and remain standing until all have been introduced: District 1, Donna Tanner; District 2, Deborah Barbuto; District 3, Ann Young; District 4, Sophia Mate; District 5, Catherine Watkins; District 6, Juanita Meyers; District

8, Susan Marie Henry; District 9, Ruby Nelson; District 10, Almarie Veitenheimer; District 11, Majorie Davies; District 12, Kathy Hicke; District 13, Claudia Skoczylas; District 14, Leeann Karg; District 15, Rose Schilpp; District 16, Florine Hicks; District 17, Pat Vigil; District 18, Shirley Kosisky; District 19, Kathy Wiley; District 20, Betty Hall, and 21, Loneita Shoemaker. (Applause)

I would like to thank all of you for serving on the committee and a special thanks goes to the Secretary, Loneita Shoemaker.

I also want to thank National Judge Advocate Shelia Allred for serving as our advisor and National Adjutant Maria Tedrow and her staff for providing the delegates with a copy of the proposed bylaw amendments for this first reading.

Do all of you have a copy? If so, we will proceed:

Article VII, Membership, Page N-29, Section 5: Membership Classification F., Transfers, Paragraph 3:

Amend by deleting "received" in the last sentence and inserting "processed."

Article VII, Membership, Page N-29, Section 5: Membership Classification F., Transfers, Paragraph 3 would then read:

A transfer shall not take effect as to dues credit or voting strength until the beginning of the membership year following completion of the transfer. All rights of membership shall become effective when written notification of the unit's approval has been processed by National Headquarters.

The rationale for this, by deleting the word "received" and inserting "processed" would then conform with Paragraph 1 of this particular section. Thank you.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, Lucille. First we will have the Community Service Awards. Judy Steinhouse, please.

4TH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER JUDY M. STEINHOUSE: Good morning, ladies. The chairman of our committee was Dorothy Smith. How could I forget a name like "Smith"? Isn't that terrible? I will ask Dorothy to come up and give the Community Service Report.

I had a wonderful year as your Community Service Chairman, and it was topped off by working with these lovely ladies on the Community Service Report.

They did a fantastic job. They had a big job to do with all the wonderful reports that were submitted, and I want to thank them all for their work on this committee.

MRS. DOROTHY SMITH: Madam Commander Gray, national officers, past national commanders, national executive officers, delegates, members and guests; this is the National Community Service Committee Convention Report.

The ladies on the committee are:

From District 1, Lillian Halpin; District 2, Jean Desmond; District 3, Beulah Reardon; District 4, Kathy Flynn; District 6, Marjorie Hoeflein; District 7, Marie Bare; District 8, Fanny Holland; District 10, Peggy Smith; District 11, Ann McClure; District 12, Patty Davis; District 13, Michelle Ellison; District 14, Mary Webber; District 15, Mary Fore; District 18, Beverly Gately; District 19, Carol Miller; District 20, Patsy Mitchell. (Applause)

The Community Service Convention Committee met in the Brittany Room at 10:00 a.m. on July 29, year 2001.

Our advisor was Judy Steinhouse, and Fanny Holland was appointed secretary. The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Community Service Awards.

Group 1, 10 to 50, Unit 29, Mountain Top, Maryland. (Applause)

Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Unit 34, Johnson County, Kansas. (Applause)

Group 3, 101 to 200, Unit 10, Kingman, Arizona. (Applause)

In the same category, 101 to 200, we have an honorable mention to Unit 113, Port St. Lucie, Florida. (Applause)

Group 4, 201 members plus, Unit 84, Greater Daytona, Florida. (Applause)

The committee submitted the following recommendations:

1. Judging should have more specific instructions for grading system and explained prior to judging.

2. To resplit the 101 to 200 category to a division of 101 to 150 and 151-200. And it's signed by our advisor, Judy Steinhouse. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, Dorothy and Judy. Now, Jackie Fossiano, are you in the room? Okay, hospital.

MRS. JAQUELINE FOSSIANO: Good morning, everyone. Commander Carol, Adjutant Maria, line officers, past national commanders, delegates and friends; it was an honor and a privilege to be asked to be the chairperson of the Hospital non-VA work.

The group did a wonderful job. There was some confusion, and I want to express my sincere apology to Kathy Weatherly. We had a little confusion. I did not know she was the chairperson until we had already started the meeting.

It was given to someone else who graciously accepted, and I apologize to Kathy. She said, "Fine, don't worry".

So I'm going to ask Mary Bixby, who was the chairperson, to come and give the report.

MRS. MARY BIXBY: The National Hospital Convention Committee met in the Burgundy Room at 11:12 a.m. on 29 July 2001. Our advisor was Jackie Fossiano. The secretary was Mary Bixby. The committee was:

District 1, Mary Bixby; District 2, Irene Boron; District 3, Lillian La Chance; District 4, Doris Martelli; District 6, Juanita Giles; District 8, Janett Reece; District 9, Barbara Williams; District 10, Carol Lee; District 11, Judith Lenhart; District 12, Nola Pahl; District 13, Norma Zeimet; District 14, Patricia Resler; District 15, Kathy Weatherly; District 16, Donna Stinnet; District 17, Helene Pockrus; District 19, Ruth Hammer; District 20, Joanne Johnson. (Applause)

The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Hospital Awards:

Group 1, 10 to 50 members: King Marson Number 11, Waterloo, Iowa. (Applause)

Special Citation for Mountain Top 29, Oakland, Maryland. (Applause)

Group 2, 51 to 100 members: Robert Loveday Memorial Number 6, Chattanooga, Tennessee. (Applause)

Group 3, 101 to 200 members: Admiral William F. Halsey, Number 73, Elizabeth, New Jersey. (Applause)

Group 4, 201 members or over: Grand Forks Number 2, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

The committee submitted the following recommendations:

1. To have small, round tables available for judging in the room instead of a long table, as it was hard being side to side, to converse.

2. To change the badge to a pin or a certificate to give to the volunteers with hours over 50. Thank you. (Applause)

MRS. FOSSIANO: I just want say all of you have worked so hard this past year. It is wonderful, when I read the reports, to see how innovative you are with the little bit of money you have to work with, and the wonderful things you have done for our veterans throughout the United States.

Keep up the good work and keep trying. Thank you very much. (Applause)

ADJUTANT TEDROW: It's getting close to 11:30, and we're going to recess because there are some food functions that have been planned. However, don't everybody jump out of ur seats; I said we are going to. I think the National Convention Committee has a few door prizes, just a few of them. You have your tickets.

And as soon as the door prizes are over, the districts must caucus for a few minutes to discuss the proposed Constitution and Bylaw change. You notice, I said "change".

And while they're drawing numbers, I would like to make some comments about the recommendations.

These recommendations are submitted to the next chairman for her consideration.

As far as the set up on the district rooms, it is not always possible to get rooms set up the way you want to because some rooms are not flexible, or they're not big enough. I try to set the rooms up as best I can.

As far as changing the category -- that was a recommendation, to break the categories up, which would mean we break the categories up on all the others, which might be a good idea, except that I would say 25 percent of the states no longer send in reports.

We're getting less and less reports and more and more states are saying, "We don't want to bother with them, and we're not sending them in." So, I don't know whether that will be something for the next chairman to consider. Thank you.

Also, the luncheon will be in the Lafayette Room on the fourth floor; the Nor'easter Luncheon, Lafayette Room, fourth floor.

COMMANDER GRAY: Okay, we will recess now until 1:00 o'clock. Just stay in the room for door prizes. Thank you, and make sure you're here at 1:00 o'clock.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:20 o'clock a.m., July 30, 2001.)

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

July 30, 2001

The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in Fountainebleau Ballroom C/D of the Fountainebleau Hilton Resort, Miami Beach, Florida, Monday afternoon, July 30, 2001, and was called to order at 1:18 o'clock p.m. by Commander Carol A. Gray.

COMMANDER GRAY: Okay ladies, we're ready to begin our second session. We're going to continue with the program reports.

Okay, we'll continue now with the Americanism Awards. Gertrude Tidwell.

3RD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER GERTRUDE TIDWELL: Good afternoon. Is Lou Hollis in the room? Lou Hollis was our chairman.

While she's coming up, I would like to say thank you to all the ladies in all the units for all the records that you kept, and for all the things that you did for Americanism this year. Here comes Miss Lou with all the good stuff.

MRS. LOU HOLLIS: Hello, ladies. National commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests of the 79th National Auxiliary Convention: .

The National Americanism Convention Committee met in the Champagne Room at 10:15 on July 29, 2001.

Our advisor was Gertrude Tidwell. Our secretary was Kathleen Packer. The district delegates were:

District 1, Nancy Coulombe; District 2, Frances Ortiz; District 3, Beverly Cleveland; District 4, Jennie Bizon; District 6, Frances Borum; District 7, Lisa Pickell; District 8, Jo Henry; District 9, Monica Stroud; District 10, Cornealia Jansen; District 11, Denise Proffitt; District 12, Sharon Pieper; District 13, Barbara Spaulding; District 14, Karen Haan; District 15, Christine Corneluis; District 16, the last name is Bogan, but I can't read the first name; District 17 is Bonnie Wegman; District 18 is Kathleen Packer; District 19 is Janine Hensen; District 20, Minnie Boggs; District 21, Yolanda Tidwell. (Applause)

The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Americanism Awards:

Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Mountain Top, Number 29, Maryland; (Applause)

Group 2, 51 to 100 members, D. S. Burrows, Number 5, New York; (Applause)

Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Port Lucie, Number 113, Florida, (Applause)

Group 4, 201 members and over, New Port Richey, Number 78, Florida. (Applause)

The Special Americanism Award went to Micheal J. Thomas Number 5, North Carolina. (Applause)

The committee submitted the following recommendations:

1. Involve schools and community.
2. Make sure you mention that your unit sponsored and coordinated your program.
3. Spell correctly.

4. Please write so it can be read and answer all voting questions.

5. Identify all unit members participating as unit members.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, Lou. Thank you, Gertrude. Junior Activities, Jean Jackson.

MRS. JEAN JACKSON: Our chairman is Marcia Mills. Could she come up, please? Joyce Hutchinson, sorry.

As National Junior Activities Chairman this year, I really had a good time. In the national packet was the Junior Activities Report, and it will tell you all the hours that the Juniors put in.

It was really nice. The only thing that I had thoughts about was some of the units had no Juniors. I cannot believe that you didn't have grandchildren or great granddaughters, great grandchildren, or grandchildren.

If you do, when you go back, you get those little Juniors signed up. We need them. (Applause) We have Junior aps here, and if you need to sign them up here, I'll be glad to take them for you.

The other thing is we have Juniors who are working at this convention. I am so happy to see that. If those Juniors could please stand up, I mean real Juniors. (Applause)

Now in our committee, I told all the ladies that were there that they were Juniors. So, when our chairman announces your name, those are not the real Juniors, okay? The real Juniors just stood up. Thank you.

MRS. JOYCE HUTCHINSON: National Commander Carol Gray, National Adjutant Maria Tedrow, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests:

The National Junior Activities Convention Committee met in the Club Atlantic room at 10:05 a.m. on July 29, 2001.

Our advisor was Jean Jackson, and Betty Swift was elected secretary. As I call your name, please stand, and I apologize if I cannot pronounce some of these because there's one here that's sort of hard to read:

District 1, Nancy Mooney; District 2, Anita Ingram; District 3, Wanda Furbish; District 4, Elizabeth Sabatino; District 5, none; District 6, E. Betty Swift; District 7, Henrietta M. Condon; District 8, Marcia Pruitt; District 9, Mary Tyson Edwards; District 10, Ruth Hindes; District 11, Joyce Hutchinson; District 12, Joanne Mingus; District 13, Tana Penland; District 14, Donna Holmquist; District 15, Eunice Houska; District 17, Myrtle Hamilton; District 18, Joan Fletcher; District 19, Ardelle Stevens; District 20, Teresa Herrle; District 21, Debbie Huddleston. (Applause)

The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Junior Activities Award:

Group 1, 1 to 25 members, Unit 29, Oakland, Maryland. (Applause)

Group 2, 26 to 50 members, Unit 11, Oregon. (Applause)

Group 3, 51 to 100 members, Unit 4, Florida. (Applause)

Group 4, 101 and over, Unit 40, Massachusetts. (Applause)

The Junior Activities Book goes to Unit 4, Tampa, Florida. (Applause)

MRS. JACKSON: Could I just mention something about the book? We only had one Junior Activities Book. It's beautiful, it's a good book, but no competition.

Come on, ladies. Let's have some competition next year. Those little girls will work for you if you'll work with them. Please, let's have more than one book. (Applause)

MRS. HUTCHINSON: The National Miss Teenage is Ann Sobazinsky from Unit 1, Milwaulkee, Wisconsin. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please bring her up? (Applause)

MRS. ANN SOBAZINSKY: I just want to say thank you for everything. I don't volunteer for this. I do it because I am proud to help our veterans because they mean a lot to me. Thank you. (Applause)

MRS. HUTCHINSON: Would the Sergeant-at-Arms please bring the next person forward. Our National Junior Miss is Ms. Renee Carterson from Unit 5, Waukesha, Wisconsin. (Applause) She's not here, okay.

Is there somebody who wants to come forward? Is the commander from Wisconsin here?

MRS. JOANNE MINGUS: I'm Joanne Mingus, and I'm the commander of the Department of Wisconsin this year.

I am so proud of our Juniors. Annie, I mean, you can't beat her. She's a great, great volunteer. She loves what she does, and it shows in what she does.

This little girl, Renee, that won the Junior Miss, I called her grandma last night, and she was just kind of, "I wonder what's going to happen".

I can't wait to call her tonight and tell her that this is what happened. So, thank you all so much, and the committee, and Renee will be just ecstatic about this. Thank you. (Applause)

MRS. HUTCHINSON: The committee did have one recommendation. We would like to eliminate the Forget-Me-Not Drive on the report, as some units do not have -- well, they do not participate, and are automatically deducted 10 points.

We also thought there might be a possibility it could be left on there just to see what the girls do, but not deduct any points because there are a few states that have laws against solicitation and things like that.

It doesn't seem fair that some Juniors get to count it, and some don't. So we would like to see if maybe that could either be eliminated, or the point system be taken away.

There was another suggestion that maybe the Juniors could do a Forget-Me-Not Drive Mailing, and just mail the Forget-Me-Nots to people for donations, just do the insertions and that.

But that was our recommendation, to eliminate the Forget-Me-Not point system. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, Joyce. I went places this year -- some of the conventions I went to this year, they have many Juniors there.

They're helping with the convention. They're there all the time. And that's what we need to see more of them doing, involve them.

The more you get them to do now, the more active they're going to stay when they're eligible to be a senior member.

Now, we will go to the Legislative, Janet Bennett.

2ND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER JANET W. BENNETT: Good afternoon. National Commander Carol, National Adjutant Maria, National Officers, past national commanders, delegates, members and guests:

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the Legislation Convention Committee Chairman, Anita Tears from District 2. (Applause)

I also would like to thank you all for all your letters that you sent to your legislators, your e-mail and your phone calls.

I really enjoyed reading all of them, and I thank you very much, and I hope that you all keep up the good work. Thank you. (Applause)

MRS. ANITA TEARS: Good afternoon. The National Legislative Committee Convention Report. National commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates, guests of the 79th National Auxiliary Convention:

The National Legislative Committee met in Imperial Room Number V at 10:18, on July 29, 2001. Our advisor was Janet Bennett. Our secretary was Toni King.

The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Legislative Awards.

I'd like to get to this first, and then get to who helped us pick them.

Unit Number 50, Rockland Memorial, Massachusetts. (Applause)

In the category 51 to 100 members, Unit Number 94, Charles Gustafin, Florida. (Applause)

Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Unit 120, New York. (Applause)

Group Number 4, 201 numbers and over, Unit Number 20, Glendale, Arizona. (Applause)

Now that we've done that, I'd like to thank all the ladies that worked very hard. It was very difficult because there was a little bit of confusion with the legislative reports, which is in part of our recommendations.

From District Number 1, Sandy Fincel; District Number 2, Anita Tears, myself; District number 3, Pamela Cleveland; District 4, Arlene Phillips; District 6, Toni King; District 7, Winona Eastin; District 8, Maudie Wisniewski; District 9, Lynn Helms; District 10, Lorene Penermon; District 12, Patricia Schroeder; District 13, Jan Walters; District 14, Darlena Broady; District 15, Mary J. Pealer; District 16, Joan Christensen; District 17, Betty Hamilton; District 18, Anna Monson; District 19, Gloria Coltrin; District 20, Mary Choate; District 21, Sue Hollingsworth. Give these ladies a hand, please. (Applause)

The recommendations that we had were legislation needs to be a little bit more clarified. What it means is if you are sending letters or e-mails on a bill, we need to know whether it's at the federal level, state level, local level.

We need you to be very, very clear on these items. And when you're typing them out, please let us know what the bill is about and who you sent it to.

We also made a suggestion that it might be nice to have an example of a really good report sent out as an example so everyone can look it over, because there was information that was not actually correct.

Some of you thought that volunteering for VAMC went on your legislation. It really doesn't. A lot of you had really good reports, but I think you need to clarify legislation is legislation.

That means bills to the House of Representatives, which is your congress, your assemblymen, your senators.

That was the only recommendation that this committee had. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, Anita and Janet. Now we'll have the VAVS Awards. Brenda Reed.

MRS. BRENDA REED: Commander Carol, National Adjutant Maria, national officers, past national commanders, NECs, delegates and guests:

I would like to first thank Commander Carol for appointing me to this position when she became commander; for having the faith in me to learn in three weeks something that I knew absolutely nothing about.

I want to tell all of you that this has been the best year of my life despite all the tragedies that have happened in my family, because this year I have learned first hand what this organization is about. (Applause)

Whenever I walked into the hospital, when I went to your Salutes to Hospitalized Veterans, and I saw the faces of those veterans who were getting not only cards, but visitors that they had not had in a long time, I knew then that we were doing our job, and we were doing it well.

I was so grateful when I was in Wisconsin, that when they found out that I was an ICU nurse, that they allowed me into the ICU to see a gentleman who was awaiting a kidney transplant. (Applause)

I didn't think anyone could smile that big. He was just so happy. I guess he posted that picture above his bed, I don't know.

But I really enjoyed it. I really enjoyed going into your hospitals, and I really enjoyed working with the volunteers, and I really enjoyed learning about the Voluntary Service Program.

I have been asked to talk to you about something before we give out our awards. I have spoken with George Steese, whom, if he is successful in his bid for national commander, is going to push for recruitment and retention of volunteers in our VA facilities.

I informed him he was about three months too late, because I had beaten him to the gun, that I had been pushing for that since I came back from Tucson and I saw the wonderful, wonderful programs that they had to offer.

One of the big things he is wanting to work towards is home-based medical care, which is also something that I have mentioned.

When I get back to my home state of Iowa, when I get back to Des Moines, we will start our own home-based health care program, which, hopefully, will lead into a respite care program within the

next several months.

That's what we're working towards, because I have seen so many of your reports, and all of you who live so far away from these VA hospitals, you write on your reports, "We live too far from a VA hospital to volunteer".

Ladies, there are other things you can do. The biggest thing you can do is the simplest thing you can do. Call the voluntary service manager, which is now what all of the voluntary service chiefs will be called, and ask them if you can start a Good Neighbor Program in your area.

What a Good Neighbor Program is, the VA hospital will send you a list of the veterans with their addresses and telephone numbers in your area.

You split them up and you call these people two or three times a week to make sure that they're all right.

I cannot stress to you how important this is especially for a home-bound veteran. When I worked home health, I cannot tell you the horror stories of people who have fallen in their homes and have lain there for days before someone found them, before someone knew that there was something wrong.

That's something you can do in your area, especially if it's an area that is very, very far from a VA medical facility, and you cannot get there to volunteer.

The VA does have a form for you to record your hours on every time you call. If you decide to visit the person, if you decide to take them to a doctor's visit, whatever you decide to do for them, there is a form for your hours to be recorded.

You send that in to the VA hospital, and you get credit for the hours as a regular scheduled volunteer.

Another problem that we have had, and we've always heard complaints about, is that you do not receive credit for going into state veterans' homes.

At the National Advisory Committee Meeting in May in Tucson, Mr. Jim Holly, who is the new chairman of the National Advisory Committee, Mr. Jim Delgado, who is Director of Voluntary Services; and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi all made a pledge to work out a plan so that your hours can be counted when you work in a state veterans home. (Applause)

So, I know that's some very good news for a lot of you ladies, because we don't get the credit for what we do there. That's going to change.

I do have a challenge for you. I want every volunteer that is here to invite just one more person to volunteer, because you never know unless you ask.

Ladies, this year was the International Year of the Volunteers. We lost 6,000 volunteers this year, compared to the previous five years where we only lost 2,000 a year.

We need to get a handle on this, and we need to change this because this a very, very important program for our veterans and their families, and you know that.

You've been in the hospitals with your spouses or with your loved ones, and you know how much volunteers mean to these people.

So, please, just invite one person to volunteer with you, because you never know, because most of the time they don't know that there is a need.

Your voluntary service representative should have a list of what areas volunteers are needed in, and you should be able to call her and she should be able to help you.

Again, I would like to thank all of you for the hard work you've done this year. You have been amazing.

You're definitely the heart of what we're about, and I really, really, from the bottom of my heart, appreciate everything that you have done.

I appreciate all of the wonderful cards I got when I lost my sweet little nephew. I also know that God doesn't take something away that He doesn't give something back, and I will be a grandmother in November. (Applause)

If it's a boy, he will be named Taylor David after my nephew, so we are hoping. Actually, I think she's having twins -- I think she's having a girl and a boy.

Now, I would like to introduce to you your VAVS Convention Chairman for this year, Miriam Daley from District 1, Massachusetts. (Applause)

MRS. MIRIAM A. DALEY: Good afternoon. National commander and national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates, guests of this 79th National Auxiliary Convention:

Yes, the men did get one year's start on us. The National VAVS Convention Committee met in the LeMans Room at 10:00 a.m. on July 29th.

