

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

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**COMMUNICATION**

**from**

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

**transmitting**

2015 NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS OF  
THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, PURSUANT TO  
36 U.S.C. 90i AND 44 U.S.C. 1332



JANUARY 5, 2016.—Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and  
ordered to be printed

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LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

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December 15, 2015

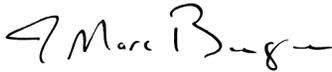
Hon. Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As business manager of DAV (Disabled American Veterans), and as secretary of its National Convention, I hereby certify as to the authenticity of the reports and proceedings of our National Convention, held in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, and submit them to you through the office of this organization located in Washington, D.C., to be printed as a House document as originally authorized by 44 U.S.C. 1332 and in fulfillment of 36 U.S.C. 50308.

The National Convention proceedings include an independent audit report of all receipts and expenditures as of December 31, 2014, as described in 36 U.S.C. 10101.

Sincerely,



J. MARC BURGESS  
National Adjutant  
Chief Executive Officer



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**NATIONAL OFFICERS 2015–16  
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

**National Commander**

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

**Senior Vice Commander**

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

**1st Jr. Vice Commander**

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

**2nd Jr. Vice Commander**

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

**3rd Jr. Vice Commander**

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

**4th Jr. Vice Commander**

Stephen Whitehead, 16095 Excel Way, Rosemount, MN 55068

**National Judge Advocate**

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

**National Chaplain**

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

**Past National Commander**

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

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

First District	Daniel P. Stack, 131 Laurel St., Uxbridge, MA 01569
Second District	Robert J. Finnerty, 133-31 115 St., S. Ozone Park, NY 11420
Third District	Richard Fournier, 534 Coopers Mill Rd., Windsor, ME 04363
Fourth District	Timothy J. Kelly, 116 Longdean Rd., Fairfield, CT 06824-6551
Fifth District	Lawrence F. Kelly, 81 Wilson St., Beaver Meadows, PA 18216
Sixth District	Bennie Harris, Jr., 6540 North Capitol St. N.W., Washington, DC 20012
Seventh District	Richard L. Tolfa, 1702 Fox Glen Ct., Winter Springs, FL 32708
Eighth District	Kevin A. Wenthe, 196 Buddy Self Rd., Ancoco, LA 71403
Ninth District	Cleveland Bryant, Jr., 129 Franklin Hills Pt., Cary, NC 27519
Tenth District	Rolly D. Lee, Sr., 465 Weaver Dr., Farwell, MI 48622
Eleventh District	Robert Bertschy, 16015 Poplar St., East Liverpool, OH 43920
Twelfth District	Rodney Helgeson, 22270 Blue Bird Ave., Warrens, WI 54666
Thirteenth District	Tom P. Bratcher, 4901 N. 75 E, Indianapolis, IN 47906
Fourteenth District	Joe Parsetich, 1801 1st Street South, Great Falls, MT 59405
Fifteenth District	Kimberly R. Tatham, 37499 Outback Ln., Lebanon, MO 65536
Sixteenth District	Daniel Contreras, 4702 Halbrent Ave., Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
Seventeenth District	Frank Maughan, 731 W 3750 North, Ogden, UT 84414
Eighteenth District	Johnny N. Stewart, 5942 E. 17th St., Tucson, AZ 85711
Nineteenth District	Sarah J. Royse, 5503 3rd St., Tillamook, OR 97141
Twentieth District	Teresa Johniken, 1013 Duren St., Lufkin, TX 75904
Twenty-first District	Charles D. Stake, 1751 Lakeshore Dr., Heber Springs, AR 72543