Our advisor was Brenda Reed; our secretary who graciously volunteered under pressure, Donna Reinhart.

The following people served on the committee: District 2, Helen Mazza; District 3, Donna Folcarelli; District 4, Marie Corvasce; District 6, Esther Bowers; District 7, Delores Mills-Cabral; District 8, Beatrice Martin; District 9, Harriett Hudson; District 10, Jerlean Todd; District 12, Mary Scarsdale; District 13, Donna Reinhart; District 14, Judith Perry; District 15, Marilyn Vleck; District 16, June Adema; District 17, Ramona Ganong; District 18, Toni Stewart; District 19, Robi Bishop; District 20, Patricia Hendershot.

The committee had no recommendations. They feel the committee does such great work, it just went right through, and it's perfect. (Applause)

The following units were judged for being the best in their category for the National VAVS Awards:

Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Unit 29, Mountain Top, Oakland, Maryland. (Applause)

Group 2, 51 to 100 members Unit 30, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. (Applause)

Group 3, 101 members to 200 members -- we actually had a tie -- Unit 16, Prescott, Arizona (applause); Unit 33, Kent, Washington. (Applause)

Group 4, Unit 84, Greater Daytona, Florida. (Applause)

I'd like to thank all the members of the committee. They were very studious, very hard working, and they did a great job. Thank you.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, ladies. Ethel Bussey, History Chairman, come on down. I'm not Bob Barker, and I'm not going to give you a gift, but come on down.

MRS. ETHEL BUSSEY: Hello, everyone. Okay, let's get ready for history. National Commander Carol, National Adjutant Maria, national line officers, national past national commanders, delegates and friends:

First of all, I'd like to thank Commander Carol for appointing me as the National History Chairman this year.

Knowing very little about the organization because I hadn't been a member that long, but I found out that if you want to learn something, accept an appointment or an assignment, and you'll learn a lot. (Applause)

I have enjoyed being the History Chairman this year. I've learned a lot that really goes on that I kind of bypassed before.

So, it really puts you to thinking about what the organization is all about, and how you should remember what it is all about.

Right now I would like to say our chairman for our committee is Marcia Mills. (Applause) We had some very good state history books to judge, too. It was quite difficult.

MRS. MARCIA MILLS: Good afternoon. National Commander Carol, National Adjutant Maria, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests of the 79th National Auxiliary Convention:

The National State Department History Book Convention Committee met in the Bordeaux Room at 10:00 a.m. on July 29, 2001.

Our advisor was Ethel Bussey; secretary was Marcia Mills. I'm going to read the ladies that were on the committee, and please excuse me if I get some of the names wrong, because I can't really tell what they are:

District 1, Jaqueline Burning; District 2, Patricia Weinert; District 3, Elaine Moore; District 4, Joan Sacco; District 6, Neva Langston; District 7, Marjorie Duffy; District 8, Everlene Register; District 9, Margaret Snelling; District 10, Betty

Benzing; District 11 was Marcia Mills; District 13, Mae Ewing; District 17, Hazel Rivers; District 18, Helen Parcelle; District 19, Susan Sanders; District 20, Judy Cowan; District 21, Sharon Eddy. (Applause)

I want to thank the ladies. They did a real good job.

The following state department was selected to receive the National State Department History Book Award: State Department of Florida. (Applause) State History Book Chairman, Grace McLaughlin.

MRS. EGAN: Thank you for the opportunity to come to the microphone again. My History Book Chairman is Grace McLaughlin, former commander of the state of Connecticut and the state of Florida and former NEC.

Many of you must know Grace. She has not been all together that well and said she couldn't make it here.

She handed me the book and said, "I really don't think you're going to win. Don't hand it in. This is for you."

I said, "Gracie, you put your heart and soul into this. I am not going to deprive you of having a chance to win."

I am just overwhelmed. She did a beautiful job, and thank you so much to the committee and the chairman. Thank you. (Applause)

MRS. MILLS: Out of all the history books -- I think we had a total of five -- they were all very well presented, very neat, very organized.

The only recommendation that we're going to put forth is remember when you're doing your history books, if you do not have pictures or publications available, please put a page in there that says, "Not available".

Remember in Sections 4 through 10, all pictures need to have captions. That's about the only thing that we found. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Okay, thank you very much. And now to the one that everyone has been waiting for, the Mae Holmes Awards, Renee Jones. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JONES: I'd like to ask the Convention Committee Chairman, Mildred Brown, if she would please come forward.

While she's coming down, I'd just like to make a few comments, if you don't mind. Please listen if you are the state adjutant.

The National Mae Holmes Report Form does not, does not, does not, does not go to the National Senior Vice Commander.

I received several from many of you, so be sure that you send those to the National Executive Committee.

I'd also like to remind you that Mae Holmes was a Past National Commander. In fact, she was the 32nd National Commander of the DAV Auxiliary, and she was elected commander right here in Miami Beach. I'm not sure what year.

She was from Michigan is what Carol was telling me. Thank you, Carol. Thank you for your attention. Remember, don't send it to the Senior Vice. Convention Committee Chairman Mildred Brown. (Applause)

MRS. MILDRED BROWN: Commander Carol, Adjutant Maria, Assistant Adjutant Judy, the Mae Holmes Report. National commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates, guests of the 79th National Auxiliary Convention:

The National Mae Holmes Convention Committee met in the Pasteur Room at 10:30 on July 29, 2001.

Our advisor was Renee Jones. Secretary was Susan Stulsky.

The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Mae Holmes Award:

Group 1, 10 to 50 members; Sanford, North Carolina, Unit Number 5. (Applause)

Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Sequence Number 61, Texas. (Applause)

Group Number 3, 101 to 200 members, Colette, Number 114, Texas. (Applause)

Group 4, 201 members or over, Pheonix, Unit 1, Arizona. (Applause)

The committee submitted the following recommendations:

1. Remove Junior activities from the form.

2. If you are in doubt as to whether your unit made quota, check with your unit adjutant.

I would like to thank all of the ladies that were on the committee with me. They worked hard, and as I call your name, please stand:

District 1, Susan Stusky; District 2, Lucita Christian; District 3, Marie C. Clancy; District 4, Ruth Hindes; District 5, absent; District 6, Mildred Velazquez; District 7, Marna Barnshaw; District 8, Juanita Upton; District 9, Patricia A. Wright; District 10, Barbara McDaniels; District 11, absent; District 12, Sandy Donahue; District 13, Mildred Brown; District 14, absent; District 15, Lei K. Dean; District 16, Eloise Dyer; District 17, Carolyn A. Shaver; District 18, Iris Brzezinski; District 19, Karen E. Haan; District 20, Charlene Listenbee; District 21, absent. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you. Now let's have one big hand for everybody that won an award today. (Applause) And stand up while you do it. Okay, now stand up and do it again. (Applause) That sounds better.

Now we'll have a second reading of the Constitution and Bylaws from Lucille McCarthy.

MRS. MCCARTHY: Good afternoon. I assume you all have the proposed bylaw amendment before you, the one that we are going to read again. After the reading, we will adopt it or reject it.

The proposed bylaw amendment is Article VII, Membership, Page N-29, Section 5: Membership Classification F., Transfers, Paragraph 3:

Amend by deleting "received" in the last sentence, and inserting "processed".

Article VII, Membership, Page N-29, Section 5: Membership Classification F., Transfers, Paragraph 3 would then read:

A transfer shall not take effect as to dues credit or voting strength until the beginning of the membership year following completion of the transfer. All rights of membership shall become effective when written notification of the unit's approval has been processed by National Headquarters.

Madam Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

COMMANDER GRAY: You've heard the motion. Do I hear a second?

MRS. FRANCES ORTIZ: Unit 5, Middletown, New York. I second.

COMMANDER GRAY: Frances Ortiz, Unit 5, New York, seconds the motion. Is there any discussion? All those in favor; any opposed? The motion is carried. Thank you very much. (Applause)

Evelyn Dorsey, Education Loan Fund. Evelyn is on the Nominating Committee. In her absence, Judy Hezlep will do it. Good, we need to hear from Judy.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT JUDY HEZLEP: This is the report of Evelyn Dorsey, our Education Loan Fund Chairman. The committee met on Saturday, May 5, 2001.

In attendance were the committee members for 2000-2001: National Commander Carol Gray, Immediate Past National Commander Paula Raymond, Senior Vice Commander Renee Jones and myself.

Now, this is Evelyn Dorsey writing this. Also in attendance and providing support were National Adjutant Maria Tedrow and Assistant National Adjutant Judy Hezlep.

Prior to our meeting, each applicant's eligibility was verified by Judy Hezlep through DAV and/or Auxiliary membership records.

The committee reviewed each new and renewal application for approval and determination of the loan to be granted.

Loans totalling $30,750 were granted to 27 students for the academic year 2000-2001. These students have a variety of educational goals and will be attending various colleges and universities throughout the United States.

They are all dedicated and worthy of receiving our assistance. As you are aware, higher education is not cheap.

Many parents and students are often hard pressed to come up with adequate resources for tuition, room and board, fees, textbooks and other incidental expenses.

We are, therefore, pleased to be able to offer some relief

through the Auxiliary to children of full-paid life members of the DAV or DAVA, as well as to full-paid life members of the Auxiliary.

A student must maintain a 2.0 GPA and be a full-time student with a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester to be eligible for the loan.

The loan amount can be up to $1,500 per year, subject to the availability of money in the fund.

Applications must be requested no later than March 1st for the next academic year.

The completed application must be postmarked to the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters no later than April 25th.

This year the committee made some minor revisions to the application form for simplicity and also to include the eligibility annotation of students who are applying in their own right as full-paid life members.

The revised form will be distributed for the next academic year. This year the eligibility was also changed to note that a student may be eligible through the life membership of their grandmother.

A special thank you to National Adjutant Maria and Assistant National Adjutant Judy for all of their assistance. We could not have done our job without you.

We, the committee, also thank the state departments, the units, the chapters, and members for memorial contributions and other contributions for your donations to this vital Auxiliary program. We ask for your continued support.

Eveyln B. Dorsey, Chairman, Education Loan Fund Committee, 2000-2001. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Evelyn is not in the room right now because she is serving on the Nominating Committee this year. Thank you, Judy.

At this time any donations that you might have to present for either Education Loan or the Service Support Fund will be accepted.

While they're doing that, is there anyone here who is attending their first national convention? Welcome. (Applause) Stand up, we'll give you a good hand. Thank you.

MRS. DONNA TANNER: My name is Donna Tanner. I'm the state commander from --

COMMANDER GRAY: Ladies, listen so they can hear. The stenographer needs to be able to hear this, as you do.

MRS. TANNER: My name is Donna Tanner. I'm the department commander from Massachusetts, and we have a donation for the National Ed Loan Fund, and for the Service Fund. Thank you.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, Donna. Anita Tears.

MRS. TEARS: We do this all the time. Anita Tears, New York State Department Commander. We have a few donations.

We have $498.50 for National Education and Loan Fund.

We also have $558.50 for National Auxiliary Service Fund. And from my own personal unit in Monroe County Powers, Unit 15, $100 for the Education and Loan Fund.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, Anita. (Applause) Annis Craft from Virginia.

MRS. ANNIS K. CRAFT: Thank you, Carol. We have two donations from the Department of Virginia for the Education Loan and one for the Service Support. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much.

MRS. MARJORIE DAVIES: Marge Davies, department commander. I have two checks from the Department of Ohio: $500 for the Education and Loan Fund and $1,000 for the Service Support Fund.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MRS. DORIS M. MARTELLI: Doris Martelli, the immediate past state commander of New Jersey. I have three checks in the amount of $100 for the Education and Loan Fund, the National Service Fund, and the Freedoms Foundation.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, Doris. (Applause)

MRS. MARY LOU WEBER: Mary Lou Weber, department commander of the state of North Dakota, and I have two checks, one for the Education and Loan Fund and one for the Service Fund.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MRS. BEVERLY CLEVELAND: Beverly Cleveland, past state Commander of Vermont. I have two checks, one for Ed Loan and one for the National Service Fund. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much.

MRS. MICHELLE ELLISON: I'm Michelle Ellison, Department Commander of Kentucky. I have two checks to present to you. I have one for the Education Funds for $250 and one for the Service Fund for $100.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much. (Applause) Thank you.

NEC 19TH DISTRICT DEBORAH MAZZA: I'm Deborah Mazza. I'm NEC for the 19th District. I have $100 for the National Education Loan Fund. Ladies, I collected this four cents at a time over the last two years. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Wow! Benjamin takes a nice picture, too.

MRS. ALICE F. SEARS: I'm Alice Sears, Department of Florida Commander, and I have a check for the Service Foundation for $1,000. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much.

MRS. ELIZABETH SABATINO: I'm Elizabeth Sabatino from the state of New Jersey, delivering this for the state of Delaware.

COMMANDER GRAY: This is from Delaware for the Education Loan Fund.

MRS. SANDY DOBMEIER: Sandy Dobmeier, past commander of Grand Forks, North Dakota, Unit Number 2. I have $200 for the Ed Loan Fund and $200 for the National Service Fund.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MRS. JACKIE MARTIN: Jackie Martin, and I'd like to present this check of $300 for the Educational Loan Fund from the Ernestine Schumann Heink Missouri, Unit 2.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MRS. HOLLIS: Lou Hollis, Department of Mississippi Commander, and I have two checks, one for the Educational Loan Fund and one for the Service Support Fund. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much.

MRS. IRIS BRZEZINSKI: Iris Brzezinski, adjutant, State Department of Nevada. I have three checks, one for the Ed Loan Fund, one for the National Womens Service and one for the Freedoms Foundation.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MRS. CORNEALIA JANSEN: Cornealia Jansen, commander, Michigan. On behalf of Michigan, we have $800 for the Ed Loan, $700 for the Service Support, for a total of $1,500.

Also, in memory of a dear man that Michigan lost last year, $100, Dave Smith. We miss him dearly. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, Peggy. His wife was one of our banner bearers. She carried the colors in for National, and I'm proud of her. Thank you, Peggy.

MRS. JANINE D. HENSON: Janine Henson, past state commander of Idaho, a donation for the Education Loan Fund and the Support Program.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MRS. MARY J. PEALER: Mary Pealer, Olive Burley Number 17 in Missouri; $100 for the Service Program.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you. (Applause)

MRS. CATHERINE F. WATKINS: Cathy Watkins, past state commander of Pennsylvania. I have three checks from the Department of Pennsylvania, $300 to the National Service Fund; $100 to the Education Fund and $100 to the Freedom Foundation.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much, Cathy. (Applause)

MRS. LONEITA S. SHOEMAKER: Loneita Shoemaker. On behalf of the Department of Arkansas, it's with pleasure that I present a check for the National Service Support Fund and the Education Loan Fund.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you. (Applause)

MRS. HELEN C. PARCELLE: I'm Helen Parcelle from Sunrise Mountain 13 in Los Vegas. I have two checks, one for Women's Service and the other one for Ed Loan.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MRS. JOAN K. MONROE: Department of Alabama, Joan Monroe. I have two checks, one for the National Service Fund and one for the

National Education Fund.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, Joan. (Applause)

MRS. CHRISTINE CORNELIUS: Madam Chairman, Christine Cornelius, Department of Kansas, has two checks, one for the Freedom Foundation and one for Service Funds.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MRS. GAIL SUTTON: Gail Sutton, Department of Tennessee Commander. I have one check for $50 for the Freedoms Foundation from Weakley County, Chapter 98.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MRS. SMITH: Dorothy Smith, commander, Department of Georgia. I have two checks. Both are for $150, one to the National Department Service Fund and the National Educational Fund; and a check for $50 for the Freedoms Foundation, and a check for $50 for Hospitalized Veterans Writing Program.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you. (Applause)

MRS. REED: I have a check for the Education Loan Fund in memorium of my nephew, David Simpson.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you. (Applause)

MRS. SUSAN MARIE HENRY: Susan Henry, Unit 116, Tennessee. I just came up because I wanted to write a check to the Ed Loan Fund that was not paying off my loan. I'm done; it's paid off. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: All right!

4TH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: I'm Judy Steinhouse, and I have a donation to the National Service Fund for gifts for Armando and Carol, our national commander, since I was not able to get to their testimonials; and also a donation to the National Ed Loan Fund in memory of my mother, Ruth Steinhouse. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, Judy.

MRS. RICHARD: We've just been digging in the pockets of our members that are here. Gertie Richard from Louisiana, 17. The ladies that are present in this room have donated this much to the Education Loan Fund.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much. (Applause) You will receive a total later in the convention. But, you know, having served on this committee for two years now, you don't -- unless you've served on the committee and read the struggles that these students go through to get enough money to go to school, and then when you read their application, what they have been through, they're getting a 4.0, a 3.95 grade average.

They deserve everything that we can give them, and they appreciate it more than they can say. Thank you. (Applause)

Maria, at this time, do you have any announcements?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I don't have too many announcements, except we will convene again tomorrow at 10:00 o'clock.

The Southern Caucus Breakfast will be in the Club Atlantic at 8:00 o'clock.

I want to say I would be remiss if I did not personally say thank you to those who donated not only to the Ed Loan, but to the fund that's closest to my heart, and that's Service Support.

You do not know how many applications I get, even with these membership mailings, when they write in and say, "I'm sorry, I cannot afford to pay the dues", we immediately send a letter out to them explaining the Service Support in case they need financial assistance.

And there are so many out there, because of our qualifications, that we can't help. But, the ones that you do help are truly grateful, and so are we at National Headquarters, because it has really made a difference in a lot of women's lives, and I want to thank you for that. (Applause)

If Commander Carol will bear with me one second, I always close a meeting with Jingle Bells. And we always go to -- when I go to conventions and I get the women to sing Jingle Bells, I always have the men say to me, "Did I hear Jingle Bells in that other room?"

I say, "Yes, because, you know, getting up in the morning, being able to look at that beautiful sun out there, it's Christmas."

Because, the only thing we are guaranteed is right now. We're not guaranteed ten minutes from now. (Applause)

But Betty Swift, I believe from Maryland, brought me in a little brochure on Jingle Bells, and if you'll bear with me, I'd like to read it to you.

It was written by James Lord Pierpoint. He lived between 1822 and 1893. The Pierpoint brothers -- James and John -- were the sons of a fiery abolitionist minister in Massachusetts. (Applause)

John was the pastor of the Unitarian Church in Savannah and preached an unpopular abolition message to the southern congregation.

After James' wife died, he moved to Savannah from New England to join his brother as the Minister of Music.

He courted and married Eliza Jane Purse, daughter of Mayor Thomas Purse. As the Civil War loomed, the congregation became very disenchanted with the abolition message, and John returned to New York.

At that point, the church was dissolved. James remained in Savannah and wrote several popular songs, the most notable being Jingle Bells.

This was first copyrighted as a "One Horse Open Sleigh" in 1857. When war broke out, he served with the Isle of Hope Regiment in the Confederate Army.

His father became a Union Army chaplain and a favorite of Mary Todd Lincoln, since they both shared an interest in the supernatural.

The family seemed to run in wealthy circles, which is evident by James' nephew, J. Pierpoint Morgan, gaining prominence as a famous financier and capitalist.

James asked that he be buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery in the same plot as his brother-in-law, Thomas Purse, Junior.

Purse had been killed along with Frances Bartow at the first Battle of Bull Run. When James died in 1893, at the age of 71, his wishes were honored.

Each grave is marked with a simple cross of a confederate veteran. I thought maybe you would be interested in that.

So, when we sing Jingle Bells, there's a lot of history through it.

COMMANDER GRAY: At this time, other than door prizes, we will be recessed. We will convene tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 2:40 o'clock p.m., July 30, 2001.)

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

July 31, 2001

The Third Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in Fountainebleau Ballroom C/D of the Fountainebleau Hilton Resort, Miami Beach, Florida, Tuesday morning, July 31, 2001, and was called to order at 10:08 o'clock a.m. by Commander Carol A. Gray.

COMMANDER GRAY: Good morning, how are you?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Again, good morning. I'm Maria Tedrow, your National Adjutant.

Someone this morning approached me about a Forget-Me-Not ticket. We still can sell two. Is the lady that has the one that she wants to sell in the room? Are you the one that has the tickets you want to sell? You want to buy?

Do I hear $10.00? Do I hear $20.00? Do I hear $25.00? You want to buy a ticket, and you want to buy a ticket, and you want to buy a ticket. So, that's four tickets. You want three?

Okay, so that's three tickets we're talking about. Okay, have four tickets. Come up here after the meeting, please. Now, you want two? Do I hear $50.00?

You want two tickets, so I think we have got a total of five tickets; is that correct? Okay. We can handle that, but we cannot take any more tickets.

Five tickets is all that we can take, and then they are gone, so see us right here after the meeting. We'll see that you get

tickets.

Okay, has everybody got a workbook or a short workbook? I'd appreciate it if you would look at the cover.

Any questions you want to ask any of the officers up here about their programs or about bylaws, feel free to do that. That's why we're here this morning.

A lot of people do not come to our fall conferences and a lot of people do not go to the state conventions, but they are very active in their unit. So that's why we're trying to make time for a workshop.

The only problem is that some of the people that should be here are never here, but that's true at a state conference or anything else. So, just remember to take the information back with you, and get those questions in your mind, because you're going to be able to ask anybody up here a question.

But what you'll see on that cover is two little men at the top of the cover, and it says "What happened to communication?" Do you see that?

That's our biggest problem. We've got the knowledge, we've got the information, but nobody communicates that information. Nobody gives it out.

We all think that it's our personal information, and we don't want anybody to know. We don't want anybody to know because we want to keep it a secret because that makes us a little stronger than the other members of the unit, and that's wrong.

You know how you become strong and powerful? You delegate your duties. That's how you maintain the strength of the unit, you delegate your duties.

And when an adjutant -- We're going to talk about adjutants, and Shelia is going to talk about some things about judge advocate duties and things of that kind.

When you have an adjutant that does not bring the mail to a meeting, and it continues to be that way; or does not open the mail and distribute it at a meeting -- do you understand what I'm saying -- and continues to do that, then you have an adjutant that needs to be replaced. This is her duty. She's getting this mail, and it is to come into the unit. It's not her personal mail.

Now, I'm not picking solely on adjutants, because all the officers are at fault in one way or the other. But right now I'm talking about adjutants.

If you do not bring your material into that meeting, and if you cannot make that meeting, if you do not see that that material is sent to that meeting, and you continue to keep your unit blindfolded as to what is going on, you are not accepting the responsibility of your office, and you do not deserve the title of adjutant.

I'm going to be very plain. You do not deserve that title, because you're not doing your job. When the unit gets that mail, it goes to an adjutant.

And I've been asked dozens of times, "Why the adjutant? Why can't we have the commander? Why can't we have the treasurer?"

It was decided a few years ago, when reps went into states and they said, "We're not getting the mail" -- even a state representative, unless they had a total list, did not know how to answer that, because they didn't know who was getting the mail either.

At that time anybody that the commander wanted to get the mail, got the mail. So, it was decided that the adjutant is the recording secretary, and everything comes into her. So, she is responsible for the mail.

So, if a state commander is approached by a unit, and that unit says, "We don't know anything because we never get the mail", what does the state commander tell that woman: "Go back to your adjutant".

There's no doubt who's getting the mail. She's the only one getting the mail. And when she does get the mail, she should open it up.

She should inform the commander as to what the contents of that mail is. She should inform the treasurer if she has anything there for the treasurer.

And those bulletins that all these chairman work so hard to print up, they're not her possession. They're not her paper. Why does she want to hold on to all of that paper?

You have a unit meeting and it goes like this:

"Does the Americanism Chairman have anything to say?"

"No, not at this time."

"Does Community Service have anything to report?"

"No, I don't."

"Does Legislation have anything to report?"

"No, not this month."

How many of you have been to unit meetings like that, and let's be honest now; let's put up the hands. Okay.

Your adjutant every month gets bulletins. She gets bulletins on Americanism. She may get a bulletin on Legislation. She may get a bulletin on VAVS.

What that adjutant needs to do is get rid of that paper. Give that VAVS report to your Hospital Chairman in your unit. Give that Legislative Report to the Legislative Chairman in that unit.

Then when you call upon them to give a report, if they have nothing, they can at least read that bulletin; rather than putting it all up on the front of the table and saying "Here's a bunch of junk from National. If you want to read it, it'll be up here after the meeting".

And you know how much of that gets read. Nothing. But see, what you're doing by giving these bulletins to the various chairmen, you're getting them involved.

They begin to look forward to the mail, and eventually they'll start coming up to the adjutant and saying, "Was there anything in the mail for Legislation this month?", or "Was there anything in the mail for Americanism this month?"

They're getting involved. Then let that chairman keep that paper. It doesn't belong to the adjutant. Let the chairmen keep that.

Then at the end of the year, if she is no longer the Americanism Chairman and a new Americanism Chairman is appointed, let her turn those reports over to the new Americanism Chairman, because it may give her some ideas on how to run her program.

So, it solved two things. It has gotten the membership involved. It has gotten rid of the paper that the adjutant doesn't have to carry anymore, and you no longer have it up here where you say, "You know, if you want to read it, here it is."

It keeps the unit informed. We can operate -- and I've told states before. The state needs their units. Every unit that disbands because of inactivity or because somebody cannot or will not hold office weakens this whole organization.

You may not think that a unit disbanding in say -- for want of a state because I'm looking right at them -- Georgia, doesn't affect Pennsylvania. You're wrong.

Every unit that disbands just makes us that much weaker. So, what you want to do is make members feel they're getting involved, that they've got a say in the organization.

Now, I'm going to skip back and forth. I'm going to talk about national executive committeewomen for a minute because a question was asked of me.

There were newly elected national executive committeewomen elected at this convention for the odd- numbered states. Of course, the even numbered will elect next year.

We have two functions that a national executive committeewoman must attend. One is the fall conference, and one is the national convention.

Her transportation -- and she's given some expense money to attend both -- so she is given her round trip transportation, and whatever the Finance Committee decides to give her for expenses, that's what she gets.

We did not pay per diem like the DAV. She must submit receipts for everything to account for the money she gets.

If she doesn't have receipts and she spends money, she can't just put it on her expense statement and say, "I spent this and I don't have any receipts", because she's not going to get paid for

it.

If she has money left over, it must be turned back to the national organization. If a national executive committeewoman -- and I address this especially to the national executive committeewomen -- if for some reason they cannot be at a fall conference or a convention, it is their responsibilities to immediately notify national headquarters and their alternate, because the alternate does not get paid.

Everybody understand that? So, if a national executive committeewoman cannot be here or at a fall conference, she must notify the national headquarters and her alternate.

Then I, in turn, send the check and the expense money to the alternate. If a national executive committeewoman comes in and decides she's going to just get elected and leave -- and we've had that happen -- and not be here for the installation, and the alternate has to take over -- of course, she's not installed anyway.

She's not legal until she is installed, but if the alternate then has to take over her duties, then that NEC is not going to keep all that money, you can believe me, because that alternate deserves some of that money, because the NEC did not do her job.

An NEC is required to be here from the beginning of the convention to the end of the convention; from the beginning of the fall conference to the end of the fall conference.

And they'll say, "Well, why?" Because you never know when a national executive committee meeting must be called again.

A problem may rise that would result in having a closed executive session, and the national executive committeewomen have got to be there.

So remember, if you have been elected as a national executive committeewoman, and for some reason you cannot be at a national convention or a fall conference, it is your duty to notify national headquarters, and then notify your alternate.

Any pertinent information that you have received from national should be transferred to her, that she may need for the convention or the fall conference, such as an agenda or a schedule. Do we all understand that?

How many people are new here today? Stand up. (Applause)

Like I said, here's a little workshop. I'm not going to read verbatim. You people can read, but the first one is "Did You Know", and these are things that are important to the units especially.

When you take this back to your unit, make sure you keep it in the file. It is not your personal book. Keep it in a file within the unit so they can use it.

It discusses the fact that you can request labels. If you have a mailing to go out for membership; if you're going to have a membership drive; or you're going to vote; you're going to have an election and you need labels, all you to do is request by letter -- we prefer letter or fax.

You notice I didn't say e-mail because we have to download the e-mail and file it anyway, so we prefer letter or fax -- that you would like labels for your unit.

And I must know why you want them, whether you want them for an election or for a membership drive. And we'll send them out to you free of charge; there's no charge for it.

You can get the labels and the listing, and that saves a lot of typing. So, you're entitled to that. And we even pay the postage. Thank you, Commander Carol. Did you know that each senior member, whether they're current or delinquent, must be notified of an election?

And people say, "Well, we have members in our unit that live clear out in California, and they're not coming. Why do I have to send them a notification?"

Because you accept their dues. Now, if you accept their dues, and they're not worth the thirty-three, thirty-four or thirty-five cent stamp, then you don't think too much of that member, do you?

They are entitled to know when you are having an election. Every member in the unit is also entitled to know when you decide you are no longer going to have the meeting where you have it, and

you're going to change the meeting night and the meeting place.

It's not enough to pick up a phone. Even though it does not say it in the bylaws, that should go out to each member in written form, also: "On such and such a date, the unit voted to change the night of the meeting", or "change the location of the meeting".

And every member should be notified of that. So, you've actually got two things there that they should be notified by mail.

And this is not in the bylaws either, but I'm going to tell you this, another thing that they should be notified about is if you decide or if you've been discussing disbanding, then a notice should go out to every member saying, "At the next meeting, we are going to have a discussion whether we hold on to our charter and find officers, or whether we disband".

They're entitled to know that. Now, of course, you've got people out in California that aren't coming to that meeting, but they're entitled to know.

My life membership is in Pennsylvania. I'm also a member of Ohio. But every year, that unit that I belong to in Pennsylvania, sends me a notice of their election, every year.

And why? Because I'm a member of that unit. So remember, if they're paying you money, if they're a diligent member and keeping their membership up to date, or even if you never see them, they're still entitled to know what's going on in that unit.

Fundraising, we do not approve fundraising. The Auxiliary does not approve fundraising, because that has to come from the parent organization. However, I do need a copy in my file where you have requested in writing a fundraiser, and you have received approval for the fundraiser.

So, when you're getting all that back, make sure national headquarters gets a copy of the request and the approval.

And why? Because you may want labels. I'm not going to send them to you unless I have a copy of that in my file.

One thing at national headquarters is the DAV will not send out Auxiliary labels without Auxiliary okay. So, if we don't have something in our file, you won't get the labels.

So, read this carefully. I don't expect you to get it all today, and we're not going to discuss it all today, but there may be something here that you have questions about and you'll have time to read it.

The next page, of course, is just a little information you may not have known about the flag that I picked up.

Then we have types of eligibility over here on the third page. Now, I want you to follow me closely on this. I've had questions why we do not take the spouses of female veterans. Was anybody going to ask me that question today?

The reason we do not accept the male spouse or father of a female veteran is because the DAV Bylaws prohibit it at this time.

In the DAV Constitution it says they will recognize a "Women's Auxiliary". I think five years ago, it was on the floor at the National Convention, and it was passed.

But because it's in the Constitution, it needs, what is it, two-thirds, or three-fourths? Three-fourths, okay. I've gotten that written down there.

Although it passed on the Convention Floor, it needed ratification of three-fourths of the chapters then in existence. Do you understand what I mean?

Every chapter got a letter stating that this had been passed on the Convention Floor, and they were to vote yea or nay if they accepted it.

It was not ratified by the chapters. So that's why at this time we still do not have males within the organization.

The way it was presented, I think, was something about all relatives, and I said, "Well, we would not go along with that because we don't accept all relatives now".

We would go right along our lines that we do now. If that passed on the DAV Floor and was ratified, we accept the mother, so, therefore, we would accept the father.

We would accept a sister, so, therefore, we would accept a brother. But we don't accept nieces and, you know, nieces twice removed and all that now.

But at this time -- and make no mistake, don't go back and say that we can take male spouses because we get this every once in awhile. They'll come in and we have to turn them back, send them back.

We do not accept the male counterpart of the veteran, whether it's the father, the brother, the husband, the son. Everybody understand that? Question.

DELEGATE: In today's society we have a lot of blended families. I qualify under my father, and I have a husband that has children, so they're my stepchildren. And my stepchildren have daughters.

I don't understand. What my mom has told me is that it's not blood. But I would like to see and would like know why can't our stepchildren come underneath us?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: At this time we do not accept stepchildren unless they're legally adopted. Now if they were your children -- and this is what I want you to understand; listen closely.

Everybody thinks that it all has to go through the DAV. Once the connection or the affiliation has been made with the DAV; in other words, if a wife joins the Auxiliary because her husband belongs to the DAV, and they are her children, her children, even though they're his stepchildren, but they are her children, they can join.

But they don't join through him. They join through their mother.

MRS. JOANNE C. JOHNSON: My name is Joanne Johnson from District 20. And my concern, first of all, is by not letting males into the DAVa, are we in jeopardy as a non-profit organization of practicing discrimination of a gender of males?

Also, I inquired about the national vote that was held at the last -- whatever it was, three or four years ago -- and our chapter commander did not receive a letter asking about the voting.

I'm also wondering if that is a possibility that other commanders did not receive it as well. As we grow older in this organization, I can see that we're going to start losing members; and by allowing males to come in, it would increase our membership, I feel, significantly.

But my main concern is that all chapters did not receive the letter in order to vote.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: May I say one thing on that? First of all, I can understand what you're saying about losses and things of that kind, but that is something that would have to go with the DAV because it's their bylaw.

As far as the voting, I was informed that votes went out to all chapters, and they had receipts for all chapters.

Now, that's all I can tell you. That would be something you would have to discuss with the DAV because we had no control of the mailing.

That is not our job, so that would have to be discussed with the DAV. The chapter commander now, or whenever, might not have been the chapter commander at that time; or the adjutant may have changed because I don't know what mailing list they used; you know, whether they sent it to the commander, or whether they send it to the adjutant, because believe it or not, I don't get involved with the DAV any more than I have to.

I ask them not to get involved with the Auxiliary more than they have to, and we work fine that way, you know. I saw the letter. I know it went out, and that's all I can tell you.

But that's something that would have to be discussed with the parent organization. As far as a lawsuit, that would have to be discussed with the parent organization, too, because it's in their bylaw.

However, I will tell you one thing. There have been lawsuits, there was a lawsuit. It is not quite settled yet. And it was against us, and it was for all the wrong reasons.

I have no objection to men joining this organization. In fact, I said whenever they allow the men, then I'm just going to comp every DAV member.

But, it was for all the wrong reasons that he wanted to bring suit. That's over with now. But his reasoning was he wanted to be

an Auxiliary member, and he wanted to be an Auxiliary member because they happen to have a bar. (Laughter)

Because he was a non-member, he could only sit at that bar as long as his wife was in a meeting. When she left, he had to leave, too. And he wanted to be able to come into that bar every day, and drink and play cards. So he was going to bring suit.

Now, to me, that's wanting to join for the wrong reason entirely. I've had men call me and tell me their story about they are the caretaker of their wife and everything, and I can understand that.

They've also told me they'd like to get involved with the Auxiliary because they feel they've got the same problems they have. They'd like to have someone to talk to.

But I'm going to bring a question to you. Are our Auxiliaries understanding enough that we're really a talking therapy unit or are a lot of the units bickering?

So, we have to think about that. A lot of our members come to a unit meeting because sometimes that's the only time they get out of the house.

They're so busy taking care of their husband or their brother or whatever -- that one night is the only night that they can actually call their own, and they come to a unit meeting because there are other women in the same position as they are.

So, we've got to start remembering this when we have unit meetings. It's not the case of "I don't like this person", and "I don't like that person; and I can't stand her and she can't do this job".

We're only asking everybody to get along for a couple of hours. You do not have to invite them to your house. You do not have to give them a room overnight.

We're just asking to get along with you for a couple of hours because this is an organization, and you don't take all the problems out the door. You don't put them on the public streets for everybody to know about. Anything that happens within a unit should stay within a unit. It shouldn't even be discussed with the DAV. (Applause)

When my husband was living, he went to a meeting and so did I. We'd come home and we never discussed whether we had an argument in the Auxiliary or whether he had an argument.

That meeting was enjoyable and it was over with. We weren't going to have another meeting until the following month.

But we were both dedicated, and that's the way it should be. And that's some of the problem that we have within our units. I'm getting off the line here, and I don't mean to. But I'm talking seriously.

We try to bleed over, either you have Auxiliary members that try to control a chapter -- and we have them, we have them -- or you have chapters who put their thumb down on Auxiliary units and say "You're not going to do this". We have them, too.

"You will operate this way because I am the DAV." We are two separate but together organizations, if that makes any sense to you.

If the DAV says you must accept male counterparts, hey, we'll take them. There's no problem at all, no problem at all.

I think I answered that on the next page where it says "Why Don't We?" So, there's your answer to why we don't take males at this time.

But getting on that same subject -- this is drifting -- a lady in Georgia a few years ago sent us an application. We didn't know she was a lady. The application came in with the name "Arthur".

She didn't specify anything expect that she was eligible through herself, Arthur. So it went back because we said, "We cannot accept male applications at this time."

The application came back again with no explanation, and, of course, we sent it back the second time. I went to a Georgia convention, and when I walked in the lobby, this lady came up to me and she said, "Mrs. Tedrow, I am Arthur!" (Laughter)

So, I said, "Well, you just give me that application and I'll carry it back with me." Question?

MRS. BEVERLY A. BARRON: I wanted to ask you this before I

have a senior moment and forget it. I'm going back to the fundraisers.

It's confusing to so many people. It says in our bylaws that if you don't have a contract and you're not going to make $5,000, you still have to go through the chapter.

I understand that. Does that need to go to the state DAV Headquarters and the National Headquarters?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: No. On a unit level, the units have a better deal than the states do. On a unit level, I believe it says that if you expect to make $5,000 or less, all you need is the parent chapter's approval.

Then the DAV Department must be notified within a certain amount of time before that. They don't have to approve it, but they must be notified.

MRS. BARRON: Do we notify them, or does the DAV?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Well, see, Mr. Wilson and I have always talked about that. I've always said that once the unit does it's part and gets the approval, they shouldn't have to go any further. That should be up to the DAV.

But a lot of states expect the Auxiliary to go ahead and do that. They've gotten one approval, and they need to get the other.

So, that's all I can tell you, Bev. I really can't handle it. The way I think it's set up in most states is they feel the Auxiliary needs to make all of those contacts.

But I feel that the Auxiliary has done its part. Once it has submitted and gotten approval, then it should be up to -- because it's their bylaws.

On a state level, it's much more stringent, because the state has to get approval for everything. Even if they're only going to have a small bazaar that's going to net them $100, they have to have approval from the parent organization, the DAV State Department and they also have to have approval from the National Executive Committee.

Now, that may change; I don't know. There's a possibility that that may change at this convention as far as the DAV, where the state will only have to have -- a state Auxiliary will only have to get the state department's approval, and it will not have to go any further.

If that is a change that the DAV makes, then even though we haven't changed it in our bylaws, it would supersede us.

So, where it says now that the state department must get approval from the -- when the Auxiliary State Department must get approval for every fundraiser by their parent state department, and then it must go on to their National Executive Committee, there may a possibility that the National Executive Committee will be eliminated, and all the state will have to do is get approval from their state department.

Do you understand what I'm saying? I've confused you, haven't I?

MRS. LESLIE DUMAS: Leslie Dumas from Arizona. My question is when our unit is having a fundraiser, we always get approval from the parent organization.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: In writing?

MRS. DUMAS: Right. Yes, I do get it in writing. Then they're telling me that I have to send it to the Finance Committee for approval of the Finance Committee in order to have our fundraiser.

Why should we have to ask for approval from the Finance Committee because we're not having a fundraiser? Maybe at the most, we would raise $300.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Well, at this time all I can tell you is that on the DAV side, every chapter can make its own bylaws, and every state department can set up its own bylaws.

So if it's in the state department of the DAV's Bylaws that's what you've got to do, that's what you've got to do.

MRS. DUMAS: Okay. Thank you.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: If there's a mandate or anything, that's another reason they want to know. The DAV does not have standard bylaws like we do, where you can go into one state and look at your bylaw book and answer a question.

They have their own. They draw up their own bylaws on the chapter level, and they can put almost anything in there they want, as long as it doesn't conflict with national.

DELEGATE: Hi, Maria. Since we're talking a lot on the DAV, do you know if they have updated their potential list for us, membership list?

I used it two years ago, and it was pretty outdated. I got a lot of deceased members off of it.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: You mean our prospect listing that they sent out to you for membership? I want to say something; that when they went over to the new system about a year and a half ago, our prospect system was lost.

DELEGATE: I must have gotten it just before it got lost.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Before it got lost.

DELEGATE: Yes, probably before, but I sent out 3,300 things.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: And the reason that you're getting -- they match it. Whenever we send out a prospect listing, or as close as we can get to one, they match it against the DAV.

They have a way of matching to see if there is a female in the household within ten years of their age, or either lower or higher.

DELEGATE: I realize we've got two separate lists. One was a spouse, and actually one was the children.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Right. And if people do not send in their deceased members, we don't take them off.

DELEGATE: So, you really don't know if they've had it up updated since a couple of years ago?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: No, All I do is whenever you send in and you ask -- what I recommend is that you ask for the members that are in the national-at-large and the state-at-large if you're going to do a membership drive.

And also ask for the net prospect file because even if you run into a bunch of deceased, it's information that you need and we need so that they don't get it again; because as soon as we get it, we purge them off the list.

MRS. COULOMBE: Nancy Coulombe, Massachusetts, Cape Cod. This is a question regarding the units and the grievance procedure, if there is one.

If there's a problem within the unit, what is the chain of command among the membership within the unit?

This is a two-part question. Then if that procedure is not followed and it's carried over, say, into a state convention or into a state situation where a unit difficulty of a personal nature or personality clashes, and this is carried over into a convention and into a state department setting, how do you deal with that at the unit level when something has been brought outside of the unit without a procedure first within the unit?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I'm sure that maybe Shelia can talk more on that. I'm not quite sure, Nancy, what you mean. Are you talking about a unit meeting with personal grievances involved?

MRS. COULOMBE: Right, right, personalities involved that never were basically addressed.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: But you can feel it and you know it's there, and they're at each other's throat every once in awhile.

MRS. COULOMBE: Yes, and all of sudden it's out at the convention, and everybody in the world knows about something that's never even been addressed within the unit.

When we get back to that unit, do we write a letter accordingly, that this is not according to the good of the order or Robert's Rules of procedure? We're not quite sure how to proceed with this situation.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Well, first of all, on further back through this book, I have commander and senior vice commander, and I kind of lay out the duties for all of them.

First of all, you have a commander. A commander's principal role in a unit is to be non-prejudicial. She is supposed to be neutral at this meeting.

The second thing is she is to preside at the meeting, and she is to keep order at the meeting. So, if you have a couple members that are, you know, then you need a commander to gavel them down and just flat say, "There will not be any personal or personality

problems brought before this unit meeting."

Your unit meeting is strictly business. Now, if it overlaps out and becomes involved, and it gets to the place where it needs some attention, then you always go to state first.

You always go to state first and ask for help. You never come to national, you never write directly to me because you know what I do?

I turn around and send it to state. We don't want to get involved in it. We feel you've elected officers, and they should be doing it. If they need help, we're glad to help, but it goes to the state.

Now, let me say one other thing on this, and I've told state commanders this. Do not go on hearsay. Never go on hearsay. If someone says "Someone told me that this person did this" -- and I'm talking to unit commanders and state, both -- and someone else comes and says, "I heard that she did this", forget it.

Don't get yourself in the middle of hearsay. If they are willing to document and put signature to it, then it has value.

But unless you are actually present at that time and you're the one that's filing the complaint, do not depend on hearsay, because you will get right in the middle of it.

And you don't know which side is right. So, what I'm saying is if you've got something that's really bursting out and causing a problem, and it has gone beyond the unit borders, which it shouldn't have -- apparently, it was not settled there.