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



**Ron F. Hope**  
National Commander  
2014–2015  
Disabled American Veterans

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

**National Commander**

Ron F. Hope, 4140 Clemmons Rd. #372, Clemmons, NC 27012

**Senior Vice Commander**

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

**1st Jr. Vice Commander**

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

**2nd Jr. Vice Commander**

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

**3rd Jr. Vice Commander**

Dennis L. Krulder (deceased), 162 Atlantic Ave., Lynbrook, NY 11563

**4th Jr. Vice Commander**

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

**National Judge Advocate**

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

**National Chaplain**

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

**Past National Commander**

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

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

## PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

- 1921–22: Robert S. Marx, Cincinnati, Ohio (deceased 1960)  
1922–23: C. Hamilton Cook, Buffalo, New York (deceased 1935)  
1923–24: James A. McFarland, Dalton, Georgia (deceased 1942)  
1924–25: Frank J. Irwin, New York, New York (deceased 1942)  
1925–26: John W. Mahan, Bozeman, Montana (deceased 1947)  
1926–27: John V. Clinnin, Chicago, Illinois (deceased 1955)  
1927–28: William E. Tate, Atlanta, Georgia (deceased 1949)  
1928–29: Millard W. Rice, Minneapolis, Minnesota (deceased 1980)  
1929–30: William J. Murphy, Santa Ana, California (deceased 1931)  
1930–31: H. H. Weimer, Chicago, Illinois (deceased 1955)  
1931–32: E. Claude Babcock, Washington, D.C. (deceased 1958)  
1932–33: William Conley, Los Angeles, California (deceased 1941)  
1933–34: Joe W. McQueen, Kansas City, Missouri (deceased 1969)  
1934–35: Volney P. Mooney, Jr., Los Angeles, California (deceased 1945)  
1935–36: Marvin A. Harlan, El Paso, Texas (deceased 1970)  
1936–37: M. Froome Barbour, Cincinnati, Ohio (deceased 1985)  
1937–38: Maple T. Harl, Denver, Colorado (deceased 1957)  
1938–39: Owen Galvin, Minneapolis, Minnesota (deceased 1956)  
1939–40: Lewis J. Murphy, South Bend, Indiana (deceased 1966)  
1940–41: Vincent E. Schoeck, Detroit, Michigan (deceased 1966)  
Aug. 16, 1941–  
Aug. 15, 1943: Lawrence R. Melton, Dallas, Texas (deceased 1978)  
Aug. 15, 1943–  
Sept. 20, 1943: William J. Dodd, Jersey City, New Jersey (deceased 1957)  
1943–44: James L. Monnahan, Minneapolis, Minnesota (deceased 1980)  
1944–45: Milton D. Cohn, Buffalo, New York (deceased 1968)  
1945–46: Dow V. Walker, Newport, Oregon (deceased 1957)  
1946–47: Lloyd F. Oleson, Ventura, California (deceased 1982)  
1947–48: John L. Golob, Hibbing, Minnesota (deceased 1976)  
1948–49: Jonathon M. Wainwright, San Antonio, Texas (deceased 1953)  
1949–50: David M. Brown, Akron, Ohio (deceased 1982)  
1950–51: Boniface R. Maile, Grosse Pointe, Michigan (deceased 2002)  
1951–52: Ewing W. Mays, Little Rock, Arkansas (deceased 1994)  
1952–53: Floyd L. Ming, Bakersfield, California (deceased 1975)  
1953–54: Howard W. Watts, Indianapolis, Indiana (deceased 1977)  
1954–55: Alfred L. English, Shelbyville, Tennessee (deceased 1987)  
1955–56: Melvin J. Maas, Chevy Chase, Maryland (deceased 1964)  
1956–57: Joseph F. Burke, Bayonne, New Jersey (deceased 1970)  
1957–58: Paul E. Frederick, Jr., Cincinnati, Ohio (deceased 2015)  
1958–59: David B. Williams, Boston, Massachusetts (deceased 1994)  
1959–60: Bill H. Fribley, Crestline, Kansas (deceased 1994)  
1960–61: William O. Cooper, Dallas, Texas (deceased 1990)  
1961–62: Francis R. Buono, Whitestone, New York (deceased 1977)  
1962–63: Peter L. Dye, Denver, Colorado (deceased 2013)  
1963–64: Douglas H. McGarrity, Allen Park, Michigan (deceased 1986)  
1964–65: William G. Dwyer, San Diego, California (deceased 1982)  
1965–66: Claude L. Callegary, Baltimore, Maryland (deceased 2014)  
1966–67: John W. Unger, Sr., Danville, Illinois (deceased 1970)  
1967–68: Francis J. Beaton, Fargo, North Dakota (deceased 1969)  
1968–69: Wayne L. Sheirbon, Seattle, Washington (deceased 1999)  
1969–70: Raymond P. Neal, Daly City, California (deceased 1980)  
1970–71: Cecil W. Stevenson, Jonesboro, Arkansas (deceased 2013)  
1971–72: Edward T. Conroy, Bowie, Maryland (deceased 1982)  
1972–73: Jack O. Hicks, Larue, Ohio  
1973–74: John T. Soave, Detroit, Michigan (deceased 1984)

1974–75: Walter T. Greaney, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts (deceased 1994)  
 1975–76: Lyle C. Pearson, North Mankato, Minnesota (deceased 2013)  
 1976–77: Frank J. Randazzo, East Meadow, New York (deceased 2010)  
 1977–78: Oliver E. Meadows, Godley, Texas (deceased 2005)  
 1978–79: Billy O. Hightower, Grand Junction, Colorado (deceased 2015)  
 1979–80: Paul L. Thompson, Baltimore, Maryland (deceased 1993)  
 1980–81: Stan Pealer, Holts Summit, Missouri  
 1981–82: Sherman E. Roodzant, Santa Ana, California  
 1982–83: Edward G. Galian, New York, New York (deceased 2002)  
 1983–84: Dennis A. Joyner, Apollo, Pennsylvania  
 1984–85: Chad Colley, Barling, Arkansas  
 1985–86: Albert H. Linden, Jr., Camp Springs, Maryland  
 1986–87: Kenneth G. Musselmann, Huntington Beach, California (deceased 2009)  
 1987–88: Gene A. Murphy, Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
 1988–89: Billy E. Kirby, Clifton, Texas  
 1989–90: Vernon V. Cardosi, Saugus, Massachusetts  
 1990–91: Joseph E. Andry, Westerville, Ohio (deceased 2010)  
 1991–92: Cleveland Jordan, Washington, D.C. (deceased 2009)  
 1992–93: Joseph C. Zengerle, Washington, D.C.  
 1993–94: Richard E. Marbes, Green Bay, Wisconsin  
 1994–95: Donald A. Sioss, Miller Place, New York  
 1995–96: Thomas A. McMasters, III, Sterling Hts., Michigan (deceased 2008)  
 1996–97: Gregory C. Reed, Indianapolis, Indiana  
 1997–98: Harry R. McDonald, Jr., Crestview, Florida (deceased 2008)  
 1998–99: Andrew A. Kistler, Franklin, Pennsylvania  
 1999–00: Michael E. Dobmeier, Grand Forks, North Dakota  
 2000–01: Armando C. Albarran, San Antonio, Texas  
 2001–02: George H. Steese, Jr., Fresno, California  
 2002–03: Edward R. Heath, Sr., Mechanic Falls, Maine (deceased 2005)  
 2003–04: Alan W. Bowers, Royalston, Massachusetts  
 2004–05: James E. Sursely, Apopka, Florida  
 2005–06: Paul W. Jackson, Colorado Springs, Colorado  
 2006–07: Bradley S. Barton, Tualatin, Oregon  
 2007–08: Robert T. Reynolds, Alexandria, Virginia  
 2008–09: Raymond E. Dempsey, Des Plaines, Illinois  
 2009–10: Roberto Barrera, Del Rio, Texas  
 2010–11: Wallace E. Tyson, Fayetteville, North Carolina  
 2011–12: Donald L. Samuels, Gallatin, Tennessee  
 2012–13: Larry A. Polzin, Sylmar, California  
 2013–14: Joseph W. Johnston, Williamsburg, Ohio  
 2014–15: Ron F. Hope, Clemmons, North Carolina



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 94TH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HELD IN  
DENVER, COLORADO**

**AUGUST 8, 2015**

**Joint Opening Session**

- - -

The Joint Opening Session of the Disabled American Veterans 94th National Convention and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary 93rd National Convention convened in the Plaza Ballroom, Concourse Level, Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, Colorado, on Saturday morning, August 8, 2015, and was called to order at 8:27 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Ronald F. Hope.