So someone, if they feel it's important enough, has to sit down, document and give the information and send it on to the state asking for help.

MRS. COULOMBE: What if it's the commander? What if it's the unit members; what if it's the commander that's bringing the information out?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: She is no different than any other member.

MRS. COULOMBE: Who writes the letter to the state in that case, or is it brought in at the unit level?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I would suggest that probably you have an executive meeting on your unit level first and discuss it there.

If it still won't help, I would say probably the officers or even the membership could write the letter.

MRS. DARLENA B. BROADY: Darlena Broady from Minnesota. I want to go back to the disbandment of a unit.

I've got some questions and I want some clarification on them. If an Auxiliary decides to disband, and it's voted on, and it's passed, can that Auxiliary legally later spend their money? And if they do, what procedure does the department follow? That's number 1.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Okay, can I answer that one first? First of all, if the unit -- and Shelia may have to help me on this. This is a time frame deal.

If you vote to disband and the unit says it is disbanding, the majority of the unit says it is disbanding and that vote is carried, it's too late to spend the money.

You don't have a unit anymore. You cannot spend the money after you have disbanded.

MRS. BROADY: What if they do spend the money? What do you do, legally, bypass it, let it go?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: There, again, we don't have attorneys or anything, and we don't have inspector generals, and people like that that can go in.

But the thing is you would need minutes to document that. You would need a treasurer's report to find out where that money went. You'd need to know who signed those checks.

And also, you would need to know if a letter went out to all the membership that they were going to disband.

Like I said, it's not in your bylaws that you have to notify every member that you're going to discuss disbanding.

But it's only right, if you belong to a unit, that you are informed that they are going to discuss disbanding the Auxiliary at the next meeting. Now, if you don't choose to be there, that means you don't care, but you still need to be notified.

MRS. BROADY: Okay. The other one is say if the same

Auxiliary member has a place in the state roster, and the department has -- well, she's an elected person in the Auxiliary in the state, and she is put into state-at-large.

What procedure does the department go through or how does a department handle that to get her off the roster?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: If she is a state officer, and her unit has disbanded, and she's in the state-at-large, her office is immediately vacated.

MRS. BROADY: Well, if she doesn't let you know that she has been put in a state-at-large, should a letter still be sent out?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: A letter does go out to every member. Let me talk about disbanding. First of all, a unit can send in to us and say, "We have voted to disband".

We do not take the charter at that time. We send a letter to the state, and we ask the state department -- see if you can down there, set up a time and everything, see if you can go down there and reactivate that unit".

Then only when the state writes us a letter and says, "Pull the charter", do we take it. Now once we've pulled a charter, every member of that unit, every member gets a letter stating that the charter has been revoked; they have been placed in the state-at-large, and they will be issued a new card.

And if that charter is revoked officially on our dockets, and she's in the state-at-large, she must vacate all offices and appointments that she holds. She is not a member of a chartered unit any longer.

MRS. GERTIE RICHARD: Maria, Gertie Richard, Louisiana Unit 17. According to name changes on the mailings of the address labels that you sent out, who do we notify of name changes?

I'm getting the proper name from the Auxiliary, but the mailing labels have the wrong name.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: You mean those real pretty returns?

MRS. RICHARD: Yes, they don't have my correct name and address.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: What we would like you to do is send it back into us to make sure, because have you ever given to the DAV in any way, like a donation or anything?

Okay, we have several lists around headquarters. We have our list, and the DAV has a list, and then they we have a fund-raising list.

And so if that comes in to us, we change ours, but that doesn't always affect the address labels, so we have to take it to a different department. If you submit it again, we'll see what we can do.

MRS. HARRIET R. UNGER: Good morning. Harriet Unger, Unit 40, Florida. Back to eligibility. Just for clarification, it doesn't refer to me, but clarification.

If I marry a veteran and become a member of the Auxiliary, my children, not from another man, are eligible. My daughters are eligible through my membership.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Through you, and that's what they put on the application.

MRS. UNGER: Now, is my mother also eligible?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: No, it goes down, but it doesn't go up. It works down, but it doesn't go up, so your mother wouldn't be eligible, no.

MRS. UNGER: In other words, my granddaughters are eligible --

ADJUTANT TEDROW: All of them, right.

MRS. UNGER: But their mother isn't, because she's not my daughter?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Right. She said her granddaughters are. Your granddaughters are eligible, but they're not eligible through their granddaughter.

Is it your daughter that you're talking about? Your daughter-in-law? She would not be eligible, no.

MRS. ELLISON: My name is Michelle Ellison. I'm from Kentucky. I'd like to know about these pocket calendars that national is sending out. A lot of us didn't receive them. I wanted to know why not.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: A lot of you didn't receive them, and you

want to know why not. Well, I'll tell you well what, so do we. We'd like to know why not.

The problem with our fundraiser, we have -- now we have like 200,000 plus members, but we can only mail to 62,000 of those members because a few years ago the DAV entered into a contract with the state department DAVs.

They said that they would not double mail into a household. So, if your husband is getting anything from the DAV, Michelle, you're not going to get it.

Now, that doesn't mean we won't put you on a special list. So, if you weren't on our labels, just send it in to national headquarters and tell us, and we'll put you on a special order mailing and you'll get them.

But we cannot automatically mail into you. I think it's a shame, because we've got all these members out here and we can only mail out to 62,000 of them.

MRS. ELLISON: Well, a lot of people wanted to know. There's a lot of officers and --

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Yes, you tell them that they more or less follow the magazine, and they only send one magazine into a household.

So when they do a fundraiser, they use that listing. If you get a magazine, you get the labels. If you don't get a magazine, you don't get them.

Judy just said that some of you have requested that calendar, and we cannot get it for you because it was printed outside, and it was personalized outside, so we cannot get them for you.

I'm sorry, I would like to mail it to all our members, even if a slew of them came back and said "I don't want it." But we have a lot of them out there that would like to have it, and we don't know who they are.

We're going to have a very nice package go out right around the holidays, a really nice package. I think you'll enjoy it.

MRS. PATRICIA C. WEINERT: Pat Weinert, Unit 5, District 2. I have two things I want to say. Number 1, a suggestion would be if national can put together a small brochure on the main points, or all the points, and ins and outs of fundraising, getting letters and so forth, that would be a particular help since everybody is dealing with that.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: It's in the bylaws as to the procedure to get approval for a fundraiser. It's in that little blue book.

MRS. WEINERT: Really, okay. Sorry, I'll read it. (Laughter)

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Page U-13 explains it real well, and you got one if you registered. It's in your packet. It's in that knapsack.

MRS. WEINERT: Yes, and thank you very much for that.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: That's okay.

MRS. WEINERT: Here's the next thing. We have a neighboring unit that has been disbanded recently, and our unit is thinking of sending each of those members of that former unit a handwritten invitation to join our unit, to participate at meetings, send them a little map, phone number and address and so forth.

And we -- I forgot the question. (Laughter) We wanted to include a completed, but obviously not signed, transfer form. So, according to what you said, we would not fill this out as transfer from their former unit number to our unit.

They would now automatically be an at-large, so we'd fill this out as at-large?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: If the unit officially disbanded --

MRS. WEINERT: Yes.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Okay, I'm saying if there's no longer a charter, they are in the state-at-large unless they have decided to transfer.

Once we send that letter out to them, we put a transfer slip in there and tell them if they wish to transfer into a unit within their area, to fill out the transfer and submit it. So, that goes to the members that are in the state-at-large.

MRS. WEINERT: We just thought we'd do that extra.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I don't see a problem with that. Like I said, we do do that. And then, members, whenever you want a

listing for a membership drive for a unit, you can request from the state-at-large and the national-at-large, but always in writing.

Always include the zip codes. We will not send them out unless we have zip codes, so you need the zip codes within your area. That's so you don't infringe some place else in the state.

MRS. WEINERT: And you can get that from the post office. Thank you.

MRS. HELEN MAZZA: Helen Mazza from Unit 118. I'd like to go back to membership. Is there any way we can vote, or maybe bring to the floor of having daughters-in-law joining the ladies Auxiliary?

I mean, you have sons. Let's say you have ten sons. That's 10 women in the house that can't join because --

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I wish I had ten sons. (Laughter)

MRS. MAZZA: I'm just saying is there any way we could do that because there's a lot of ladies that can join if they were allowed to.

I mean, you said granddaughters, daughters, so forth and so on; why not daughters-in-law? They participate in the veteran's family; they're at every function, every convention, everything.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: It would take a bylaw change. You'd have to have it drawn up in proper form and voted on, and then submitted to the National Headquarters to submit to the Interim Committee.

MRS. MAZZA: When can we do that? Can we do it?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: You're members, anybody can do that, sure. You can do it at your unit meeting. Is that correct, Shelia?

She's right, the problem would be the eligibilities in our constitution, and there it would take two-thirds again. So, we'd have to get ratification from every unit across the country.

MRS. MAZZA: And I think if you do that, they will participate. Everybody would want that.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: You think every unit would want it?

MRS. MAZZA: I'm positive they would.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Do you want me to say something, Helen, and I'm not being cute. Do you know that we probably wouldn't get a response from 50 percent of the units because they don't read the mail or don't bother with it.

MRS. MAZZA: I'm surprised. I think if you'd ask everybody here, they would say they would.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: A few years ago -- correct me if I'm wrong -- a few years ago we put on the national convention floor a change that a national commander could appoint a chaplain rather than elect.

I feel that a chaplain should be non-biased, she's a religious advisor, and that would be another appointment for the commander. It passed on the convention floor, but then we found out it's in the constitution, so it died.

But, I mean, anything is worth a try, but the thing is it would have to be ratified by the units all over the country.

But it has to start some place. It could start with the vote of the unit, a majority vote of the unit or the state department and be submitted in proper form.

When I said that passed on the floor, I meant the "ayes" were more than the "nays", but we didn't have enough "ayes" to send out the ratification. Any other questions?

Okay, let's go to the next page. I don't know whether you're following me or not, but you're going to see something here called an initiation card.

Let's keep going until you see this little form here. Now, do you see that form? Okay, we were supposed to have them here at the national convention, but another box got brought in instead by mistake. So, see, we make mistakes.

This is a new form that has been drawn up. You can request them through national headquarters if you want to. They're free of charge.

What this is, is we now have a big problem within one state -- and it isn't the first state that we've had it in -- and it always happens at election time when members are questioned as to whether they have been initiated or not.

They're told they cannot vote because they were not initiated.

All this card does is when a member is initiated -- and where must she be initiated? At a unit meeting.

When she is initiated, of course, it's supposed to be entered into the minutes. I always suggest that maybe you have a log, a journal or something, and add it in there, too, because sometimes you have to go way back through the minutes.

But this in a form that would be filled out naming the member, what date she was initiated and signed by the commander, that you could give the unit member so that she could carry it in her wallet, or whatever.

If a question of her initiation ever came up, all she would have to do is show this. Do you understand what I'm saying?

It's the signature of the commander because we say here on this day so and so was initiated as a new senior member of unit, state department, at a regular auxiliary business meeting.

And you sign it. It's better if the commander signs it. But all it is, it's just a small little form that doesn't take any time at all.

The commander can be filling it out while the adjutant is putting it in the minutes. But I feel it needs to be presented to that member so she has the proof that she was initiated.

We have a couple of states right now that are about to blow apart because of this very reason. Now, I've heard the question already about -- not question, but response was people complained about, "Well, I didn't get elected at this election because she brought all these new members in that have never been at a meeting before."

Now, stop and think about that. How could those new members who have never been at a meeting before, how could they change an election? They can't vote.

If they've never been at a meeting before, that means they've never been initiated. What did we say about a member in good standing? She must have her dues paid for the current membership year and must have been initiated.

So they can bring a hundred new members in there, but if they've never attended a meeting and been initiated, there's a hundred people out there that can't vote.

So, this is the deal where she says, "Well, she brings all these new members in, and that's why I lost the election."

Well, if they're new and they've never been to a meeting, they can't vote anyway. So remember that. Commander Carol says plus you cannot initiate the night of an election.

So those hundred members can go out and have a coffee or something because they're not going to be able to vote.

They're not even going to be able to make a motion -- am I correct, Shelia -- because they're not a member in good standing.

MRS. ALICE C. PALASZEWSKI: Maria, Alice Palaszewski, Unit 22, Virginia. You'll never forget that name. Suppose you discover that a lot of people have not been initiated?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: You probably will. You'll probably find that you've got a lot of members that have never been initiated.

MRS. PALASZWESKI: What's the procedure, get them in and initiate them?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: You don't have that problem if you remember when they come to their first meeting to initiate them. But if you know that there are members that have not been initiated, why don't you have a special meeting?

I mean, why don't you have a regular business meeting, and before you even start your meeting, that would be the first order of business.

MRS. PALASZWESKI: Thank you very much.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Then make sure they, you know, get one of these, too. Make sure they present their card, or show you a card that they're a member.

Do you know that we have officers lists where they elect officers that aren't even in their unit? (Laughter) We get unit officer reports all the time.

We have a lot of units on hold because they send this officer list in, and either the member is delinquent that they voted on, that they voted in office, or they don't even belong to the unit.

Watch your roster; you know that one you get every three months with all the membership? And then every month you get a long strip of paper, and I call it the "history of the unit" because it tells you if members paid their dues.

Watch that. Make sure that your members are current in their dues, and remember that they may be current now, but July 1st they may have gone delinquent. You've got to watch it, because if they're delinquent on July 1st, they're out. We say you must keep your dues current for the term of your office; and if that term of office is going to be from one membership year to another, they've got to have dues paid for both years.

MRS. G. RUTH HAMMER: Maria, Ruth Hammer from Troy City Number 46 in Washington. What we have done in our unit for quite a few years, when we haven't -- we don't do it every time, but we used to.

When we'd have a new member come in, we'd ask all that were there -- even visitors -- to take the obligation if we had a new member.

That way we were sure that we had them all, with their obligation done, the initiation. That started -- I don't know -- many of you may known Vivian Burg. But she was the one that instituted it in our unit. So that kind of helps.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I can't see anything wrong with that, except when you get a new member in by themselves, it's kind of nice to bring them down in front and read the purpose and everything to them.

But I can't see anything wrong in that. But if it's a new member, it's pretty nice. In other words, you're saying when the new members come down --

MRS. HAMMER: We used to take them down, have the new member presented, and then ask everybody to take the obligation when it got to that.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I can't see anything wrong with that.

MRS. MAURINE PEDERSON: Maria, Maurine Pederson. I'm all for the new form; I think it's terrific. But, are you mailing it out with the mailing, or do the units have to request it?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I would suggest the units request them. I would probably put a sample at the end of the month in every mailing so they can see it, but I would suggest they request it.

MRS. PEDERSON: And how many should they request, whatever they think?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Yes, as long as they don't request like a thousand, and they've only got 15 members.

MRS. PEDERSON: Right, something within reason.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: We kind of look at the membership roster when they request them, because years ago we used to have changes to the bylaws.

Instead of the whole bylaw book, you just got the changes, because they were free, and they were very expensive. They cost more than that whole bylaw book does.

They would stay in a brief case. Units would order a hundred of them and they'd only have 12, 15 members. So we watch that.

Do you know where some of those changes ended up? Either in the commander's briefcase at that time or the adjutants. They never went out to the members.

DELEGATE: Will they be available at our fall conference?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Yes, we'll try to have them there. I didn't order a huge amount, but we'll have enough to -- if you like them, I'll order more.

This is just a test case, and it's not a card. It's actually a paper. I called it an "initiation card", but it's actually a paper. But if it's popular and you like it, we'll order more.

MRS. LORENE PENERMON: Lorene Penermon, Unit 1, Department of Michigan. I have a question in regards to the initiation cards.

By the mere fact that you're going to initiate this program starting effective this year, it seems to have caused some non-consistency with the older members of the unit.

I could foresee maybe three or four years down the line someone in some unit might decide, or some state might decide that for any election, they want to see everybody's initiation card.

You're going to wind up with some people who don't have them because that was not in effect prior to that.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Well, I'll tell you what. They don't have any proof now, and that's our problem, because they say they've been initiated and the units say they haven't been.

MRS. PENERMON: Well, what are we going to do about the current members who don't have that card?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Just request the form and fill them out.

MRS. PENERMON: So would it be a good idea if we all had that card for everyone now?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I can't hear you, hon, I really can't.

MRS. PENERMON: I said would it be a good idea then if everyone who is currently a member and has been initiated have a card, so there would be a consistency?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: If you know that they've been initiated, there's nothing wrong with giving them a card, but you're going to have to show the date they were initiated and everything.

MRS. PENERMON: I know that's a problem not knowing the date all the time. I was just foreseeing that somewhere down the line, maybe two years down, if there's an election, and say there's a member who hasn't been coming to the meetings that often, but has been a member for a number of years, and someone contesting that this person was never initiated.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Well, there again, that's where your minutes are supposed to back up who was initiated if they want to go that far back on the minutes.

That's the only reason I got this is because this problem is that they say, "It's in the minutes, and I feel that the minutes have been altered", and the person is saying that they were never initiated.

So, whose word do you take? All I'm saying is this is something I just came out with. You can handle it any way you want to.

If you know they've been initiated and you want to give them one, that's fine. If they lose this a couple of years down the line, the minutes should back it up in the minutes that they've been initiated because that's the adjutant's job.

When new members come in and are initiated, it's supposed to be recorded. Then they can go back on the minutes and you can give them another card.

MRS. PENERMON: Well, okay, I just have the question about the non-consistency. Thank you.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: On your older members, if they want a card and you have complete minutes, they can go back on the date and see when they were initiated.

You can make up one of these for them showing the date they were initiated. Do you understand what I'm saying?

If they were initiated, say, six years ago and it's in your minutes, you can give them one of these, but show that they were initiated six years ago. Do you understand what I'm saying?

MRS. DUMAS: Maria, Leslie Dumas of Arizona. My question is if you have a lady that joins as an annual member and she's been initiated, and let's say two years down the line, or three years down the line she's no longer a member; if she rejoins, does she have to have the oath of obligation again?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: If she has been delinquent for more that two full membership years, she is a new member. She has to be treated as a new member. That means initiated and all.

When you see them dropped off the roster, or you see three zeros there on that roster, they're going to be dropped June 30th. They then have to come back as new members.

MRS. CAROL J. LEE: Carol Lee, Lake Michigan, Unit 105. My question is when we get these life membership cards in the mail, how come we don't have the date that we joined imprinted on there?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Because it's not our system; it's a DAV system. We have it on the screen. I'll tell you another thing. We don't actually have the true dates for some of you because -- when was it, Judy, that they went on computer down in Cold Springs, about '68, '70?

1970. Any years before that, we don't have any history of

because that was all up in Colorado, and those records were never complete when they came down. But it's not on there, and it's the way that the DAV has their -- we don't print those cards.

We pay for the cards and we order those cards, but it's done with the computer and it's printed on the DAV system. That's why.

MRS. RAMONA GANONG: Maria, Ramona Ganong, state of New Mexico. What about new transfer members coming into your unit from another unit that wouldn't have these initiation cards?

You have nothing in your minutes to show that they have been initiated from another unit.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: That's true, you don't have anything in your minutes, and it never hurts to get initiated a second time.

MRS. GANONG: Okay, so we should initiate them again then. Thank you.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Right. Like Shelia said, have an initiation ceremony at your meeting and a covered dish, and welcome them in. Okay, is that it? Well, good.

MRS. CAROL MILLER: My name is Carol Miller. I am with Altman Roth Osure Unit Number 6 in Spokane, Washington.

I know we're supposed to keep minutes. Our unit has been in existence 78 years. We have minutes for 78 years.

Is there any way that we can get rid of, say, the first 25 or 30 years? (Laughter) We are losing our building and we're going to have to pay storage for all of this stuff. Do we have to keep them that far back? (Laughter)

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Well, I'll tell you, the thing is -- and I can understand what you're saying, and I really don't know how to answer it because the minutes are your history.

The financial reports, after a certain amount of time, you can get rid of those.

MRS. MILLER: I understand that.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: But the minutes are the only history that your unit has. So when the members pass away, as they do, that's the only thing that the members can go back to and refer to.

I know that's a lot, and I don't think you should have to pay the storage on them. But it's still the history. I don't like to see minutes destroyed.

But 70 years, I agree, is a lot. I don't know the answer to that. I'm just saying that that's your history. I get letters all the time, Judy gets letters all the time of units that want to do something special for their unit.

They're having a 50th Anniversary or something, and they want to know who the unit commanders were of that unit. We don't have that. We don't have who the unit commanders were.

The unit would have that history. That's what I tell them, go back to your unit, and if they have the minutes, they can tell you who those commanders were at that time.

And I'm sorry, but it's still your history. I don't like to see them destroyed.

MRS. MILLER: That's the answer I needed.

MRS. SHARON M. PIEPER: Maria, can I offer a suggestion? Sharon Pieper, District 12, Wisconsin. Why couldn't they put those records on a microfiche or something similar and save them that way?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: They could. Did you hear that answer, hon? You could either scan them, put them on a computer, on a disk or you can microfiche them.

We put our records on microfiche because if something goes wrong with the computer, we've still got that.

So, we keep it both ways, but our microfiche is what we really go with, and what we bring to the convention if we have to. That's what we refer to.

MRS. DALEY: May we send them all to you at national?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: What? Get smart, Miriam. That was Miriam Daley of Massachusetts.

MRS. DEBORAH L. BARBUTO: Debbie Barbuto, District 2. I have a question, Adjutant Maria. If we have members that are from other areas, and it's difficult to have an initiation, can we have it by proxy stand in?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: We do not have proxy stand ins. So they are

just members, but they're not members in good standing.

We do not -- and hear me clearly -- the DAV does allow stand-ins when they don't have officers there for installation.

We do not have proxy stand-ins. If you have elected a member, and they cannot be there to be installed, then they must be installed at the next meeting.

Until that time, they're not an officer. They're an officer elect, but they're not an officer elected and installed.

MRS. BARBUTO: Did I say "installed"? I meant initiated.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Neither one; neither one, Debbie. No proxy.

MRS. BARBUTO: And a quorum does need to be present to initiate?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: A quorum? Yes, because you have to have it at your regular business meeting and a regular business meeting is a quorum.

What is a quorum? Five members, and one of them must be the commander or a junior vice. A chaplain cannot hold a meeting, a treasurer cannot hold a meeting, and an adjutant cannot hold a meeting.

Five members and one of them has to be a commander or a junior vice commander.

MRS. BARBUTO: Does it have to take place at your regular meeting site? If we had a quorum at, for example, a testimonial type of dinner?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: But that wasn't a regular business meeting.

MRS. LILLIAN M. LA CHANCE: Good morning, Maria. I have a short question.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Give your name, please.

MRS. LA CHANCE: Lillian La Chance, State Department of Maine. In the blue book it states that all adjutants' minutes should be placed in a bound ledger.

Now, in the state department, we don't put it in a bound ledger. They are typed, they are mailed out to the members. We keep a loose leaf book of them. Should we put them into bound ledger?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Is the word "bound" in the bylaws?

MRS. LA CHANCE: I believe so, or in a ledger?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Are you talking about unit or state?

MRS. LA CHANCE: I'm talking about state. The units are put in a bound ledger.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I don't know that it states "bound" any place in the bylaws. I think that more or less comes up from standing rules within the unit or the state department itself.

On Page S-7 it just says keep a record. It doesn't say how. I think some of your state departments, over the years, have set up a system that they want, but we don't say "bound".

I know for a fact that a lot of units use a little loose leaf book, or they type up a sheet and put it in a three-ring binder.

MRS. JOHNSON: Joanne Johnson from Texas. I've heard several times that in order for a change to take place, that three-fourths of the chapters must approve.

I've also heard you say that sometimes only 50 percent of the chapters will respond or will return. This can stop progress, and it can also stop change. Of the other national organizations that I am a member of, if there's going to be something voted on the floor, and the delegates usually have the power to make changes; for instance, if something is going to be changed in the bylaws, that notice goes out to all the chapters, or units in this case, and let them know.

Then the delegates will come forth and make that change at the Delegate Assembly. This is just a suggestion.

But I can see how if you are trying to get three-fourths of the units to vote on anything, that it's going to be very difficult to do.

I know the constitution or your bylaws states certain areas, but bylaws are changed all the time. Just like the little bylaws that we voted on this time, other things can be voted on the same way. I think the procedure causes a stoppage of change.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: And your point is well taken, but there is a difference -- and I know what you're saying.

But let me clarify for the membership here. There is a difference between a bylaw change and change of the constitution. Yesterday we had a bylaw change. That took effect immediately; no hesitation. It did not have to go out to any unit to be ratified.

Only changes affecting the constitution because that is the way that this organization was chartered through congress, and the only way that that change can be made is by ratification of the chapters.

Now, I did say a little while ago, and I want to clear that, too, that someone asked about -- Helen Mazza, I believe, asked about changing something, and I said it can be submitted.

But because it would be a constitution change, if it passed on the floor, we would have to send in a notice, which we would gladly do, to every unit.

I didn't say "chapter", but I said to Helen I am sure that 50 percent of the units wouldn't respond, because I have dealt, and we have dealt -- national headquarters -- with just sending out our month-end mail.

We get calls saying, "I didn't get this, I didn't get it in my mail". We sent out delegate forms to every unit -- did we, or did we not -- and convention forms to every unit.

We had quite a few units call and state departments saying, "I didn't get the convention form, and I didn't get a delegate form".

I asked, "Did you get this?"

"Yes, I got that."

"Did you get this?"

"Yes, I got that."

But they didn't get those forms. Now, those forms were put in a separate envelope and included in that mail, but somehow they got everything else, but they didn't get that.

So, what I'm saying is your point is well taken. It's just that I want people to understand there is a difference between a bylaw change, which took effect immediately.

The day that it was passed on this floor yesterday. it's in effect. Every state is going to have to go back and change their standing rules to coincide with that one word change.

But the constitution and bylaws, we are set up, we are charted through the DAV, and the DAV submitted that constitution to congress, and that's how they got the charter.

So, it takes a lot more to change that; that's all I'm saying. Not every organization was chartered through congress, by the way. Anything else?

Well, I thank you for your time. (Applause) Now, just to finish this, there's the origin of Forget-Me-Not Drives in case anybody ever asks you.

We also have the Service Support Program, and I want to talk about that just one minute. For those that are not familiar with the Service Support Program, you should be.

Your money is supporting this program through your mandate paid by every unit. We take $15.00 from every unit once a year. Part of it goes to Education Loan, and part of it goes to the Service Support.

And part of it goes to cover your bond, which reminds me if you send in an officer report that is rejected because of delinquency or anything else, until you get officers within the organization, your bond is not covering you.

So make sure you watch those officers. This is the Service Support Program. It started a few years ago. And, believe me -- I said it yesterday -- your money has gone to work.

Any member who has financial need can apply for this. Any widow, any widow, because it was first set up for widows because when I came down to national headquarters and started looking at mail coming in, it was the widows I felt the strongest for, because there are a lot of widows out there that do not get DIC, do not get compensation, and are all of a sudden hit with these financial problems.

So, it's set up for widows, or those women who are divorced and have dependents within their household.

Eventually we want to broaden the eligibility, but right now, until this fund really builds up, we have it here. Any member, if

they have outstanding bills and they feel they cannot pay them is entitled, as long as they meet this eligibility, entitled to submit a request to national headquarters.

Once they submit and they fill out the form -- and the form is very easy to fill out -- then submit it to me, along with their bills that they wish to be paid, I then call these companies, confirm, verify that this is owed.

We try to turn around that check as quickly as possible. We have kept women from being thrown out of homes because I have personally called landlords and said "Look, if this is a true amount, if this is what she owes, is there any way to extend it until the check comes down, until I get the check in the mail?"

We have not saved a house, but we have helped make a mortgage payment or maybe two mortgage payments. We have paid doctor bills. We have paid a funeral bill.

In fact, for anybody that is not familiar with the Service Support Program, the first bill we ever paid was on a funeral. Her husband had wanted a special type of funeral, and she had been paying on it for almost eight years, at $10.00 and $15.00 a month.

She had written a letter stating that this was a balance owed, and she didn't expect us to pay it all, but her dream was that before she died it would be paid in full.

She owed $465.00, I think it was, and we can give up to $500.00. We were able to pay that off. And she wrote a letter thanking all the members within this organization, saying, "You have made this the brightest holiday season I have ever had, and now I can rest in peace." So, your money is working.

We just give it one time. So if you have somebody out there that needs it, send their name in, or tell them about it because that's what the money is there for.

The next thing, of course, is the new revised -- it is revised, isn't it, Judy -- the newly revised information sheet for Education Loan.

On there you'll see that grandmothers have been added, so this is the new one. So, anyway, you can continue to ask questions. I've got to leave the room for awhile.

Like I said, all officers are available to you, and Shelia is going to want to talk to you. But I hope you take this back and utilize it a little bit, because I think it will help. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Did everybody put their questions in here that they want answered? It's not too late. You have an hour and 20 minutes.

Who would you like to have draw and answer the first question? This is not very full. The question is would it be feasible for the state treasurer to have a name stamp for the state commander? Absolutely not. They must be signed with their signature. I know you live far apart in your departments.

I'm from Michigan. Michigan is long this way, and then it takes a left turn and goes a way that way.
And, no, if you have to, send it certified mail to get it to her and have here sign it, and then mail it from her home, because the Treasurer has signed it, and they do have to have two signatures.

But never can you use a stamp for that. I know your question is because of the checks, that when they came from national headquarters, that that was signed in a different manner. It is not a stamp. Okay, who would you like to have draw the next question? Renee.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JONES: When will the Auxiliary have a full website? I know who wrote this question. Even if we don't have a full site, can you please make all of the report forms available via the DAV website?

This is not meant to substitute for the adjutant sending the report forms to each unit, but rather to enhance the unit's ability to complete the forms. Commander. (Laughter)

COMMANDER GRAY: Did you answer this? I said you had to answer this.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JONES: Well, actually, Maria is back now, so Maria can answer the question.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I'm not sure when we'll have a full website.

We're working on it. That's all I can tell you.

As far as the forms, forget it. They're changed every year. The chairmen change them. Every year they've been changed, and I'm not so sure that the whole form program shouldn't completely be thrown out and started all over again. (Applause)

We'd like some suggestions on that. I often thought that maybe we need to take each chairmanship and tell the unit to use this page, but explain what you've done for Americanism, and let them write out the report instead of filling out all those questions.

Let's see what they actually do. I think sometimes you might get more information that way. But they definitely need to be revised.

As far as reports, I've got a bone to pick with a lot of people. I've said it before. Units know how to handle these reports. Units get the reports and they fill them out. The state department doesn't know how to handle them.

We had Mae Holmes reports, winners of Mae Holmes, that instead of coming in at national headquarters for judging, went to the Mae Holmes chairman. Renee got a stack of them.

We had legislation reports that went to the legislative chairman, winners. I hope I've got them all here, or I hope they were all here when they were judged. When a unit gets a report, they fill them out.

It says very clearly at the top what they're supposed to do. I've even had a couple of states that didn't put the address over here in the corner where that unit was supposed to send them.

How does the unit know where to send them if there's no address there? But, anyway, then they go to the state. You've got that right. They go to the state. Now, one report is kept by the state. What's that report for? Judging. The other report immediately is mailed to the national chairman, so that she can make her report.

The extra copy of that Mae Holmes goes to the national executive committeewoman because she's responsible to make a report at the end of the year. If she doesn't have a copy of it, she has no report to give. So, watch the instructions.

I had some lady that called and said she needed a new set of reports because she had the instruction sheet, and she says, "And none of these reports have 'sample' written across them, so I want a new set." (Laughter)

If you'll notice in the instruction sheet we give you, we have a sample on the back and tell you to go to 1, 2, and how to fill it out. So, she saw that and she thought the reports we sent her were wrong because we didn't have "sample" stamped on it.

But it's the states that are having trouble understanding this. When they come in, you only hold one. Don't hold those others. Don't hold the second copy. Mail it because the chairmen need that.

The chairmen are responsible to the national headquarters to make a report and it has to be in by a certain date. If they don't have their copy of the report, they can't make a report either.

So everything is tied into everything else. You see what I'm saying? So, on the state level, when you get the two reports, immediately separate them -- this is for judging, this is for the chairman. That's not hard to understand either.

Getting back to the website. Like I said, it's coming. I do want you to know two things, though. I have more or less designed, worked on it for two years, and we will be having a grave marker for the Auxiliary. (Applause)

However, it will not be a bronze or plastic that you put in the ground. I have decided, because most grave markers are marble or some type of porous stone, it will be a round-colored disk.

It will attach to the marker, itself. And it will not only be the logo, but it will also have a design of the Forget-Me-Nots on it.

So I think you're going to like it. As soon as that's ready, I'll let you know. (Applause) Also, for those people, I'm looking at a ring design, one ring, not an assortment like the DAV has, but

one ring design. We're still working on that.

We will not carry it at national headquarters. If you decide that you want one, you will order it just like you do some of the other things that you order through us, where you send the order into us and we will send it on to the jeweler to have made.

So those are a couple of things we're working on, so we're not just sitting idle back here. But the reports are really getting to the place where so many people say, "We don't want to do the reports anymore".

And I say, "That's fine". We'll just put all the chairmen on membership. We'll just tell them, 'Hey, you're going to have to be a membership chairman, and we're going to just break the states up in sections, and we're going to work on membership'".

But then the next follow up is, "But how do I get credit for what I do?" So you can't have both. If you want to get credits, you've got to fill out the reports.

But like I said yesterday, we've got more and more states that don't do the reports. They may judge them on the state level, but they don't bother sending them into national, and a lot of them aren't even judging them on the state level.

If it gets to the place where we don't have that many coming in, it may end up where it won't be worth doing the reports either. So I keep count of what states are still sending in reports, because as long as there are states sending them in, we want to send them out to you. Thank you. (Applause)

MRS. CRAFT: Annis Craft, Department of Virginia, Commander. Speaking of reports and getting credit, this came up at our convention.

Our state department makes contributions to the veterans hospitals throughout the state and one in West Virginia. There are no forms for us to put these donations on.

Some of the VAVS representatives have tried putting them on their state report, which is wrong. They can't do that, but they want to know how the Department of Virginia can get credit for doing these things, and to whom these reports would be sent when they make them.

COMMANDER GRAY: There is no report form for a department to make on that. It is just recorded on your financial report that you make every year.

It's nothing that is done for credit when it comes to the department because that's either the money that comes from the unit or from the unit membership because of their dues that they've received from them, anyway. Therefore, the only place you record that is going to be on your financial report.

MRS. CRAFT: Okay, thank you.

COMMANDER GRAY: Linda.

1ST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER LINDA TRULIO: Can an NEC and Alternate NEC be from the same unit? No. Unlike your state departments where you have your SECs and your alternates, you're only coming from one unit.

Sorry, I made a mistake. An NEC and an Alternate NEC can be from the same unit.

2ND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER JANET W. BENNETT: I have asked for two years to have the following proposal considered in the Americanism Report. On the back of the report where a unit is showing their special project, I would like to see a second section added for special school projects.

Many units are doing a number of activities in the school and going into the classes informing students about our country and our flag. These units should be recognized for their hard work and dedication in informing our next generation.

What they're saying is that a special project in school can be put on the Americanism as an Americanism Project -- is that clear -- as their a special Americanism Project, a special one, as long as the unit conducts it.

MRS. PIEPER: Excuse me. This is my question. Sharon Pieper, District 12, Wisconsin. What I would like to see, on the Americanism part, on the back, it asks now if you have informed dignitaries, invited dignitaries, had radio and media coverage.

In the schools you're not able to do all that, but a lot of

units are doing great things in the schools, getting kids involved, educating the kids.

And yet, that isn't covered on the back because they can't get a hold of -- or they're not inviting people through the media. All they're doing is getting the schools involved. That question is if you're just getting the schools involved, you're getting maybe the parents, you're getting the students, but you are not inviting dignitaries. You're not informing the media.

COMMANDER GRAY: They could.

MRS. PIEPER: They could, but they're not as a rule because it's not going to get out there.

COMMANDER GRAY: But if they're not, it's not that they couldn't, it's because they're just not doing it.

MRS. PIEPER: They're not doing it because it's a school activity.

COMMANDER GRAY: I've been involved in school activities and invited other people from the outside to participate in those.

There has been no argument from the school on doing that. If it's a private school and they have something against it, then that would be another story.

But if you're talking about a public school, anyone is welcome there. If you invite them and the school knows this program is going to be happening, I don't know why they would be a hinderance. Newspaper and media coverage can be done from any place, because they cover events at schools as it is now.

MRS. PIEPER: When we're reviewing that form, on the back, one of the things you look at is the media coverage, the newspapers, and also who came.

If you don't have dignitaries there, that's another thing that isn't included in that area.

COMMANDER GRAY: But that is only a report of what happened. It doesn't say that just because you invited someone they came. Just because you invite someone, it doesn't mean that they will attend. It's a possibility, but this is just a report on what did happen.

If you did have the media coverage -- and there have been winners in that category that have not had these -- I mean, filled every line with a positive answer.

Sometimes these people just either don't come, don't show up, or even have to change their plans at the last minute. But, if you've invited them -- I mean, if you have to, include a copy of the invitation.

MRS. PIEPER: Okay, thank you.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Excuse me, on that question. The chairmen are the ones that make the decision on the form, but I want to understand your question just a second.

Are you saying that, like this special Americanism Program, that you'd like to see dignitaries eliminated, or you want something in addition to the Special Americanism Program?

MRS. PIEPER: I want another section just for schools, where you're not necessarily inviting dignities or news media, but you are involving the schools, the children in the schools, whatever your program is that you've been doing that you worked in the schools.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Okay, I wanted a clarification on that, but the chairman is the one that takes care of these forms or changes them in any way. That is her job and her responsibility to change that.

I want to say something to you. That wouldn't be hard to add. But even under the Special Americanism Program, where it says, "List any dignitaries who attended", do you know who the dignitaries are, those very students that you want to give flags to and brochures. Those are your dignitaries.

MRS. PIEPER: Great, then I know better how to do the forms, and also I think it helps to understand judging those same forms, because you're looking at mayors and senators or whatever else.

You're not looking at the students, or the school officials, or whoever else in the schools.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Well, like I said, that would be up to the chairman, but I wanted to understand the question so I would know

in my own mind what you were saying. Thank you.

3RD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER GERTRUDE E. TIDWELL: I'm Gertrude Tidwell, 3rd Junior Vice Commander My question is please tell us about the new legislative bill that was just signed, which will give us drug prescriptions discount, how much and who will benefit?"

Since that is a DAV question, and I have no idea how much and who will benefit other than what I read on it was that it would benefit DAV and DAV Auxiliary members.

So I will pass that on to the DAV for how much. The information that I read on it is you have to find a participating pharmacy, too. Did I answer your question as best as I could? I'll pass it on.

4TH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: I'm Judy Steinhouse, National 4th Junior Vice. The question is I have seen units which install not only the elected officers but the adjutant and appointed chairman. Is this appropriate?

It may be appropriate, but it's not necessary. They're not elected officials, so they wouldn't have to be installed.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I have another thought on that, too. How can you install an adjutant if she has to be approved by your SECs? She would have to be installed at an SEC meeting if you installed her. Any appointed officers do not have to be installed.

JUDGE ADVOCATE SHELIA ALLRED: I think this question was answered awhile ago. My name is Shelia Allred, and I'm the national judge advocate.

Due to the goal of increasing membership, the growing maturity of the DAVA members and seeking support from all DAV families, I strongly suggest you allow males who are husbands, widowers, fathers, brothers, sons, grandfathers and grandsons, and great-grandsons to be entitled and allowed to join the Auxiliary.

Further, where it's charted as a non-profit organization, we're perhaps in violation of the Civil Rights Acts by discriminating against males.

I suggest the legal department of the DAV research the legality of not allowing males in the DAV Auxiliary. I think we've answered that question. I'd just like to add one thing, because she was suggesting the fact that when we have -- it takes three-fourths vote to have a ratification.

This is like a circle because within the constitution and bylaws, in the back, it tells you it takes three-fourths to ratify or change the constitution. Therefore, you would have to have that three-fourths to change the three-fourths. So you see what I mean? So, we're pretty much locked into that.

That cannot be changed unless we would get the certain percentage back from the units. Just like Maria stated, we have tried to get all the units to respond to things before. They have not.

As far as the difference between the three- fourths change and a ratification in the constitution, and the two-thirds for a change in the bylaws, we go by a change in our amendment in our national bylaws section, in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised.

So that's why there is a difference within those two things, and it would be very hard to change and make both of those the same amount to be ratified or to be amended. So, I just kind of added a little extra note to that.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, Shelia. Now, I have the next one: Please define what disabled means with respect to membership eligibility through the qualifying veteran.

Does it mean that the vet has to have a service-connection disability? Yes, it does. It means injured or disabled, but the disability can be as low as zero percent.

I have a cousin who, because of a medical problem while he was in the service, is a life member of the DAV even though he is rated at a zero percent disability at this time.

So it can be rated anywhere from zero percent to 100 percent. And a question, Anita.

MRS. TEARS: Madam Commander Carol, District 2, Anita Tears, New York. We have a question in reference -- I don't want to open

Pandora's Box, but I want to go back to the Americanism a second.

What if we had somebody that was interested in possibly revising the form and sending a copy of that revision to the adjutant and the Americanism chairman for review? Can someone do that?

JUDGE ADVOCATE ALLRED: You can put that in the form of a resolution and send it in to the adjutant. Be sure that the form you put it in is in accordance with your convention rules, which say it has to be typewritten, printed, signed, endorsed, supported by the unit or the state department.

Send it in triplicate to the national adjutant, and that resolution will go to the committee that is the charge of that resolution.

MRS. TEARS: That answers that question. Thank you very much.

COMMANDER GRAY: Renee.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JONES: I seem to get all the good questions.

MRS. CATHLEEN C. MC COY: Cathleen with a "C" McCoy, Chapter 65, Zephyrhills, Florida. It's in reference to following up on the eligibility through the veteran service connection.

I'm told through the DAV, if they happen to have a claim pending, that the DAV will accept that veteran into the DAV.

Does that mean that his spouse or sister automatically then qualifies for DAV membership, or does it have to be once they've been granted the service connection, even if it's at zero percent?

COMMANDER GRAY: The way our eligibility reads is that the disabled veteran has to only be eligible. Even if he never was to become a member of the DAV and is eligible, that spouse, sisters, mothers, daughters, granddaughters are still eligible even though he never personally joined; or she.

MRS. MCCOY: So as long as the veteran has a service connection, it doesn't have anything to do with having a claim pending or actual membership in the DAV?

The question is really around a claim pending. They haven't received results from the claim.

COMMANDER GRAY: Has the DAV accepted him as a member?

MRS. MCCOY: I'm told that the DAV will accept him as a member.

COMMANDER GRAY: Then as long as they will accept him as a member, those individuals listed in the eligibility are eligible for the organization, even if he does not physically join.

MRS. MCCOY: Okay, thank you.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JONES: How about a more affordable convention for more to come? (Applause)

My response is that the DAVA Auxiliary is not responsible for selecting the convention site or hotel.

That is the responsibility of the DAV, and that you should make your comments made known to the DAV. If you know members of the DAV who are not satisfied, you also need to make sure that they make their comments known to those who are responsible for making the selection.

COMMANDER GRAY: If they would put it in writing, it would be good. If you're going to make this statement, back it up.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I agree about that last question, but like they said we don't have any part in it.

If you're here with your husbands, and your husbands are dissatisfied, they should be talking to the parent organization. The parent organization is out there -- they want to serve the membership. If they've got people that are willing to ask the question "why" instead of just sitting out there in the room and accepting it, it might have some bearing.

I just want to say one thing. I'm up here to tell you yesterday you were very generous. Yesterday you were very generous, and you made some contributions, and I'd like to give you the amounts that were received yesterday from your generosity.