COMMANDER RONALD F. HOPE: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. And welcome to Denver. (Applause) I now call to order the 94th National Convention of the DAV. Marc Burgess, National Adjutant, will read the Call to Convention.

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

In accordance with these directives, I, Marc Burgess, National Adjutant and Secretary for this event, declare the 94th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans to be convened at Denver, Colorado, at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, August 8th, 2015. Consideration and disposition of business brought before this convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws now in force.

COMMANDER HOPE: I would like to ask everyone in attendance to please turn off your cell phones and other portable devices. Present the Colors.

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

COMMANDER HOPE: Ladies and gentlemen, our National Anthem will now be performed by DAV Ambassador, McKayla Reece.

(Whereupon, the National Anthem was sung by Junior Auxiliary member McKayla Reece.)

COMMANDER HOPE: Now please join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER HOPE: Two.

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

COMMANDER HOPE: Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in thanking John McNeil, Demetrius Smith, Nancy Welch and Jessie Bernal of the Department of Arizona Color Guard for posting the Colors and Ms. McKayla Reece for her performance. (Applause)

I'd now like to call on the National Chaplain, Dr. Michael Dover, to lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN MICHAEL PATRICK DOVER: Ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Let us pray. Heavenly Creator, we thank you for allowing us the freedom of assembly once again. We pray your blessing of protection on all our armed forces across the world who are protecting us and our freedoms. We ask for your wisdom upon our leaders and the membership of this great organization. May you guide us as your will for the betterment of the veterans and their families we serve be accomplished. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER HOPE: Good morning, again. Welcome to the 94th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans. To get underway it's my honor to present someone well known to our organization, National Convention Chairman and Past National Commander, Paul "Action" Jackson.

The Texas native has served as Department of Colorado Adjutant since 2012. He retired from the military in 1973 after 21 years of duty, including wartime service in Korea in the Marine Corps and two tours of duty in Vietnam with the Army.

During his 30 years as a member of the DAV, he has displayed a true passion for serving his fellow veterans.

Among his many leadership positions, of course, he was elected our National Commander in 2005. He has since served on the Board of Directors, was appointed to the National Employment Committee, and chaired the Voluntary Services Committee.

I have to note that this is not Paul's first rodeo. He also served as Convention (sic) of the 2000 National Convention in Reno, Nevada, so we expect nothing but the best this year.

Let's get the show on the road by offering a warm welcome to Convention Chairman Paul "Action" Jackson. (Applause)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN PAUL "ACTION" JACKSON: That's enough. (Laughter) Good morning. (Response of "Good morning.")

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN JACKSON: National Commander Hope, National Adjutant Burgess, I don't see the National Line Officers but they're probably back there, National Auxiliary Commander Karg, National Auxiliary Adjutant Kemper, Auxiliary National Line Officers, distinguished guests—and I think they are back there, also, (laughter) and, of course, the DAV and DAVA delegates, welcome to the 94th National Convention.

It is really more than a pleasure to welcome all of you to the Mile High City, Denver, Colorado. (Applause) I promised some of you a few bags but that didn't work out so (laughter) you will just have to go about a block down the street. There is a place. (laughter)

Speaking of high altitudes, (laughter) I'm going to tell you all a little something about the State of Colorado. We are or we do have, as a state, the highest altitude in the Union in this United States. We average about 6,800 feet. We have 55 peaks rising more than 14,800 feet above sea level. And that's more than half of all the peaks in the United States, to include Alaska. So we are the highest state in the Union, (laughter) for several reasons. (Laughter)

But, speaking of high altitudes, I wanted to advise all of you "flatlanders," really, you are 5,280 feet above sea level. You've got to drink plenty of water. You've got to slow your pace. Don't get in a hurry. And for you, the few of you—there is very few of you out there—that drink a little alcohol, like myself, two drinks at this altitude acts as four so make sure that you remember that and kind of slow down on your alcohol consumption.

Now this week there will be—I think you have seen a few of them—because someone had asked me if I was a crossing guard. (Laughter) I had on a green, a very loud green vest. There are, if you look in the back, the Colorado delegates and convention people got these vests on and they will help you find your way around this hotel.

And I know that some of you, if you admit it, is having a hard time finding your way to different places. So I think they will be able to assist you. Don't ask me because I get lost. (Laughter)

Now one of the first places they might send you is in our, I think it's in the area where our exhibits are. Denver Water Company said that they were going to provide us free water, supposedly the best water in the United States. So—and it's in the exhibit area. So, really and truly, and I'm not kidding, you really do need to drink a lot of water and keep yourself at a very slow pace.

So if you look back, as I say, if you saw the Convention Committee people, make sure that if you need some help, find them and they will certainly help you very much.

Now, let me get a little serious here. Really, we are here for one purpose, one purpose, and that is to obtain information, exchange ideas that will assist all of us, all of us, in our efforts to build better lives for our nation's veterans and their families, now and into the future.

I want you to have a lot of fun, visit my shop down the street, (laughter) but let's never lose sight, really, on our mission and our goal.

So, Commander Hope, on behalf of DAV Department Commander Richard Hogue and its more than 24,000 members, as well as our Department Auxiliary Commander Leslie Sandoval and her 1,587 Auxiliary members, we are honored, we are honored, to be the host state for the 94th DAV and Auxiliary National Convention.

Now, Colorado, Department of Colorado is a part of the 17th District and we are proud of that. The 17th District represents the DAV Departments of Utah, New Mexico, and Wyoming. So will the Colorado delegation and all members of the 17th District please stand. Stand. Don't be ashamed. Stand.

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

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN JACKSON: In closing, Commander, I want to thank you for providing me the honor to serve as your National Convention Chairman. And, lastly, to all you delegates, on behalf of the Department of Colorado that I belong to, we wish you all an enjoyable, productive and informative Convention.

Thank you, Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you.