For the Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project we have $50. For Freedoms Foundation we have $150. For Education Loan we have $5,053.50. (Applause) And for Service Support we have $6,883.50. (Applause) Thank you.

COMMANDER GRAY: So stand up and give yourselves a hand.

(Applause) Thank you, you needed that stretching break, anyway, right? Linda, we have four more questions left.

1ST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER TRULIO: This says comments or suggestions: It would be extremely helpful to send each unit at least a tentative schedule of the events for conventions.

If we were here early on Saturday, we could not get any information on the events after numerous calls to the Fountainebleau.

We, therefore, did not participate in the Leadership Seminar, which we both feel would have been very helpful; better communication between national and units.

Well, from personal experience and something that you should know is on the unit level, when you register as a delegate or an alternate, it is up to your units, and also up to your chapters, your husband's chapters, but it's up to your units to send that information to the national office.

Once national knows you are coming to the convention, all of us here who had sent our delegates' things, our units notified national, we all got a letter from Armando Albarran; "Hello, you're coming to the convention; here's a tentative schedule."

(Responses of "No".)

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I don't know what the problem was, but the way they've always sent it out is anyone that attended last year's convention was to get a letter.

(Responses of "No".)

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I know you didn't all get a letter. I'm just saying that's the way it's set up. But you know what, let's stop and think a minute, and then we're going to have a couple more questions, and then we're going to let you guys go.

Have you enjoyed this workshop? (Applause)

Okay, I'm going to go back to the state departments again. If the state departments -- I know there are some state departments that never send out anything to their units.

I know that, because I never get a copy of their bulletins, and the states members themselves say they never get anything from the state.

But when we send you out an agenda for our fall conference, or if you have the information for a fall conference, it would help if the state departments put it in their bulletins, because some people get the bulletins that are not privy to the unit mail.

So, states can help, too. You know, let's not put everything on national's shoulders. This is a tiered organization. The basic roots of this organization are the units.

Units can operate without a state department, but a state department cannot operate without units. That tells you how important units are. It starts there.

The state has got to help some, and national will take up the slack or help as much as we can, but don't rely all on National.

And there isn't anybody called "National" anyway. Whenever you get in an argument with somebody, or they say they called national, I want you to do me a favor.

Ask who they talked to at national headquarters, because we don't have a "National" on our payroll. (Laughter) That's a quick way to stop an argument is, "I called National and they said so".

And you have a new member that doesn't want to question it and feels, "Well, they must know what they're talking about because they've been in this unit longer than I have", and you know that's not always the case, because we learn every day.

We're open to calls. I answer my own phone most of the time. If the phone rings and somebody says, "Is that you?"

"Yes".

"Well, I've get somebody else to look for membership."

I said, "I can do that. I'm right here."

We're open to calls. Your state should be receptive to your questions. That's what they're there for. And the state has got to help along with national.

We're a team. The unit has also got to help. If you didn't get anything, or you question something the state is doing, or their fall conference or something, you'd pick up the phone and

call them, I would hope.

You don't sit back and just kind of guess about it. In fact, I put a real quick agenda in one of the happenings at headquarters quite awhile back. And as far as the Leadership Seminar, I'm sorry that some of you missed it.

That's not one of our programs. That's a DAV set up. So, it's going to take -- states can help a lot. National can help a lot. The units can help a lot.

Let the units make sure they read all the mail they get, keep their membership informed so that when they go to a conference, they know what's going on.

Let the states get as much information out to those units as they possibly can, and then we'll do the rest. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Question?

MRS. ANGELA LARA: I have a recommendation. Angela Lara, Unit 17, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico -- District 17, Unit 11.

When I went to look for the agenda, I looked at the website that was on the internet. All I could find was the date and the Fountainebleau here. It would be very beneficial for us to have a link on the website on the internet.

COMMANDER GRAY: According to Renee, it was there last week.

MRS. LARA: Well, I probably checked before that.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JONES: I'm not sure when that was posted, but as of last week it was on their website, because I was checking out the website.

MRS. LARA: It was probably about a month ago, when we were beginning to make our arrangements to come down here. And it wasn't, so that's why I --

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JONES: For those of you who do use computers, the DAV is changing that website a lot. So, I would encourage you to check it out at least once a week to see what's new.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you very much. Next question.

MRS. ROSE M. HENN: Good afternoon. I'm Rose Henn from Unit 32 in New Jersey, District 4. There's a booth out here in the lobby that has information about the DAV prescription discount program.

It was legislation that was just passed. And at the top it says, "The Disabled American Veterans, DAV, and it's Auxiliary offers a new no-cost, no enrollment, no monthly fee discount prescription drug program.

"Members can now save up 60 percent and in some instances more on over 12,000 prescription drugs."

There are pamphlets out there with a card for you to take with you to your pharmacy when you want to purchase your prescription drug.

It's out in the lobby here, and I have a few of them here. Maybe I can give you a copy. I think our membership should know about it.

COMMANDER GRAY: Right, that's why they have that booth out there, and anybody is welcome to stop by and take whatever they need, and that will be helpful to them.

It was also in the magazine, and an individual card, too, to do this, so take advantage of it, spread the news.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Also, if you don't get one here, you can always write national headquarters. When the magazines came out last month, a card was already filled out with your husband's name on it.

Whoever gets the magazine got a card that was personally printed with their name on it. And the Auxiliary, in some cases, got one with the card already printed.

If they were a widow and they were the only one that got a magazine, they would have gotten a magazine and the card would have had their name on it.

On the other ones, I went to data processing. I said, "Do you have a system where when we put on a new member, that it will automatically print out not only a membership card, but one of those cards pre-printed?"

"No, we do not."

So, they told me if you just take the card and print or type your name and membership number on it, that's all you need to do, because there are some pharmacies that will not accept your husband's card. They want the card in your name.

So, all you need to do is type or print and put your membership number on it. And that's all you need to do. Thank you.

COMMANDER GRAY: Joan Fletcher.

MRS. JOAN F. FLETCHER: Yes, Joan Fletcher, Unit 20, Glendale, Arizona. I find that there are a lot of chapters and units that say the convention does not start until the joint opening session.

I think the district meetings the day before are very important.

COMMANDER GRAY: That is the date that is listed in the brochure as the beginning date.

MRS. FLETCHER: No, it said Sunday was the beginning date.

COMMANDER GRAY: It did say the 29th?

MRS. FLETCHER: Yes. And it said the joint opening session -- I mean, it says that it's going to be there, but the chapters and units do not believe that it starts --

COMMANDER GRAY: All the information I have received said the date was July 28th to August the 2nd, and July 28th was Saturday, the day of the district caucuses.

MRS. FLETCHER: I don't know, but our district meeting was very sparse, and I think that a lot of the chapters, like I say, and units say, no, the convention does not start until the joint opening session.

And I think it should be emphasized that, no, it does start with the district meetings.

COMMANDER GRAY: Yes, it does.

MRS. FLETCHER: Thank you.

COMMANDER GRAY: It actually starts -- I mean, they can even start registering one day ahead of that, so that's why the date is set for the registration to start even one day earlier than that.

MRS. FLETCHER: But I bet you could find a lot of people in the audience here that felt it started with the joint opening and not with the district meetings.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, Joan. Okay, Jan Bennett.

2ND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER BENNETT: Janet Bennett, 2nd Junior Vice: I want to know what the significant meaning is for three empty shells at any military funeral being put in the flag after it is folded?

I honestly do not know. I've never heard of it before. Does anyone know? Okay, do you want me to repeat it?

"I want to know what the significant meaning is for three empty shells at any military funeral being put in the flag after it is folded?"

COMMANDER GRAY: It usually is the shells that are kept, right? I have my father-in-law's flag, and the shells that were discarded at his funeral were given to the family and some of them are in the flag.

The rest are in the flag box that weren't distributed to the members of the family. It was from the 21-gun salute that was rendered at the funeral services as a token of the salute from the organization that was there for that purpose.

MRS. TONI KING: Commander, Toni King, State Commander of Maryland. The reason they do that is it's just the honor guards way of giving a final salute to their veteran.

Not all honor guards do this, not all states do this. It's just something that some honor guards do and some don't. Some will just hand them to the family.

COMMANDER GRAY: And some will also include a list of the names of the members who are rendering that salute.

MRS. KING: Right, they will even print this up so if they want to get the trifold box, they can put a little slip on the back and it goes right onto that. It's just different honor guards do different things.

COMMANDER GRAY: The military does it different than even the veterans organizations. Okay, over here to this microphone.

MRS. MCCOY: Cathleen McCoy, Unit 65, Zephyrhills, Florida.

I'm sorry to take up time, but I wanted to follow up. I have another question in regards to eligibility.

What if you find out that someone in your unit doesn't qualify because the husband doesn't have a claim pending or a service-connected disability even at zero percent. What is your responsibility?

COMMANDER GRAY: Have you already accepted her dues?

MRS. MCCOY: She's a paid life member. She was a member before I came into the unit. I'm just wondering what do you do in the case where they're not really eligible.

COMMANDER GRAY: Is she eligible through someone else?

MRS. MCCOY: No.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Okay, first of all, how do you know that they're not eligible, and has their eligibility been pulled by the DAV?

MRS. MCCOY: No.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: As long as they are in the DAV, the membership of the Auxiliary member is not affected.

Now, if the DAV parent organization would find that they were not eligible for the DAV and pulled their membership, then we write to the Auxiliary member and say she has 30 days to establish another eligibility. If she cannot do so, then she is taken off the ranks also.

MRS. MCCOY: Okay, so it has to come first through the DAV?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: It certainly does.

MRS. MCCOY: Okay, thank you.

MRS. MINGUS: Madam Commander, Joanne Mingus. My name is Joanne Mingus. I'm a department commander for the state of Wisconsin.

My question is on VAVS reps. If the department gives VAVS reps and deps a stipend, can they log their volunteer hours that they are at the hospital?

COMMANDER GRAY: How much of a stipend are you talking about?

MRS. MINGUS: Let's say a couple hundred dollars, $250 as administrative expenses.

COMMANDER GRAY: For what can they use these monies?

MRS. MINGUS: Well to me, administrative expenses means office supplies, stamps and stationery and stuff like that.

COMMANDER GRAY: Does it specifically state "administrative"?

MRS. MINGUS: Yes.

COMMANDER GRAY: On a state budget?

MRS. MINGUS: Yes.

COMMANDER GRAY: If that money is to assist them with the program that they put together and not something going to them personally, there would be no reason that they couldn't take their hours, because that is only to cover expenses, not their time.

That is not for them. That is just to cover any of the materials that they would be using, whether it's envelopes, letters, stamps, paper, telephone.

I mean, if it's telephone calls they have to make in line with their duty, it would still have to be -- I'm sure you would ask for them to send in the receipt for that money that they did spend, right?

MRS. MINGUS: Okay, I thank you very much, Commander. That's the answer I was looking for. Thank you.

3RD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER TIDWELL: Gertrude, 3rd Junior Vice Commander. The question I have says, "Can an American flag be washed, not dry cleaned, and then flown?"

My comment is you should never let that flag get to the point that it's dirty enough to wash. It should never be in that position.

But should it be, if it is cotton, you cannot wash it. You would have to dry clean it. If it's an all-weather flag, it can be washed and then flown again.

COMMANDER GRAY: And the reason she's saying the cotton could not would be the colors could run. Another thing I have done in the past, I went to my post office one day, and their flag was rather tattered.

I said to the postmaster, I said, "If you'll get someone to take down your flag, I'll take it home and mend it for you."

He said, "Oh, you can do that?"

And I said, "Yes, I can."

I went the next day, he not only had that flag for me, he had three others. (Laughter)

And the majority of dry cleaners, if you should take it to a dry cleaning establishment, will do them for absolutely no charge.

I'm not going to say everyone will, but the majority of them do. The ones I have dealt with do, too.

Okay, Judy. And unless there's any questions from the microphone, this will be the last question.

4TH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Judy Steinhouse, 4th Junior: Do you think it is proper or fair for a unit card carrier who does not attend unit or state meetings or functions be appointed a position at National?

COMMANDER GRAY: And your answer is?

4TH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: One has nothing to do with the other. A member has every right to do this as long as she is a member at that time.

COMMANDER GRAY: And in good standing.

4TH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: And in good standing.

COMMANDER GRAY: Okay. Now, you do have a few door prizes? Yes, ten of them, so don't leave if you would like a door prize.

Thank you for coming, thank you for your questions, any other input you might have. Do you enjoy having this every year? (Applause)

Next year bring more people with you and fill the room. How's that? Thank you.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 12:27 o'clock p.m. July 31, 2001.)

FINAL BUSINESS SESSION

August 2, 2001

The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in Fountainebleau Ballroom C/D of the Fountainebleau Hilton Resort, Miami Beach, Florida, Thursday morning, August 2, 2001, and was called to order at 8:04 o'clock a.m. by Commander Carol A. Gray.

COMMANDER GRAY: Good morning. Please stand for an opening prayer by Chaplain Vicky Grier.

CHAPLAIN GRIER: Let us pray. This morning, Oh, Lord, we lift our hearts and prayers to You, to the One who is infinite in goodness and wisdom.

We pray that You give us the courage and the strength to meet the task ahead. Open our hearts that we might receive Divine guidance upon which to base our decisions; to be humble, patient and loving in all our dealings with others.

And now we ask Your blessings and guidance upon this day. We offer our thanks for every good gift, which comes from You. Amen.

COMMANDER GRAY: National Americanism Chairman Gertrude Tidwell will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you. I've got something I'd like to read for you right now. It says:

> I've never made a fortune, and it's probably too late now; but I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.
>
> As I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed. I'm drinking from my saucer because my cup has overflowed.
>
> And may I never be too busy to help others bear their load, then I'll keep drinking from my saucer because my cup has overflowed.
>
> Okay, the national adjutant will now call the roll of the newly elected national executive committeewomen and alternates.

As your name is called, please come forward for the purpose of installation.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: At this time I will only call the odd-numbered districts because those are the newly elected NECs:

District 1, Louis Barrett and Fran Costa is the alternate; District 3, Pam Cleveland and Donna Folcarelli as the alternate; District 5, Rhea Lynn and Catherine Watkins is her alternate; District 7, Kay Egan, Lorraine Collins, alternate; District 9, Ruby Nelson and Lynn Helms is the alternate; District 11, Joyce Hutchinson and Marcia Mills is her alternate; District 13, Mildred Brown and Edith Jackson is her alternate; District 15, Judy McLaskey and Elaine Ragan is her alternate; District 17, Mildred Long and Myrtle Hamilton is her alternate; District 19, Ruth Hammer and her alternate is Carol Miller; and the final District is 21, Sara Douglass and M. Sue Hollingsworth is her alternate. Are all the NECs present and all the alternates?

Are all your alternates present? Mildred Long is not here. Lorraine Collins is not here. They will have to be installed at the Mid-Year Conference, and until then they're not officially NECs or alternates.

When the national commander has installed you, would you please take these seats down in front. Thank you, National Commander.

COMMANDER GRAY: The fact that you have been selected by the members of this Auxiliary for your respective offices shows that they have confidence in your ability, and that they feel assured you will strictly and impartially discharge all duties incumbent upon you.

They confide the welfare of this Auxiliary to your keeping, and they are expected at all times to respect your position.

Let their confidence, therefore, be fully justified by your fidelity. Let us all remember gratefully the heroism of our veterans whose name we proudly bear.

Realizing fully these responsibilities, are you willing to assume the obligation of your office?

(Response of "I am".)

COMMANDER GRAY: Place your right hand over your heart. Pronounce your name and repeat after me the obligation of your respective office.

I, Carol Gray, having been selected as an officer of this Auxiliary, do most solemnly pledge myself to faithfully and impartially perform in letter and spirit all duties of the office I am about to enter.

I promise to obey the lawful orders of my superior officers and exact the obedience of others thereto, to the best of my ability and means.

When my successor has been duly selected and installed, I promise to surrender to her all the property of the organization in my possession, all of which I now affirm.

You may lower your hands. Members of this Auxiliary, I now present to you the officers of your choice. I trust you will aid them in the performance of their duties.

With your help, their term of office will be highly successful. Ladies, if you'll take your seats right down here in this area, please. (Applause)

Would the chairman of the Nominating Committee come forward to give her report, please.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CLAUDIA R. ROY: Good morning. At this time I would like to introduce to you the ladies who served on the National Nominating Committee.

I would ask that you hold your applause until I have completed the introductions:

From District Number 1, Elaine Blazejowski, Massachusetts; District 2, Dolores Robidoux, New York; District 3, Claudia Roy, Vermont; District 4, Dorothea Campanelli, New Jersey; District 5, Rhea Lynn, Pennsylvania; District 6, Evelyn Dorsey, District of Columbia; District 7, Merallyn McDonald, Florida; District 8, Barbara Hicks, Tennessee; District 9, Jane Troutman, North Carolina; District 10, Deborah Emery, Michigan; District 11, Ramona Leach, Ohio; District 12, Zona Marie Schalow, Wisconsin; District 13, Edith Jackson from Kentucky; District 14, Margaret Haas, North Dakota; District 15, Dorothy Van Hoy, Missouri; District 16, Joan Turbeville, California; District 17, Florence Valgardson, Utah; District 18, Evelynne Dunn, Nevada; District 19, Donna Barton,

Oregon; District 20, Earlene Cole, Texas; District 21, Sara Douglass, Arkansas.

Serving as the secretary to the committee was Jane Troutman, and our advisor was Immediate Past National Commander Paula Raymond. Both of them did an outstanding job, and we are very proud of their contributions to our committee.

I'd like to say thank you to all of these ladies for serving on that committee. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary held their first meeting on Sunday, July 29, 2001. We had subsequent meetings between then and yesterday.

We are pleased to submit the following slate for your consideration to serve as the 2001-2002 officers.

Commander: R. Renee Jones, North Carolina.

Senior Vice Commander: Linda Trulio, New Jersey.

1st Junior Vice Commander: Janet Bennett, Nevada.

2nd Junior Vice Commander: Gertrude Tidwell, Oklahoma.

3rd Junior Vice Commander: Judy Steinhouse, North Dakota.

4th Junior Vice Commander: E. Bonita Mitchell, Missouri.

Chaplain: Jacqueline Fossiano, Massachusetts.

Judge Advocate: Shelia Allred, North Carolina.

Madam Commander, that is the slate. Thank you.

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, Claudia. (Applause) At this time I'd like to thank all of those members of the nominating committee for their efforts and their time.

At this time I will discharge all members of the nominating committee and all other convention committees.

At this time would all of the officers please leave the podium and go to your respective district for the purpose of nomination and election.

While they're doing that, we'll have the final credentials report, Winona Eastin.

MRS. EASTIN: National Commander Carol, National Adjutant Maria, officers, PNCs, delegates, this is your final credential report:

Total units registered, 217; total departments registered, 45; making a grand total of 262.

Delegates registered, 420; alternates registered, 27; guests, 44; a grand total of 491.

Total unit votes is 1,535; total department votes, 45; national officers, 8; PNCs, 15; grand total of votes, 1,603.

Thank you for all of your support from the time I've met you, Carol. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: At this time I will appoint three tellers: Iris Brzezinski from Nevada; Miriam Daley, Massachusetts; Billie Schultz, Alabama.

You have heard the report of the committee on nominations.

Renee Jones has been nominated by the committee for the Office of National Commander. Are there any other nominations?

MRS. MARGARET M. SNELLING: Good morning. I'm Margaret Snelling. I'm from Unit 1 in North Carolina.

Commander Gray, national officers, past national commanders, delegates, alternates and guests to this National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary in Miami, Florida:

It is a personal honor to stand before you and give the seconding speech for R. Renee Jones for the Office of Auxiliary National Commander.

When Renee started her journey to the position of Auxiliary National Commander, we learned that she is a member of Beyers-Morehead-Glover Number 18 in Shelby, North Carolina.

We also learned that she has been actively involved in this Auxiliary since 1983. We know that she is eligible through her grandmother, the late Ruby Warlick.

We found out all about the positions she has served on the local and the state level. But what we did not know was what type of national officer would Renee make.

Well, we soon found out. Renee is a capable leader. She possess integrity. She has common sense, and she has great talents.

These talents have been reflected in the positions that she

has held on the national level. When she served as 4th Junior Vice and Community Service Chairman, she presented us with cookie makers, Meals on Wheels, blood drive workers, and many others.

We all got to rumble with her when she donned her boxing outfit and gave that knock-out punch to congress when she was 2nd Junior Vice and legislative chairman.

I believe we can all see that popsicle orange when we rallied for members when she was 1st Junior Vice and membership chairman.

And who can forget the Mae Holmes Express as she served as Senior Vice. Renee's record of service to this organization is equal to her staunch support of the disabled veteran and his family.

North Carolina is proud to have Renee as a member of our Tarheel State. We are also pleased that she has made the decision to serve the Auxiliary.

And we all hope that you will feel as we do, that Renee has all the necessary qualifications and that she will serve us well.

Let's all catch the wave for Renee Jones as Auxiliary National Commander. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Hearing no other nominations, nominations are closed. All those in favor of R. Renee Jones for National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, signify by saying aye; any opposed?

The ayes have it, and R. Renee Jones has been elected to the Office of National Commander. (Applause)

Linda Trulio has been nominated by the committee for the Office of Senior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the Office of National Senior Vice Commander.

All those in favor of Linda Trulio for the Office of National Senior Vice Commander, signify by saying aye; those opposed.

The ayes have it and Linda Trulio has been elected to the Office of National Senior Vice Commander. (Applause)

Janet Bennett has been nominated by the committee for the Office of National 1st Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the Office of National First Junior Commander.

All those in favor of Janet Bennett for the Office of National 1st Junior Vice Commander, signify by saying aye; those opposed.

The ayes have it and Janet Bennett has been elected to the Office of National 1st Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

Gertrude Tidwell has been nominated by the committee for the Office of National 2nd Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the Office of National 2nd Junior Vice Commander.

All those in favor of Gertrude Tidwell for the Office of National 2nd Junior Vice Commander, signify by saying aye; those opposed.