MR. DANIEL CLARE: And now your DAV Auxiliary Staff and National Officers: Auxiliary National Adjutant Pat Kemper of Kentucky; (applause) Past National Commander Susan Miller of Colorado;

(applause) National Chaplain, Judy Uetterling of Ohio; (Applause) Judge Advocate Carol Gray of Michigan; (Applause) Fourth Junior Vice Commander Dorothy Reese of Georgia; (Applause) Third Junior Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman of New Mexico; (Applause) Second Junior Vice Commander Craig Johniken of Texas; (applause) First Junior Vice Commander Fran Costa of Massachusetts; (Applause) Senior Vice Commander Linda Stake from Arkansas; (Applause) and now, please give it up for your Auxiliary National Commander, LeeAnn Karg of Minnesota. (Applause)

And now your DAV National Officers: your Past National Commander and Chairman of the Board, from Williamsburg, Ohio, Joe Johnston; (Applause) from Ellerslie, Georgia, your National Chaplain, a heavenly reception for the Reverend Michael Dover; (Applause) the pride of Grand Forks, North Dakota, our National Judge Advocate, Mike Dobmeier; (Applause) your Fourth Junior Vice Commander, from Klamath Falls, Oregon, Brigitte Marker; (Applause) your Second Junior Vice Commander, from Vallejo, California, Delphine Metcalf-Foster; (Applause) your First Junior Vice Commander, from Semmes, Alabama, Dave Riley; and last, but by no means least, your Senior Vice Commander, from Hephzibah, Georgia, Moses A. McIntosh. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER MOSES A. McINTOSH, JR.: I'm going to tell you good morning, once again. It is now my distinct pleasure to present DAV National Commander Ron F. Hope. Commander Hope is a service-connected disabled veteran who served with distinction in the Vietnam War.

As a member of the 227th Air Assault Battalion of the 1st Air Cavalry, he was wounded on July the 15th, 1969, when his helicopter was shot down during a combat assault resulting in the amputation of his left arm at the shoulder and numerous other injuries.

Among his military decorations, Commander Hope received the Purple Heart, multiple Air Medals, the Army Aviation Badge and the Vietnam Service and Campaign medals.

The Commander is a recognized expert in veterans' benefits and Department of Veteran Affairs programs for injured and ill veterans. He also served 31 years as a DAV National Service Officer.

A life member of both the Department of North Carolina and the Department of Texas, he was unanimously elected to lead DAV at last year's National Convention in Las Vegas.

In what turned out to be an eventful and busy year, Commander Hope provided exemplary leadership and gave a powerful voice to our cause. He was there leading the charge on Capitol Hill, calling for legislation affecting veterans and their caregivers.

He also advocated strongly for the unique needs of the women veterans, calling for the healthcare and service gaps between women veterans and their male brothers-in-arms to be addressed.

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

COMMANDER HOPE: Hello, everyone.

(Response of "Hello" and "Good morning.")

COMMANDER HOPE: Adjutant Burgess, Executive Director Augustine, Executive Director Barry Jesinoski, fellow veterans, families, friends and honored guests, thank you so much for that warm welcome.

To say it has been a banner year for DAV is an understatement. You all have so much to be proud of.

As most of you know, I was a National Service Officer for 31 years. I know firsthand how important it is, the work that our Chapter Service Officers do. If you're a CSO raise your hand. Let's give them a hand.

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

COMMANDER HOPE: There are a few other people whose contributions are the "boots on the ground" that keep DAV running. If you are a Department Service Officer, raise your hand.

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

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

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

COMMANDER HOPE: If you have a leadership position in your local Chapter or Department, please raise your hand.

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

COMMANDER HOPE: Hospital and community volunteers and DAV Transportation Network drivers, where are you?

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

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you for all you do. Trust me, it does not go unnoticed. Thank you for your continued service to veterans.

DAV is a strong organization because we know that the sacrifices made by veterans are inevitably shared by family members and deserve our utmost consideration.

In the past, we've seen proof of the strength we possess when DAV and our Auxiliary work together to hold our lawmakers accountable.

As many of you know, this year DAV and the DAV Auxiliary once again pushed Washington to do the right thing by securing benefits for caregivers of veterans of all eras.

We marched on the Capitol again this year, just like we did in 2014. And, again, they listened. In fact—and I've shared this story with some of you this year but I love telling it—we were so determined to ensure that they heard us coming we were actually stopped by the U.S. Capitol Police. I guess we were a little bit loud. (Laughter)

But, guess what? When they found out who we were and what we were there for, they decided they had other important business around the corner and then they thanked us for our service. Now, let's put that into perspective for a moment. (Applause)

Those police officers turned a bunch of determined veterans loose on Congress. Now that, folks, is what I call a good day. (Applause)

One of the main reasons that inspired us to get a little bit loud on Capitol Hill is something close to all of our hearts. It was the people who never served in uniform but have dedicated their lives to serving those who have.

The Veterans Affairs Family Caregivers Expansion and Improvement Act we support would open the VA caregivers program to all severely-wounded veterans of any era who, because of their sacrifice, now have loved ones ensuring their needs are met.

We cannot and will not forget the families of service members who are often behind the scenes and overlooked. In my mind this must stop and stop now. (Applause)

The family caregivers program provides many levels of support to caregivers of injured veterans. There are people in this room who have some very real experience with being caregivers for their loved ones well before the events of 9/11. This is simply the right thing to do.

And like several of you, I have told Congress—I have told Congress that but my voice is not alone, alone is not enough. I need your help. I hope you will join me in writing, calling or emailing your elected officials and tell them that you expect this legislation to be enacted.

Ladies and gentlemen, make no mistake about it, you are part of a growing organization. We are edging ever closer to a sustained membership of 1.3 million. (Applause) We are on the move. I attribute this to you and the work you're doing in your communities on behalf of fellow veterans.

Many of you have started your own outreach programs and are reaping the fruits of that labor. Some of us are talking to community leaders and other supporters. The word is getting out that DAV is the veterans' service organization for veterans of all eras and their families.

For those of you that I've had the privilege to visit this year, you may have seen this before but I'm going to ask you to indulge me once more. Would all of our women veterans please stand if able? (Whereupon, women veterans in the room stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER HOPE: I'm very proud of you, as you should be, of your service and to stand beside you as a veteran.

As many of you know, this year DAV released a very comprehensive report concerning the gender gap in health care for women veterans as compared to their male brethren.

I've spoken with Secretary McDonald on this issue. And he says he is committed to getting this fixed. But until it's completely and fully addressed, DAV will continue advocating for America's women veterans, and I can promise you that. (Applause)

Some of you have mentioned that you saw me on our public service announcement with Mike Wolfe from the History Channel's "American Pickers" series. When people become aware of what we do, they start to love us. Mike was no exception. I asked him to give us a brief shout-out while he was in Washington, D.C., filming our segment for next year.

(Whereupon, Mike Wolfe gave the following address via video.)

MR. MIKE WOLFE: Hey, DAV and DAV Auxiliary, this is Mike Wolfe from American Pickers. I just wanted to take a quick moment to thank you for your service and sacrifices for all you do for our nation's heroes and their families. It's been an honor to support you and to meet great people like Commander Hope.

I look forward to continuing with DAV this Veterans Day and to give back to you for all you have done for us. Have a great Convention and thank you, again, for all you do to serve those who have served. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: It's been an absolute honor to represent our organization at a time when we are growing and on the move. This illustrates how wide our net is being cast these days. Our message about service to veterans and their families is being seen and heard now more than ever.

Secondly, I'll share with you something else: TV isn't as easy as it looks. I bet they filmed Mike Wolfe and me walking into that barn at least 20 times. (Laughter)

It's been my absolute privilege to be your national commander and represent you this year. Meeting many of you in my travels was an honor that I will never forget and certainly the highlight of my tenure.

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

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

COMMANDER HOPE: We've done great things, but there's much more to be done. We must never stop. We must continue to remain a strong organization in order to be the organization that veterans and their families know that they can turn to.

I hope you leave this energized to return home and engage veterans in your community and bring them on board. The bonds of kinship that we all knew while in uniform remain with us here. And it's my steadfast belief potential members will find this organization extremely welcoming.

You have my respect, my commitment and my lifelong friendship.

Now, in a longtime gesture that's part of our military heritage, I hope you will do me the honor of offering you my salute for all you do to keep the promise for our veterans, their families and survivors.

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

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER McINTOSH: Commander Hope, under your inspiring leadership, this has been a truly memorable year for the DAV. Thank you, sir. (Applause) Now I move to accept the National Commander's report.

MR. DENNIS NIXON: Commander, Dennis Nixon (undistinguishable), seconds that motion.

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

COMMANDER HOPE: It is an honor and a pleasure to introduce Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Bob McDonald. Secretary McDonald is a 1975 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and alumni of the University of Utah where he earned an MBA.

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

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

Nominated by President Obama as the eighth Secretary of Veterans Affairs on June the 30th, he was confirmed by the United States Senate on July the 29th, 2014. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Robert A. McDonald. (Standing ovation)

THE HONORABLE ROBERT A. McDONALD: Thank you very much. Thanks, Ron, for that kind introduction and, also, I want to congratulate Ron on an outstanding year. I think one of the very first things I did after being sworn in was speaking at your convention last year. And it was a terrific time.

I also want to recognize Marc Burgess, the National Adjutant, and Garry Augustine, the Executive Director. We really appreciate their partnership.

Working at VA is a higher calling. We have the best, most inspiring mission in government: to care for those who have borne the battle, their survivors and their families. And we have the best and most deserving clients in the world.

Recently, some people in Washington have begun to question the need for VA. One thing I have learned since my confirmation as Secretary is there is no substitute for VA. Veterans need the VA. American medicine needs the VA. And the American people need the VA.

What is so special about VA health care? Well, VA health care is a system that is supported by three pillars, a unique system that depends upon the strength of all three pillars. If you take away any one pillar, the stool collapses: research, education and training and clinical care.

VA researchers have made major contributions to medical science, earning three Nobel Prizes and seven Lasker Awards, and many, many other awards and recognitions.

Among our achievements: the first implantable cardiac pacemaker, the first liver transplant, the nicotine patch to help smokers quit smoking, we invented the Shingles Vaccine, multiple advances in prosthetics, identifying genetic risk factors, groundbreaking strides in post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury. Who would do that research if there was no VA?

In terms of education and training, we have trained over 62,000 medical students and residents, 23,000 nursing students, 33,000 students in other health care fields. We have trained an estimated 70 percent of all of the U.S. doctors practicing today. And we are the largest employer of nurses in the nation.

Last year we completed over 55 million appointments for 6.6 million unique patients. We are a national leader in telehealth services, caring for 700,000 veterans through over 2 million telehealth visits in Fiscal Year 2014.

We are a national leader in reducing infections in hospitals, down 68 percent since 2007, compared to being down 30 percent for non-VA hospitals. Since 2004 the American Customer Satisfaction Index has shown that veterans give VA health care higher ratings than patients at most private hospitals.

VA researchers continue to receive awards for excellence, like the ones shown on this slide. Take a look at the second bullet point. Twenty-six years ago Dr. Bill Bauman and Dr. Ann Spungen teamed up to find out how spinal cord injuries caused many parts of the body to function poorly.

In 2001 they established the National Center of Excellence for the Medical Consequences of Spinal Cord Injuries where they and others have worked to improve the quality of life for—the quality of life for paralyzed veterans. Last year they were honored with the Samuel J. Hineman Service to America Medal for those government employees who have contributed the most to the American public.

But VA does face some serious and important challenges. The veteran population is aging. In 1975, the year I graduated from West Point, there were about 2 million veterans 65 years or older. In 2017, there will be almost 10 million veterans over the age of 65 and 46 percent of veterans in 2017, almost half, will be 65 years or older.

Simultaneously, the number of claims and medical issues in claims have soared. As this chart shows, in 2009 VBA completed almost 980,000 claims. In 2017 we project we will complete over 1.4 million claims, a 47 percent increase.

But there has been more dramatic growth in the number of medical issues in claims: 2.7 million issues in claims in 2009 and a projected 5.9 million in 2017. That's a 115 percent increase in over just eight years.

These increases were accompanied by a dramatic rise in the average degree of veterans' disability compensation. For 45 years, from 1950 to 1995, the average degree of disability was about 30 percent. But since the year 2000 the average degree of disability has risen to 47.7 percent, as this chart shows.