The ayes have it and Gertrude Tidwell has been elected to the Office of National 2nd Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

Judy Steinhouse has been nominated by the committee for the Office of National 3rd Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the Office of National 3rd Junior Vice Commander.

All those in favor of Judy Steinhouse for the Office of National 3rd Junior Vice Commander, signify by saying aye; those opposed.

The ayes have it and Judy Steinhouse has been elected to the Office of National 3rd Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

E. Bonita Mitchell has been nominated by the committee for the Office of National 4th Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the Office of National 4th Junior Vice Commander.

All those in favor of E. Bonita Mitchell for the Office of National 4th Junior Vice Commander, signify by saying aye; those opposed.

The ayes have it and E. Bonita Mitchell has been elected to the Office of National 4th Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

Jackie Fossiano has been nominated by the committee for the Office of National Chaplain. Are there any other nominations?

Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the Office of National Chaplain.

All those in favor of Jackie Fossiano for the Office of National Chaplain, signify by saying aye; those opposed.

The ayes have it and Jackie Fossiano has been elected to the Office of National Chaplain. (Applause)

Shelia Allred 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 the National Judge Advocate.

All those in favor of Shelia Allred for the Office of National Judge Advocate, signify by saying aye; any opposed?

The ayes have it and Shelia Allred has been elected to the Office as the National Judge Advocate. (Applause)

The election is now complete. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you care to come to the podium for the purpose of introducing the national executive committeewomen and those who served as pages.

Yes, and while they're doing that, tellers, thank you very much for all of your hard work and you are dismissed. (Applause)

She can go back there and line up with the other ladies so you can come forward with them. I thought I'd see more smiles than this morning. Would you like one of mine? I'll give you one.

We've almost got more up here than we've got up there. You might have to make a third row here this morning. Good morning, Sergeant-at-Arms.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS BETTY J. BENZING: Good morning, National Commander. Good morning, Carol.

COMMANDER GRAY: Good morning.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS BENZING: How are you?

COMMANDER GRAY: I'm fine. Would you like to introduce all the ladies that worked with you?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS BENZING: I can't name all of them.

COMMANDER GRAY: They all have names.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS BENZING: I don't see any.

COMMANDER GRAY: Oh, they're all named Page, I forgot. That was a nice name. That was a popular name for a few years.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS BENZING: I have enjoyed very much working with these ladies this whole week. I have thoroughly enjoyed working this week for Carol, with Carol and with everyone else involved.

The junior pages have been exceptional. I do believe they have been so eager to help. It has been a wonderful week and I thank everyone involved. (Applause) This is for you, Carol.

COMMANDER GRAY: I like the name on the box. Oh, my, beautiful little crystal lighthouses, salt and pepper shakers. I said "cool", Maria, sorry. She can strike it out of the minutes.

I will use these. Those are absolutely beautiful. Thank you very much. Okay, Marie Clancy would like to introduce the Sergeant-at-Arms.

MRS. MARIE CLANCY: On behalf of the NECs, Betty, and our Sergeant-at-Arms, I call her Sergeant all the time, the girls have taken up a collection to thank you.

MRS. BENZING: Thank you. Oh, my goodness, when did you do this?

MS. CLANCY: You're welcome. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Ladies, thank you all very much for helping. Juniors, we couldn't do without you. I still can't believe one of our juniors is graduated. Where is she? She's down here. Come on out here. In two and a half weeks she goes to college. (Applause)

Thank you, ladies. I would also like to thank the National Color Bearers, Peggy Smith, Lorene Penermon. If you would stand up, please. Thank you very much. (Applause)

Peggy said this morning she think she has gotten very attached to these flags over the last few days. Do we have any unfinished business? Not that she knows of.

Okay, the business of the convention having been completed, I now declare this 79th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary adjourned, and we will immediately go into the installation of the newly elected officers, followed by the Post Convention National Executive Committee Meeting.

Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the families who are here down to the front; and the officers to be installed, please go to the rear of the room with your pages.

Renee Jones, have you selected your installing officer?

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JONES: Yes, I have. We need about five or so minutes, if you could just be patient, if no one will leave.

My installing officer, it is, indeed, my honor to announce that taking part in the installation ceremonies today is the person who installed me as unit commander, who took part with her best friend installing me as state commander. This is it.

COMMANDER GRAY: Take a deep breath, in through your nose, out through your mouth. It works, trust me. (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JONES: Past National Commander Jane Troutman and Past National Commander Shelia Allred. (Applause)

COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you. See, you can do it. I've had to practice that myself a few times this year.

I'd like to tell you right now what an honor and privilege it has been to work with you, to represent all of you.

Jean Jackson said someone asked for Junior applications. If that person is in the room, if she would raise her hand so that Jean can find her. If not, look her up later or send for them from national headquarters. They'll get them out to you post haste.

The other night I was asked by a member of the DAV for three applications for his sisters who will be becoming members of the auxiliary this year. That was from George Steese who at that time was National Senior Vice Commander, and that's great. (Applause)

ADJUTANT TEDROW: While we're waiting, don't anybody leave the room. We had an election today, and I've been to some states, and I want to just give you a little instruction on this.

I have been to some states where they have an election and they nominate. Then the call goes out "Are there any other nominations, are there any other nominations, are there any other nominations?"

This is not necessary. You ask for the nomination, and then you say, "Are there any other nominations?", and then you pause, look around the room, make sure no one is getting up.

Then you say, "Hearing none, nominations are closed." An adjutant does not cast, does not cast, does not cast -- got it -- a unanimous ballot.

It is up to the Chair, and the Chair is the commander to declare that the officer has been elected. So, when nominations are closed and there are no other nominations, she will say at that time, "So and so has been nominated for the Office of -- all those in favor say aye; those opposed, nay".

Then she will say, "at this time", or words to that effect, "I now declare that so and so is Commander."

Do you understand that? Adjutants do not give the unanimous ballots. The Chair does that. The Chair declares that the election is closed and the officer has been elected.

I just wanted to say that because we were going through this, and I know that I've been in some states whether they still continue to say, "Are there any other nominations, are there any other nominations, are there any other nominations?"

The question only has to be posed once, and then pause to look around the room, and make sure no one is standing.

Maybe when we go to conventions this year, we'll see that that's changed in some of the states. I just wanted to add that little bit while we were talking. Thank you for your patience.

MS. GRAY: At this time, if the installing conductress, Susan Hallman, would come forward.

JUDGE ADVOCATE ALLRED: You may be seated. You are requested to remain silent during the ceremony of installation.

Installing Conductress Susan Hallman has now taken her place at the right of the alter. National Adjutant Maria Tedrow will call the roll of the new national officers to be installed.

As each officer's name is called, she will take her place to the left of the installing conductress.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: National Commander for the year 2001-2002, R. Renee Jones. (Applause)

Senior Vice Commander for the year 2001-2002, Linda Trulio.

(Applause)

1st Junior Vice Commander for the year 2001-2002, Janet Bennett.

2nd Junior Vice Commander for 2001-2002, Gertrude Tidwell.

3rd Junior Vice Commander for 2001-2002, Judy Steinhouse.

4th Junior Vice Commander for the year 2001-2002, E. Bonita Mitchell.

National Auxiliary Chaplain for 2001-2002, Jackie Fossiano.

The National Judge Advocate for the year 2001-2002, Past National Commander Shelia C. Allred. She is up here.

JUDGE ADVOCATE ALLRED: Thank you, you may be seated. National Officers, the fact that you have been selected by the members of this Auxiliary for your respective national offices shows that this membership has confidence in your ability.

They feel assured you will strictly and impartially discharge all duties in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of this organization.

They confine the welfare of the Auxiliary to your keeping, and they, in turn, are expected at all times to respect your knowledge and your position.

As a newly elected national officer for the year 2001-2002, are you willing to assume the oath of your office?

(Responses of "I am".)

JUDGE ADVOCATE ALLRED: Members stand.

MRS. JANE TROUTMAN: Newly elected officers, place your right hand over your heart, pronounce your name and repeat after me the oath of the office:

I, Jane Troutman, 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 abilities in me.

When my successor has been duly selected and installed, I promise to surrender to her all the property of the organization in my possession, all of which I now affirm.

Officers, you may lower your hands. Members, please be seated. Newly elected officers, if you would about face. (Applause)

Members, I now present to you the national officers of your choice. I trust that you will aid them to the performance of their duties. With your help, their term of office will be highly successful.

JUDGE ADVOCATE ALLRED: This is called "Photo Opportunity". If you want a photo, get it now because we're fixing to go right on.

National Officers, will you please face the dias again, please. I'll ask the installing conductress to please escort the national commander up to the dais with us.

The rest of the officers remain there. Ladies and officers of this Auxiliary, I present to you R. Renee Jones, Auxiliary National Commander, 2001-2002. (Applause)

MRS. TROUTMAN: As newly Installed officers, we are pleased to turn over to you this gavel, the emblem of your authority. Congratulations. (Applause)

JUDGE ADVOCATE ALLRED: Will the newly elected and installed national officers join us one at a time as your name is called and as National Commander R. Renee Jones greets each of you as you arrive to your station.

MRS. TROUTMAN: National Senior Vice Commander Linda A. Trulio, New Jersey. (Applause)

National 1st Junior Vice Commander Janet W. Bennett, Nevada. (Applause)

National 2nd Junior Vice Commander Gertrude Tidwell, Oklahoma. (Applause)

National 3rd Junior Vice Commander Judy Steinhouse, North Dakota. (Applause)

National 4th Junior Vice Commander Bonita Mitchell, Missouri. (Applause)

National Chaplain Jackie Fossiano, Massachusetts. (Applause)

And, of course, National Judge Advocate Shelia C. Allred, North Carolina. (Applause)

You may be seated. We have one other thing to do. We have something, Renee, from Jane and myself to you to keep you organized this coming year. Would you please open your gift from your installing officers. (Applause)

JUDGE ADVOCATE ALLRED: We know Liz Claborne is one of your favorites, so you have your briefcase and your matching bag for next year. (Applause)

And just so you won't get lost, we have a map of the United States with stickers on it to go on it to tell everywhere you've been. (Applause)

You're installed. Past National Commander Carol Gray will do the pin.

IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER GRAY: Renee, Commander Renee, I'm glad you learned well and can say "cool" really good. Yesterday, you were talking and you said, "Oh, I'm sorry" because you were excited about being commander today.

And I said "not a problem." I'm as excited for you as I was excited for me last year. You were a bright light in the light for the Auxiliary last year, and I will be here. (Applause)

COMMANDER R. RENEE JONES: Jane and Shelia, I have just a small thing for each of you with a lovely card.

I am so happy that you could be a part of this and be my Installing Officers. I really, really appreciate what you've done for me.

Wow! (Laughter) That was there before I knew that was one of her favorite words. Here I am at the start/finish line of what I hope will be the best year of the DAV Auxiliary.

I can't believe that I am actually here. Thank you so very much for bestowing this honor upon me. I am glad that each and every Auxiliary member is a team owner, and I am looking forward to being in the driver's seat during the 2001-2002 membership year.

In 1983, when I joined the DAV Auxiliary, I had no desire to become national commander. In fact, I had no desire to try and qualify to be any type of officer.

I only joined the Auxiliary to get my grandmother off my back. (Laughter) Mama Ruby, which was the only thing the grandkids could call her, was my father's mother and a very active Auxiliary member.

My parents divorced when I was an infant, but that didn't stop Mama Ruby from harassing my mother and I into joining the organization.

I think we finally just gave her money and a membership application to make her go away. There must have been some type of membership contest.

Maybe the person with the most points made it to the winners circle, because Mama Ruby didn't stop asking until we said "yes". So in 1983, we said "yes", and I became an Auxiliary rookie among many Auxiliary veterans. So contrary to popular belief, I was never a Junior member. I missed being a Junior by one year.

It wasn't until sometime later that I made a New Year's Resolution to attend unit meetings and take an active part in the organization.

Funny thing about resolutions. When I make one about losing weight, I never stick to it, but this resolution was different. I wanted to make a difference in the lives of veterans and their families, the people who provided me with the freedom I had and still have.

Some of those veterans had given the ultimate sacrifice, but I realized I could still make a difference in the benefits their families were entitled to. Today, I am more indebted than ever.

As an officer of this organization, I have been given the opportunity to travel across the country and meet wonderful people all dedicated to the same purpose -- building better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families.

Those people are members of the DAV Auxiliary Team, the ones doing the work that benefits all disabled veterans and their dependents.

Words can never express the sincere appreciation I have for each and every Auxiliary member. Regardless of how much or how little a member can participate, simply, her dues allow us to add one more number to the count; the count that tells our legislative leaders we mean business.

I know each of you are a member of the Auxiliary Team, but what position do you play? As the Auxiliary races into the new millennium, we need to have our team on the pole. We need each member to do just a little more.

We need Auxiliary spotters searching for new members and new volunteers. And as with any team, we must have our family, our fans and our sponsors involved.

I do have several sponsors that I would like to recognize today. For without their support, I would not be standing here.

First, my late grandmother, Ruby Warlick, for recruiting me and passing down her passion and legacy of the DAV Auxiliary. I hope she is looking down on me today.

Unfortunately, my parents are not here. I do know that they are here in spirit. I was looking forward to setting the record straight about my mother, as many of you have thought, and some continue to think, that Shelia is my mother. (Laughter)

My aunt, Judy Graves -- if she would please stand for a moment -- is here. (Applause) Thank you, Judy, for being here during this very special time in my life.

She is an Auxiliary member, and this is her first national convention. (Applause) I have many members of my extended family here today; my DAV and Auxiliary family, most of whom have guided and supported me for more than half of my life.

It's not every day that you are given the opportunity to publicly thank someone for all that they have done. Most of these special people have been in the paddock with me from the very beginning.

Unfortunately, Corky Reynolds and Geri Tessnier, two of my closest friends, are not here. Corky is usually the one who keeps up with my schedule. Margaret and Herman Snelling are here. Thank you, Margaret. Thank you, Herman. They have been with me on the circuit from the very beginning. Margaret has served as my personal page during my term as a national officer.

Thank you both for everything that you do, especially for the friendship that we share.

Barbara and Leon Smeal, Brenda Hatley, Betty Bryant and Mayola Winston have also supported me in my endeavors. They have been with me on each lap around the speedway.

I would like to recognize those individuals who have assisted me with my presentations at the Auxiliary's Fall Conference. However, I can't do that by name because I know I would forget someone. Please know that your assistance truly meant a lot.

I would like to recognize one participant, and that is Mr. Ben Benzing. Would you please stand, Ben? (Applause)

You have been simply remarkable. All I ever had to do was send Ben an e-mail -- don't you make me cry -- all I have ever had to do was send him an e-mail and say, "Ben, will you participate?"

I never had to tell him anything that I was going to do. As my best friend, Susan, will tell you, I am quite evasive at times.

Ben, you made those presentations very successful, and I don't know what we're going to do this time. Thank you very much.

I'd also like to say thanks to those who worked behind the scenes with Margaret and me during each national convention by compiling and distributing campaign items.

You were up early, stayed out late, and I truly appreciate everything that you did. If the entire 9th District would please stand, it consists of Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Thank you so much. I'm happy to be a part of the best district in the country. (Applause)

And Margie, Past National Commander Margaret Hass, thank you so much for taking a chance on me many years ago making me History Chairman. (Applause)

My very best friend, Susan Hallman, who understands my passion for the DAV Auxiliary. What makes it even more special is that she asked me if she could come. Of course, I said "yes".

She is an Auxiliary member, and this is her first national convention. (Applause)

Willie, please stand. This is a really good friend of mine, Willie Hefner. Thank you, Willie, for being here with me. (Applause)

Past National Commander Jane Troutman, who inspired me to want to be just like her the moment I met her in the late 80's, and she's been in her 30's ever since I met her. (Laughter)

I'm about to pass her. Your experience and guidance that you have given me through the years truly, truly means a lot. I value the friendship that we share, and I love you very much.

If I had to choose another set of parents, I wouldn't have to look very far. Shelia and Jim Allred claimed me to be their adopted daughter -- Shelia, you certainly have been a great sounding board for many years. We have a lot in common. I enjoy the brain-storming sessions that we have. Contrary to popular belief, I don't do everything she tells me to do. (Laughter)

If I did, I might not be standing here today as she wanted me to be national executive committeewoman, and that just was not in the cards for me.

Thanks for allowing me to make my own decisions, my own mistakes, for helping keep me grounded, for your support, your constructive criticism and for helping me apply the brakes when needed. (Applause)

I am deeply honored to have a group of distinguished men among us today. They, too, have become a part of my extended family. I'm, of course, referring to the DAV National Service Officers. Would you please stand. (Applause) And Mr. Joe Violante, National Legislative Director. (Applause)

They are the everyday champions of this organization. Thank you so much for the personal assistance that you have given to me over the last few years.

I am truly grateful for the friendship that we share. These individuals work day in and day out for disabled veterans and their families.

I know that there are many people here today who have never met the national service officer from their state. Often that NSO is the first person we turn to in a time of need. That's why I would like to challenge each Auxiliary member and each state department to become involved in this special program called ASOP.

That's A-S-O-P, and that stands for Adopt a Service Officer Program. The purpose of this program is for the national service officers to get to know Auxiliary members of their state departments, and for Auxiliary members in the state department to get to know their national service officers, their department service officers and their transitional service officers.

Over the last few years, I have made a point to get to know many of them. As Auxiliary members, there is so much we can learn from an NSO, as well as being able to share valuable information about the Auxiliary with an NSO.

Can you believe there are actually some NSOs that don't know the Auxiliary eligibility requirements, but it is not any of these young men over here. Trust me.

Information about ASOP will be made available at the Auxiliary National Fall Conference. I ask you, as an Auxiliary member, or as an NSO, to join the line up and participate in this special project.

I need each of you to be a part of the team. One of the first opportunities for you to get involved is to send a get well card to one NSO who is a dear friend of mine.

His name is Leonard Harris. He's the supervisor at the St. Louis, Missouri, Office. I'm not sure if you've heard, but unfortunately this week he did suffer a heart attack while here. I did visit with him twice over the last week, and as of yesterday he was scheduled to possibly be released either Monday or Tuesday.

I'd like to give you his home address and ask that you make a promise to yourself that you will send a get well card. Again, Leonard Harris, 400 South 18th, St. Louis, Missouri, 63103.

In years past at each national convention, the incoming Auxiliary National Commander has hosted a reception. Usually the

reception is on the same night that DAV candidates also hold receptions.

Thus, we tend to go from one reception to the next. Auxiliary candidate receptions are not necessary, nor are they encouraged. So this year I hope I made a precedent by not having a reception. Did anybody notice? Good.

In 1998 when I was first elected to national office, I began thinking about the funds needed for a reception at the national convention. I'm sure that you would be surprised to learn that such receptions costs thousands of dollars. I decided that instead of hosting a reception, I would like to donate funds to a needy cause.

I would much rather donate $1,000 to a needy cause then to spend $10,000 on a reception held the same night that three or four other receptions would be held.

The end result was that I wanted to collect, or save, one million pennies by the time I would need to host a reception. One million pennies translates to $10,000. So back in 1998, me and a few friends started saving pennies. No one was ever allowed to spend a penny in my presence unless they wanted a lecture.

I knew that my idea would become a reality by enlisting my closest friends and family. At this time, if you are in the room, I would like to ask the following people to please stand: Shelia and Jim Allred, Betty Bryant, Marie Clancy, Loriece Cole, Stephen Combs in the rear of the room, Patty Davis, Ann Sobozinski, Carol Gray, Judy Graves, Susan Hallman, Willie Heffner, Kathy Hicke, Judy and her husband, Mac McClaskey -- Mac isn't here -- Debbie and Sandy Mazza, Dick Marbes, JoAnne Mingus, Bonita Mitchell, Chad Moos, Sharon Pieper, Barbara and Leon Snell, Margaret and Herman Snelling, Gertrude Tidwell, Jane Troutman, Mayola Winston.

And National Service Officer Randy Bunting in the rear of his room. an anonymous donation was made in your honor for your work that you have contributed while you were in the South Carolina National Service Office.

Unknown members from the Department of Iowa and Wisconsin, and the reason I say "unknown" is because once people got wind I was trying to do this, people just started bringing me money. It was great.

Members from North Carolina Units 18, 59 and 67. There are a few others who either are not here today or who wish to remain anonymous.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your contribution and support of this idea. For you, truly, made it a victory.

When a collection of brilliant minds, hearts and talents come together, expect a masterpiece, because we, indeed, created a masterpiece.

On your behalf, it is indeed my pleasure to present checks totaling $6,030.06. (Applause) The bulk of the money will go to the DAV Auxiliary Service Support Program.

However, there are two small donations for Freedoms Foundation and the Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project.

I also have a donation in memory of my late grandmother, Ruby Warlick, to the National Educational Loan Fund in the amount of $600.

I trust you agree that this amount will go a lot further to assist those in need than it would have in hosting a reception.

I think this is a big win for programs supported by the DAV Auxiliary. (Applause) What does this donation indicate?

That you should never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

This donation was made possible because of family and friends who agreed to be part of the team. Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision; the ability to direct individual accomplishment towards organizational objectives.

It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results. The challenge for every organization is to build a feeling of oneness, of dependence on one another, because the question is usually not how well each person works, but how well

they work together.

When a team of dedicated individuals makes the commitment to act as one, the sky is the limit. Each of those folks realized that together everyone achieves more.

I ask you to remember those words during the coming year as the Auxiliary races to the finish line in hopes of seeing the checkered flag of another extraordinary membership year.

As an individual, I can accomplish small things. As a member of a team, we can move the world. Whether you are in the garage, the stands or the driver's seat, you are a very valuable part of the DAV Auxiliary Team.

Ladies, start your engines. (Applause) At this time I would like to ask my family if they would please come to the podium -- Judy Graves, Susan Hallman, Willie Heffner, Margaret and Herman Snelling, Jane Troutman, Jim and Shelia Allred. First, my aunt, Judy Graves. (Applause)

MRS. JUDY GRAVES: Wow! I'm going to be a "wow" person, too, I think. That was a great speech, and I can't believe that Renee has called upon me to follow her.