The percentage of veterans receiving VA compensation follows the same pattern. From 1960 to 2000 it was stable at about 8.5 percent. But in just 14 years, since 2001, it has more than doubled to 19 percent.

So while it's true that the total number of veterans are declining, the number of those seeking care and benefits is increasing dramatically. That's fueled by the aging veteran population, by more than a decade of war, by Agent Orange-related claims, an unlimited claims appeal process, far higher survival rates of the wounded, and more sophisticated methods for identifying and treating veterans' medical issues.

Veterans' demand of services and benefits has exceeded VA's capacity to meet it. It's important that Congress and the American people understand why that is happening.

Compounding the problem VA is saddled with some seriously aging infrastructure. We have 900 VA facilities that are over 90 years old. We have more than 1,300 facilities over 70 years old. Sixty percent are over 50 years old.

These older facilities don't meet today's standards for hospital construction and need to be replaced with new facilities. The independent budget produced by the VSOs estimated that closing the major construction gap will take \$19 billion to \$23 billion over the next ten years. We've taken actions—despite that aging infrastructure we have taken actions to make sure we can provide care to veterans.

We are committed to delivering timely and high-quality health care to all veterans. We know we still have too many veterans waiting for care, but we are now providing more care for veterans than ever before—both inside the VA and outside VA in the community.

To meet the immediate demand for access, we have extended hours: 880,000 appointments completed during extended hours, on weekends and in the evenings. We have activated 80 new buildings to add 1.3 million square feet to our health care footprint, plus another 420,000 square feet in VA-owned properties.

We stepped up recruiting of new personnel. We have hired 38,000 in the past 10 months, for a net increase of 12,000 new VHA employees, including over 1,000 more physicians and over 2,700

more nurses. We have issued 900,000 more authorizations for care in the community. That's a 44 percent increase.

Speaking of care in the community, VA has been referring veterans to care in the community for decades, whenever it made sense for veterans. And we are not opposed to making greater use of care in the community to meet the access challenge.

But we know that many veterans prefer VA health care. In fact, a March survey of veterans by the VFW found that 47 percent of veterans offered choice elected to wait to get their care inside the VA. Seventy-eight percent were satisfied with their VA care experience. And 82 percent would recommend VA care to future veterans.

One more thing to keep in mind, most veterans already have choice. Eighty-one percent of veterans have either Medicare, Medicaid, TriCare or some other form of private insurance. Many come to VA because of the disparity in out-of-pocket costs between their insurance and their VA care.

One example: VA provides the best hearing aid technology anywhere. Medicare doesn't cover hearing aids. And most insurance plans have limited coverage, at best. So choosing VA for hearing aids saves veterans around \$4,200.

We are providing regular updates of patient access data so you can see how well we are doing. No private health care system does this. No private health care system wants to be measured by appointment wait times. This is not an accepted industry practice, but we are doing it.

So here are the results. Over the last year we have had, we have completed 7 million more appointments by VA through VA in the community care or in VA care versus the previous 12 months. Ninety-seven percent of those appointments have been completed within 30 days of the veterans' desired date. Eighty-eight percent are within seven days. And 22 percent are same-day appointments.

The average wait time for completed appointments is four days for primary care, five days for specialty care, and three days for mental health care.

We are even making more progress. We have had a 12 percent increase in after-hours/weekend appointments, a 19 percent increase in telehealth appointments, a 36 percent increase in e-consults, a 36 percent increase in the number of veterans receiving care in the community, a 47 percent reduction in the electronic wait list, and a 93 percent reduction in the new enrollee appointment request system.

Overall, our physician productivity has increased 8 percent and on a higher health care budget increase of only 2.8 percent. So you see, we are working harder and smarter and the result is more care for more veterans.

Of course, health care is just one of our nine lines of business. Other lines of business include life insurance, mortgage insurance, pensions, disability compensation, memorial affairs and education. We've got reasons to be proud in those areas, too.

We guarantee 2 million home loans with the lowest foreclosure rate and the highest satisfaction rating in the mortgage industry. For the past decade the American Customer Satisfaction Index has ranked our cemetery system the top customer service organization in the nation, public or private.

Over the past two years we've cut disability claims backlog by over 80 percent. It peaked at 611,000 claims over 125 days in March of 2013 and it's now down under 120,000 over 125 days, the lowest it's been in six years. How did we get there? (Applause)

How did we get there? We fielded a new electronic system for handling claims. We hired more claims staff. And we've had the staff working mandatory overtime for much of the past four years.

But I would be remiss if I didn't thank you for all the work that you've done to help us get fully developed claims and get these claims dealt with. We appreciate all of your help. (Applause)

Now, the mandatory overtime can't go on forever. We have to get the backlog down. We have to keep it down. But we've got to rightsize the organization to the task at hand. We've had money in the budget—we had it in the last fiscal year budget. We had it in the 2016 budget. We had it in the Choice Act to hire more people to do disability claims and to do greater, more appeals. But Congress stripped it out when they passed the budget.

We have to fund—we have to find a way to fund to requirement rather than be expected to meet our requirements with a budget that doesn't match the requirements.

As you can see here, we've also made a substantial dent in veterans' homelessness, which has declined 33 percent from 2010 to 2014. Ending veterans' homelessness is an effort that we have to work in partnership with the local community. We're working with over 2,000 partners all across the country to get veterans' homelessness down to zero. And we're not going to rest until every veteran has a roof over their head every night. (Applause)

Of course, to meet the challenges of the 21st Century we're going to need adequate funding. The president's 2016 budget will provide the funding we need: \$168.8 billion, \$73.5 billion in discretionary

funds and \$95.3 billion in mandatory funds. The discretionary request is an increase of \$5.2 billion, 7.5 percent over the 2015 enacted level.

This provides the resources to continue serving the growing number of veterans seeking care and benefits. And this is what I asked for from Congress. At the same time, I also asked for financial flexibility. I have over 70 line items of budget that I can't move money from one line item to the other, and that's just awful.

My worst nightmare is having to pay—is wanting to pay for a veteran's care and having money in the wrong pocket and not being able to move that money. So I have asked Congress for financial flexibility.

But if the president's budget request is cut by the \$1.4 billion, as the House voted to do, here is what it would mean if we applied this cut across the board. That cut of \$1.4 billion means 688 million less for veterans' medical care, the equivalent of over 70,000 veterans VA medical care; no funding for four major construction projects and six cemetery projects.

In fact, the budget that the House passed cut the construction budget of the VA by 50 percent, which means no new cemeteries. It means four major construction projects go away. It calls into question our ability to finish the Denver hospital here. A 50 percent reduction in construction at a time where 60 percent of your buildings are over 50 years old simply doesn't make sense.

It would inhibit hiring and retention of the best people by limiting the right of employees to appeal adverse actions and by prohibiting performance awards and bonuses for Title 5, SES and other employees. The House would also deny VA the longterm budget flexibility needed to serve veterans the way they want to be served.

Budget flexibility is extremely important. Demand for VA care is rising, for reasons already mentioned. Veterans are turning to VA for more and more of their care—not for all of their care, though.

On average, enrolled veterans rely on VA for just 34 percent of their care. But if that percentage rises just one percentage point, just one percentage point, that means we need an increased VA budget of \$1.4 billion.

Let me say that again just so you are clear. Of the enrolled veterans, veterans only rely on the VA for 34 percent of their care—only 34 percent. If that increases just one percentage point, we need an increase in our budget of \$1.4 billion.

But that flexibility—the flexibility that we have earned last week, Congress acted last week to avert and end the fiscal year crisis by giving us the limited flexibility to use Choice Act Funds, which were designed for care in the community, to pay for care in the community.

But that flexibility only lasts until the end of this fiscal year. That's September 30th. To accommodate present and future changes in demand for care, VA needs permanent flexibility to move funds amongst our many accounts.

VA is committed to making the Choice program work. Here you see our progress in the use of the Choice authorizations for eligible care in the community. Choice now accounts for over 50 percent, double what it was at the end of May.

But we still need Congress to fully fund the president's 2016 budget request. And we need Congress to give us the permanent flexibility to move funds to where they are most needed, based on the veteran's choice that they are making.

I mentioned earlier that some people in Washington are questioning the need for VA. Others are attempting to squeeze the needs of veterans within the sequestered budget that artificially constrains the budget regardless of what it means to programs we are trying to operate within the VA and across the government.

All of this—the lack of flexibility to give veterans real choice, the cuts, the discussions about whether veterans actually deserve a medical system called their own—leads to the same place.

It leads to a place where the needs of veterans are secondary to ideology, scoring political points, playing "gotcha," and shortsighted budget policies, a place where VA is set up to fail, a place where there are no winners and veterans who have sacrificed so much more for much nobler purposes are the ones left suffering.

That's unacceptable to me and should be unacceptable to anyone who claims to actually care about the sacred responsibility that we have as a nation to care for those who have borne the battle.

That's why I'm here. That's why you are here. (Applause) That's why I'm here. That's why you are here. And that's why we need to press forward in putting veterans first.

We are listening hard to what veterans, Congress, employees and VSOs are telling us. What we hear drives us to an historic department-wide transformation, changing VA's culture and, importantly, making veterans the center of everything that we do.

We call it My VA and it entails many organization reforms to better unify the department's efforts on behalf of veterans. First, we want to improve the veteran experience to a seamless, integrated and responsive experience.

Second, we want to improve the employee experience, focusing on people and culture to better serve veterans.

Third, we need to improve our internal support services. Many of our IT systems are way too old.

Fourth, we need to establish a culture of continuous improvement where every employee feels engaged and energized to change and improve the system they are working on.

And, fifth, we want to enhance our strategic partnerships. We know we can't do this job by ourselves and we need the help of all the good strategic partners around the country.

The key to improving the veterans' experience of VA is a customer-service approach. I call it the "Platinum Rule." You have heard about the "Golden Rule"—treat other people the way you want to be treated. Well, the platinum rule, I think, takes that another step which is treat other people the way they want to be treated.

That means we have to know you, the veteran. We have to know how you want to be treated. And we have to provide a customized offering for you, designed just for you, to take care of you. You have earned it.

We have also brought about several key leaders into our new organization, including Dr. David Shulkin, our new Undersecretary for Health; Laverne Council, our new Assistant Secretary for Information Technology; and Tom Allen who is the My VA Program Management Officer concerned about improving veteran experience. They are all as committed as I am to making VA the number-one federal agency in the country for customer service. (Applause)

There is so much more I could talk about if we had time, more that we have accomplished, but, more importantly, more that we will accomplish in the coming months.

We are listening to veterans more. We are listening to employees more. And, together, we are making lasting improvements at VA so in the future both veterans and employees will say with pride, "That's my VA." But we need the continued support of Congress, veterans, veterans service organizations and the American people to make the necessary changes to keep moving forward.

May God bless all the veterans of this country. May God bless the DAV. And may God bless all of you. Thank you very much. (Standing ovation)

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

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

COMMANDER HOPE: And I ask that the Auxiliary National Executive Committee stand to be recognized.

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

COMMANDER HOPE: Ladies and gentlemen, it is my distinct privilege to introduce DAV's Auxiliary Commander, the gracious LeeAnn Karg. (Applause)

LeeAnn's Auxiliary membership eligibility is through her husband, Van, a Vietnam veteran and distinguished leader with the DAV.

Commander Karg's leadership skills have been tempered through years of experience. She was the first commander of the DAV Auxiliary Unit 37 in Hutchinson when it was chartered in 1991.

She served as a DAV Auxiliary commander for Minnesota from 2000 to 2001 and was the DAV Auxiliary state adjutant for eleven years.

At the national level, Commander Karg was the Junior Activities Chairman from 2005 to 2006 and the DAV Auxiliary national chaplain from 2008 to 2009, before beginning her rise through the national line.

When she was elected DAV Auxiliary commander last year, Commander Karg was very clear on what was important to her. She said she would focus her tenure as commander on uniting "the DAV and Auxiliary together as one." (Applause)

Commander Karg's vision was to achieve a lockstep working partnership with DAV. She knew that both organizations, standing strong together, would present a strong and united front to our shared goal of serving veterans and their families.