But, seriously, I count it both an honor and a privilege to stand before you today to speak about my niece. I will begin by saying that we have all had firsts in our lives -- if you can remember. A lot of us are getting a little bit older.

It's kind of hard when our memory is failing us. But remember your first date, your first kiss, your first love, your first child, your first grandchild, and many, many other firsts in your life.

These first families and family members and the events hold an important place in our hearts. Renee holds one of those special places in my heart; not only because she is my niece, but for the roles that she has played bringing her to this date.

Since a young girl, she has always believed in doing her best in anything that she endeavored to do. She has set many goals in her life, and she has strived to achieve. I am sure that she will be setting more goals in the future.

One of those was made at the age of 18 when she reluctantly joined the DAV, but then decided that she wanted to some day be the national commander for the DAV Auxiliary.

For many years, she has worked towards that goal. I won't tell you the number of years that she has been in the Auxiliary for fear of telling her age.

You know how we women feel about that! She has held many offices, been on lots of committees, attended many meetings and groomed herself for this day. I am extremely proud of her and know that you, too, will be as she serves this year as our National Auxiliary Commander.

I ask that you support her as she strives to make a difference in the lives of those veterans who have sacrificed to give us the freedom that we enjoy today, and as she works to help the families of those veterans who lost their lives fighting for our freedom. Thank you so much, and God Bless each and every one of you immensely. (Applause)

As Renee told you earlier, her mother could not be with us today. Unfortunately, she would loved to have been here, but circumstances beyond her control prevented her being here this week.

So, as my sister is not with us, Renee's mother did ask that I read this for her:

> Renee, you are every parent's dream; not only for your work with the Disabled American Veterans, but your influence that you have had on so many people in your life.
>
> I know that you have made many sacrifices to do what you needed to get where you are today. I also know that you would not have had it any other way.
>
> I have asked you why many times that you would take every spare minute of your time, including vacation, holiday, or whatever time you had to spend working free with the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary and the DAV.
>
> You told me if I could just see the people that you encountered on your trips around the world that I would

understand.

There are so many people out in this world that have chosen the wrong things to do with their lives. So many have taken their lives, and others have turned to drugs and alcohol. I just thank the good Lord that he used you as a wonderful example that you could set a goal and fulfill it in the way that you have.

I know that you will make a difference to the young people around you, as well as the elders. I wish that every parent could have a wonderful daughter like you.

I know that the coming year is going to be a very special time for you, and that the members of the DAV and the Auxiliary around the United States will help you in any way that they can.

Well, here you are, as you said, at the start/finish line, and I know that you will come in first. You are a very hard and deserving young lady, and when you set a goal, you set it for the top. That is why you're always so successful in everything that you do.

May God bless you and be with you always. Congratulations, and love always, Mom". Applause)

I would like to say congratulations also. I'm very proud of you, Renee, and I love you very much.

COMMANDER JONES: This says, "DAVA Renee Jones, elected National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, August 2, 2001, held at the Fountainebleau Hilton Resort, Miami, Florida".

Thank you. (Applause) Susan, would you like to say anything?

MRS. SUSAN HALLMAN: Commander Renee, my very best friend, I just want to say I'm very proud of her.

I met Renee in college about ten years ago, and we really grew very, very close. I know what kind of job she's going to do for the DAV Auxiliary, but if you have the opportunity to get to know her on a personal level, she will touch your heart in a way that you can't imagine. (Applause)

COMMANDER JONES: It's not a frog, is it? Just checking, R. Renee Jones, with the accent, that's good, "Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Commander 2001-2002", and it's a photo album. Thank you very much. (Applause)

Willie, would you like to say anything? Willie Heffner. (Applause)

MR. WILLIE HEFFNER: I just wanted to say that I've only known Renee for just a few years, but I can assure you that she will take on the challenge of this job and do it with all of her might.

I know this lady is somebody that always is punctual, on time, always keeps a commitment, always keeps her promise. I know that she'll keep a promise to you in doing the job that I know she can do in serving you.

Let me just say real quickly that if you ever get a chance to visit Renee back in our home area, the Gastonia/Lincoln County area, there's a little place that her grandmother is originally from called Cherryville.

Have her take you up to the Shake Shop, the best cheeseburger you'll ever find, and she loves to go there. (Laughter and applause)

COMMANDER JONES: Margaret and Herman, would you like to say a few words? Margaret and Herman Snelling.

MRS. MARGARET SNELLING: I just want to apologize. I had a gift for you, Renee, but in my haste to get down here at 6:00 o'clock to set up those gifts that you received, I forgot to bring your gift, but I will give it to you later.

Renee is a hard task master, let me tell you. (Laughter)

MR. HERMAN SNELLING: I just want to say that, Renee, here's that gift right here. (Laughter)

COMMANDER JONES: It's only a matter of time. Jane, would you like to say anything?

MRS. TROUTMAN: Renee, I don't think that I have to tell any of these ladies out here what you have done going through the Chairs.

Renee is a very focused person. She has a goal. She knows

how to attain that goal. She wouldn't ask anyone to do anything as an officer that she wouldn't do herself.

We're just really proud of you, Renee. And also, congratulations to the rest of the officers. (Applause)

COMMANDER JONES: What about my adopted mom and dad?

JUDGE ADVOCATE ALLRED: All right, Renee. Jim and I, we couldn't have been any prouder if you were our biological daughter.

Jim is very protective of Renee. One time she got stranded out. She was like a couple of hours out from our house, but she was stranded. She called the tow truck to come and get her, come and pick her up, but she was scared.

She called me to have me talk to her while waiting on them, in case anything happened. It was all I could do to keep Jim from going out the door to go get her.

I said, "Jim, by the time you get there, the truck will be there". But he was sitting there with the cell phone. In case she had any problems, he was going to call the police.

So he's very protective of her. Jim cares about her a lot, and he recognizes her dedication in the organization.

Also these little stickers you see -- you see R.J. on there? My next door neighbor was a Renee, and I'd say "Renee this and Renee that", and so we started calling her R.J., and this was his idea.

He's a Duke fan, and he, like North Carolina has it all; Renee Jones and basketball. Go R.J. and Duke.

So, when we were going to where Carolina Blue, he had to get Duke in here. Renee, needless to say how proud I am of you.

I wanted her to do everything, and I wanted her to be an NEC because I felt like there is some valuable information. She was very -- she did it in a way -- she invited us out for supper one night and told me what she wanted to do, after she found out I wanted her to be an NEC and asked if I'd support her if she didn't go to NEC, if she'd just be in national officer.

Of course, I told her "yes". She is so qualified it's unbelievable. You're going to see energy this year like you've never seen before.

It's going to be really a great whirlwind year. There's one thing that I can't tell you. I'm not supposed to tell you, but I'm going to drop a really subtle hint.

Somewhere around the last of August, I want you to listen to any announcements concerning the Olympics to see if there's a name that you recognize. And that's just about all I can say. Congratulations. (Applause)

COMMANDER JONES: Thank you. I meant to tell them, don't embarrass me, don't make me cry, no rapping. I didn't have to. At this time I would like to ask the Auxiliary's Pit Crew for a few brief remarks and family or friend introductions.

Drafting right behind me is our Auxiliary National Senior Vice Commander Linda Trulio. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER TRULIO: Good morning everyone. Renee, my motor started a long time ago, and it's running and ready to go. And in similar comparison to Renee, you know, some of you have some of my history. But, I started in a very interesting way, too. My husband came home from the military and became affiliated with the chapter.

And somewhere in 1974, he came home just like that cartoon in the manual "You're a member of an Auxiliary. I put you on a charter".

I didn't have a clue as to what he was talking about. After raising my family and taking care of my veteran for many years, I finally decided to come to my first convention, nationally, and met a person who is not here, whom I owe thanks to.

And that is Louise Rapisand who gave me a little bit of an insight, and said, "This looks like something I think you would be interested in."

I watched and I observed. At that convention in 1989, I signed up to be a life member and the rest is history.

I'm very proud and honored to be here, and I look out among you and see many members, many members of units, units who are the foundation of our Auxiliary.

You have helped me, you have supported me, and I urge and continue to let you know that you are valuable to our organization.

You are the cornerstones, and you continue to work for us. There are many states who have been very supportive and have shown me the most unbelievable hospitality in the years I have traveled.

I hope in some way that I have helped you, and more than ever you have shown me new and interesting ideas that I continue to share.

I look over to my beloved Garden State of New Jersey, would the ladies of New Jersey please stand up, and my District Number 4, Connecticut and Delaware. (Applause)

I'm very grateful for all the support you have given me, for always being there. A special thanks to my neighboring states -- New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania -- who have also shown me encouragement and support.

I would also like to thank Past National Commander Barbara Hicks, who gave me the opportunity at that time to become her Junior Activities Chairman; also to Evelyn Dunn to continue my work with the Juniors and also to the Juniors themselves.

Every time I come to your convention, they always say, "We still belong to you", and they're always ready and willing to help me with everything that I have to distribute and do.

As one of them moves on, Rachael, I hope that I will still be an important part of her life as she has made an impression on mine.

I also would like to thank other Past National Commanders, all of you who are here. You have guided me. You have put me back on the track sometimes when I get off.

Thank you to Maria, also, who will let me know where I go wrong and set me straight. I appreciate all the remarks and the comments.

I also would like to thank someone who is not here, Barbara Maldet, who many years ago said, "When are you putting in your fax sheet?" I didn't know what that even was. But, I thank her for that, even though her presence is not here.

And to two people who are probably dancing up in heaven, Dorothy Otts and Phyllis Greaney. Dorothy is probably dragging Phyllis around in ecstasy.

They have been very supportive and they are my friends. Also, on the subject of friends, my good friend, Dorothea Campanelli, my traveling companion, my soul mate, who tells me "get those stockings off; you're not wearing them with those shoes", and make sure I look the right way going out the door.

And when she's not there, I have Doris, who now is her associate, you know, criticizer. Last but not least, my husband, Joe, who is here. Would you stand up, Joe? My GI Joe. (Applause)

My husband, my lover, my best friend and my best supporter, who, without his support -- I mean, it's very difficult sometimes. I might have been home maybe five days in the month of June, but he takes me to the airport, wishes me well and is very proud of everything I do. The way that I feel about him is the way I feel about every disabled veteran and their families, which are you.

Renee, as part of your team, I will dedicate myself to be your number one head coach on this team to get us through a victorious year. We will all meet at the finish line in first place. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER JONES: In Turn 1, National 1st Junior Vice Commander Janet Bennett. (Applause)

1ST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER BENNETT: Good morning. Thank you, Commander Renee. You know, I would love to adopt a national service officer. (Laughter)

We have a great one in the state of Nevada. His name is J.R. Brown. Also, everybody is saying how they came in through this organization.

I came in through my husband, James, who at that time was a national service officer. The first convention I ever went to was in 1976, and it was in Miami at the Americana Hotel.

I knew nothing about this organization except what some of the things that Jim had told me. But there was a lady from Florida --

as Jim said, "Go into this room where all the ladies are sitting, and you'll find out what it's about".

So, I came into the room and there were quite a large number of ladies sitting there, and I thought "I wonder what they're all doing"?

I happened to sit down next to a lady, and as I said, she was from Florida. She told me all about the organization. Every day I sat with her, and that made me very interested.

I cannot say that I joined back then at that time. I didn't, as I had very little children and I stayed home and took care of them. But in 1980, when we came out here to Nevada, I decided that I would join this great organization, and I'm very proud to be a member.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for electing me your 1st Junior Vice Commander.

I will be working on membership as well as we will be working on membership programs. There are some very special people that I would like to say thank you to. One is Past National Commander Evelyn Dunn. She dresses me, she tells me how to wear my clothes. She tells me where to put my pin and how to do my hair.

She does just about everything. She also helps me with all my programs. Evelyn, I'm so very proud to have you as my friend. Thank you very much. (Applause)

And my other good friend; I've know her for many, many years, and she's a wonderful lady. She does a lot of things for me, too, and she's my personal page. She's Helen Parcelle.

Helen, thank you so very much for all you do for me. (Applause) I love you dearly, both of you ladies.

Last but not least, I would like to thank District 18 for all of their support and their concern. Would you please stand, ladies. (Applause) Thank you for being here, and thank you for your continuous support.

And last but not least, I have a husband, Jim, as you heard me speak about. He is the most wonderful man. He meets all my needs. He, too, takes me to the airport, picks me up, washes my clothes when I'm not there, makes the beds, does the floors and does the vacuum.

He does just about everything I can think of, and I'm so very proud to have him as my husband, and I love you truly, Jim. Thank you for being here. He is standing in the back. (Applause)

I'm going to be very honored and very proud to work with all the ladies this year that have been elected, especially National Commander Renee Jones. I know she will do a wonderful job. She's a very bubbly young lady. Thank you and God bless each and everyone of you. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER JONES: In Turn 2, National 2nd Junior Vice Commander Gertrude Tidwell. (Applause)

2ND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER TIDWELL: Thank you, Madam Commander. I've been just dying to say that. (Laughter) Good morning. Commander Renee, Adjutant Marie, officers, members and guests, I want to say today thank you for this opportunity to once again serve this wonderful organization.

I also want to say thank you to the 21st District NEC lady that's on the Nominating Committee, and I want to thank all the ladies on the committee; because without that committee, where would we be?

They are all wonderful ladies from each district. Every one of them have a hard decision to make, so I want to say a special thank you, ladies, for what you do.

I also want to recognize Past National Commander Loneita Shoemaker. Loneita has been my mentor for many, many years. Even before I started as a national officer, she encouraged me to become a state officer in 1985. And for this, I thank her. (Applause)

My daughter and my granddaughter are sitting in the audience, and I would like to recognize them for all the help that they give me, Margaret Sue Hollingsworth and Anna Marie Hollingsworth. (Applause)

I have many people to thank for where I am today. And as I look out over this audience, I cannot call everybody's name,

because I've had lots of encouragements from every state, from all past national commanders.

It has just been wonderful to say that, but let me tell you my state, the DAV and the Auxiliary, from the chapter up, have been behind me all the way.

So my other daughter is now -- actually I claim her because my kids do not live anywhere close. She is now our state department commander, but she's also our unit commander in my unit. Deborah Huddleston, would you stand, please? (Applause)

Now I would like for all of District 21 to stand. (Applause) We're small, but Oklahoma and Arkansas have it all. Now we even have Renee.

Also, I wanted to tell you ladies we're going to get a little wild when it comes to fall conference, but we will be playing with a winning team. So everybody get ready, and I'll see you all there. (Applause)

COMMANDER JONES: In Turn 3, National 3rd Junior Vice Commander Judy Steinhouse. (Applause)

3RD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Good morning, everyone. I just want to thank all of you for the faith and confidence you have placed in me by electing me as your National 3rd Junior Vice Commander.

I look forward to working with all of you wonderful, wonderful ladies. I make this promise today to do my very best to ensure the confidence that you have placed in me is well founded.

I do not have any immediate family here with me today, but I do have three very special friends from my home chapter and unit that I would like to introduce to you.

They are -- and if they would stand, please -- Mary Lou and Ronnie Weber and Jim Fenzded. (Applause) Thank you for being here and for being such great friends. Also, to Mary Lou, Happy Birthday today.

To the great ladies of the state of North Dakota, what can I say? You are the very best. And the ladies of the 14th District are second to none. Would the 14th District please stand? (Applause)

A very special thank you to Past National Commander Margaret Hass for all of her love and support and encouragement; to all the past national commanders for their help and encouragement throughout these years. I really, really appreciate it. Thank you, Margaret. Thank you all. (Applause)

For those of you that were at last year's convention, you may remember that I dedicated my year last year to my late father, my mother and to a late friend who has been my mentor for many, many years.

My mother has since passed away, and I want to thank all of you who had sent me cards and expressions of sympathy. They were greatly appreciated.

I'm dedicating this year to the great ladies of the DAV Auxiliary in the state of North Dakota. They have been such a huge part of my journey through the Auxiliary, and I want to thank them for that.

My program this year is Americanism. It's my favorite program, and I will work very hard to bring the Americanism Program alive to all the units across this great country.

Following Renee's theme of "Together everyone achieves more", the Americanism Report Program will take a little poetic license and say that through teamwork we will achieve all the Americanism projects.

Together, everyone can and will achieve more. Catch the wave and support the Americanism today and every day.

Commander Renee, you can count on me as a team member to support you all the way. Again, I look forward to working with all of the wonderful Auxiliary members and all the line officers this year.

Thank you to Adjutant Maria and her staff for the encouragement and guidance that they provide, and I look forward to working with them, too. Together, we will bring this DAV Team through a winning year. Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause)

COMMANDER JONES: Our rookie this year, National 4th Junior Vice Commander Bonita Mitchell. (Applause)

4TH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER BONITA MITCHELL: Commander Renee, thank you for letting me be on your team. I'm eligible through my husband, the late Leroy Mitchell, who was a 100 percent disabled veteran.

I am so happy that we were able to find an organization that was very dedicated to a disabled person. I also want to thank my unit, Earnestine Shoeman Hank, Unit Number 2, my state department at Missouri, my District Number 15 they call the Mink state; Missouri, Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas.

As the Community Service Chairman this year, I'm asking each of you to go home and work in your unit to make sure that you have volunteers out there doing community service work, because it takes community service work to make this organization a great one.

I ask you to be on our team and come to the fall conference and show Renee that you are on her team, also.

Thank you so very, very much. And would the District 15 State Department of Missouri, and my unit please stand so they could be recognized. (Applause)

Thank you, Renee. I have watched you come up through the chairs, and even before you started way back, when we were just kind of getting our feet wet. Congratulations on being selected as our new national commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER JONES: Our seasoned veteran National Judge Advocate Shelia Allred. (Applause)

JUDGE ADVOCATE ALLRED: Thank you, Commander. It sounds so good. I want to thank the members of this organization for electing me once again to the position of national judge advocate.

I first became eligible into this organization under my daddy when I was 9 years old. One of the criterias to date his daughters, my sister and myself, was you had to be a veteran.

He really liked it if you were eligible for the DAV. When Jim Allred first came to pick me up for our first date, he came in. My father was back on his CB radio; he went back to meet my father, and before he came out, he was a member of the DAV. (Laughter)

Daddy really thought he was a keeper, and daddy was right. Is Jim still in here? He has gone, okay. I'd like to recognize a few people.

First, I'd like to recognize my best friend, and everybody knows that, Jane Troutman. Thank you, Jane, for the work you do on the nominating committee. (Applause)

I love you. I want to thank all of the nominating committee for the work that they've put in at this convention, also.

Is Brenda Jones in here? There you are. She's another good friend of mine. Brenda and I have been friends for a long time, and any time I have any problem -- she's a medical assistant -- she's got a lot of titles.

Anytime I have any problem she's right there with any advice. When she found out I had diabetes, she came with the meters and the whole nine yards, showed me what to do.

When I was unorganized, she came down to Dunn and reorganized my closets, so we've been good friends for a long time. That's a friend for you.

I'd also like to recognize Mayola Winston. Mayola, a retired school teacher, keeps me straight, where I'm supposed to be, when I'm supposed to be there. She's my national page.

I'd also like for my soul sister, Vicky Grier, to please stand. I love you, Vicky. I've got to recognize her and Ruth Koon, who is our past NEC; my buddy and friend for a long time.

And thank you, girls, for the work and efforts you do within the organization. I'd also like to thank the state commander of North Carolina, Pat Wright, for the lovely flowers that she and the Department of North Carolina afforded for Jane and myself, and for Renee.

I would also like for the members of North Carolina and the National 9th District to please stand to be recognized. (Applause) I want to thank you again for all the support that you have given us. Thank you.

We have a new NEC this year. I'm very proud of her. I've

worked very close with her as state commander. Ruby Nelson, will you please stand.

And her alternate who is from my and Jane's hometown and went to school with my sister, Lynn Helmes. (Applause)

I want to ask a question. Several years back I presented a program and I gave a podium book out. How many of you got a podium book? Did you use the podium book? Do you think it would be worthwhile for me to update the podium book?

(Responses of "yes".)

JUDGE ADVOCATE ALLRED: All right, I'll do it. There are some things that need to be changed in it, due to some of the changes in our National Constitution and Bylaws that we did last year, especially.

I know many of you have asked me about it since I've been here, wrote, e-mailed me, and I have told you that I was updating it. I will get that done, maybe at the conference. That will be something that I could put on my agenda.

I want to congratulate all the national officers. You know, Renee, we've really had her going. Jane and I told her we were going to rap her in installation.

We're practicing to be rappers, and we were going to rap the installation, so she wasn't too sure about what we were going to do.

But I want to say, get on the beam and join the team, because this team is going places. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER JONES: And the one driving the pace car, Jacqueline Fossiano. (Applause)

CHAPLAIN FOSSIANO: Commander Renee -- has a nice feel, doesn't it -- and Adjutant Maria; quite a few years ago my husband came home and said, "I'd like you to go to bingo with me".

"Bingo!"

"Yes, the DAV has bingo every Saturday night".

So I went and he said, "I wish you would join", and I said, "Well, let me see how they are."

They were the most friendly, kind, thoughtful -- I couldn't wait to join. And that has been my criteria for helping people come and stay into the organization. It was just wonderful.

It was the warmest feeling I had. My husband has passed away, and people say, "Well, why are you so involved?"

Because I believe in what the DAV and the DAVA does for our veterans. I know we still have a lot of work to do.

I'd like to thank the nominating committee, each and every one of them for the confidence they have in electing me as your chaplain.

I would like to thank my district and my state department, which is all in one. I, especially, would like to thank my very best friend, Susan and Roland Stulsky, who takes me everywhere, and they're my sounding board when I have a problem.

I have no hesitation when I can call them, day or night. It makes no difference. I would like to say to each person here, I'm going to start a prayer time, and if anyone here has a problem that they would like me to pray about, I would like them to send me an e-mail or a letter, or anything, and I will add you to my prayer list.

And then perhaps we can share some of the results, because God is good, and He will, in His time, give us the results to all of this. I thank you again, and God bless you all. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 o'clock a.m., August 2, 2001.)