Commander Karg, you have actually achieved that and we have all seen the results of your hard work and the benefits of DAV and the Auxiliary combining forces.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming your DAV Auxiliary commander, LeeAnn Karg. (Standing ovation)

**AUXILIARY COMMANDER LEEANN KARG:** Thank you, Commander Hope. Words alone cannot do justice to the feelings that I have at this moment. In short, it's been a busy but a wonderful year.

Last August, I told you my vision for the Auxiliary was to establish a closer working relationship with the DAV. Thanks to your efforts and the support of Commander Hope we have seen proof of the strength we can possess when we stand together as—to hold our lawmakers accountable.

Last year, DAV and the Auxiliary marched shoulder-to-shoulder on Capitol Hill and made it clear to lawmakers that they needed to pass advance appropriations. Together we mounted a fight to ensure benefits keep flowing to our veterans in spite of political infighting and government shutdowns. And we made Washington listen. (Applause)

This year we again joined forces with the parent organization to literally march up to Congress' door. We made it quite clear that if our government will send men and women off to fight America's wars, we fully expect them to take care of veterans and their families when they return.

As many of you know, this year DAV and the Auxiliary are together, once again, pushing Washington to do the right thing by securing benefits for caregivers of veterans of all eras.

As Commander Hope mentioned, the Veterans Affairs Family Caregivers Expansion and Improvement Act was recently introduced. As you can imagine, this is something near and dear to our hearts. Arguably, no one more than the DAV Auxiliary can understand how important these benefits are to all generations of veterans. (Applause)

The program provides home health training, peer support and financial stipend for caregivers of injured veterans. The caregivers would also have access to mental health support and enrollment in the VA's civilian health and mental program. As it stands, these benefits are only available to veterans injured after 9/11.

Providing equal benefits to disabled veterans of all eras is the right thing to do and plain (applause)—and just plain common sense. It's up to each of us to call, write or email our elected representatives and tell them we expect their support on this legislation.

During my term as commander, my dear friend Judy Hezlep stepped down as the Auxiliary's National Adjutant. But Pat Kemper stepped right into that role and I can say with absolutely confidence our organization is in the best of hands under her leadership. I'd like to recognize their work and thank our national staff. (Applause)

And, finally, I would like to express my thanks to all of the members in the DAV and Auxiliary that made this year so memorable for both Commander Hope and me. We are all in part a large family with trials and tribulations and love and devotion to one another.

Each state that I visited was memorable and I will never forget the great times we all had together. My life is richer for having gotten to know all of you. (Applause)

My hope is that we all continue to work together and grow stronger through the coming years and leadership of this great organization. "Thank you" seems so small a phrase but it truly comes from the bottom of my heart.

And now I invite Auxiliary Past National Commander Judy Steinhouse from the great state of North Dakota to the stage for a special presentation. (Applause)

**PAST COMMANDER JUDITH STEINHOUSE:** The Past National Commander's Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year Award recognizes the contributions and dedication of an Auxiliary member whose efforts enhance the goals of the Disabled American Veterans, the Auxiliary and community activities that are truly above and beyond the ordinary.

The 2015 award is being presented to Alice Ostrand of Broken Bow, Nebraska. (Applause)

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

Alice has held each office and been chairman of every program within her unit in her 40 years of continued membership, including currently serving as her Unit's Adjutant.

At her very first district-level DAV Auxiliary meeting, her reputation for advocacy and charitable works within the veteran community led to her election as Department of Nebraska's Junior Vice-Commander.

Alice has served in nearly every possible elected position at the Department level.

Her accomplishments include numerous DAV and Auxiliary awards dating back to 1975. Her accolades include being named the Volunteer of the Year and earning the DAV Auxiliary Department of Nebraska's Most New Members award for four consecutive years. The governor of Nebraska even recognized her for traveling the entire state to advocate for veterans and caregiver-related issues.

She has accomplished more than 1,000 hours for the VA Voluntary Service program.

I am very proud to present this award to the 2015 Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year, Alice Ostrand.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Dover escorted Mrs. Ostrand to the podium as she received a standing ovation.)

MRS. ALICE OSTRAND: I thank all of you for, and the organization, because without you we wouldn't have an organization.

It was one of our members over 60 years ago who came to my husband's non-VA hospital room and asked if he could help. He made it possible for me to move my husband the very next day to the VA medical center.

The next person who really helped me was a VA, was a National Service Officer.

My husband-to-be served in World War II on the island of Okinawa. He and his buddies were waiting for word to enter and invade Japan. The atomic bomb was dropped and he came home.

Six months after we were married he suddenly became a complete quadriplegic and blind. He could only chew his food, swallow and talk. I cared for him and helped other veterans and their families for 38 years, until he died. And I am still helping veterans and their families. (Applause)

An award never entered my mind, living in the center of Nebraska in the little town of Broken Bow. (Laughter) I feel greatly honored to have been chosen by the Past National DAVA Past Commanders. And I sincerely thank them all. Thank you.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Dover escorted Mrs. Ostrand from the stage as she received another standing ovation.)

COMMANDER HOPE: USAA began in 1922, when 25 Army officers agreed to insure each other's vehicles when nobody else would. Today, USAA follows the same military values that their founders stood on: service, loyalty, honesty and integrity.

USAA is honored to be DAV's premier provider of integrated insurance and banking products for current and former members of the U.S. military and their families.

Together, we have a shared commitment to improving the lives of veterans, military members and their families. And we are excited to have entered into an agreement with USAA.

As DAV's executive (sic) credit card and property and casualty insurance provider, USAA and DAV are working together to help improve the financial well-being and security of our members.

Today, we are pleased to welcome to the stage Mrs. Gina Jureck, Lead Account Manager, USAA's Military Affinity Group, to present the check for USAA's contribution further supporting DAV's mission.

As a USAA Military Affinity leaders, Ms. Jureck is responsible for the Affinity Development, Affinity Management and Affinity Operation teams at USAA.

Ladies and gentlemen, please help me welcome Gina Jureck. (Applause)

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

COMMANDER HOPE: And, yes, that was \$500,000. (Applause)

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

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

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

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

The Just B Kids program empowers Chapters and Departments to raise funds through DAV. To better understand the meaning of this camp, the Today Show recently took a closer look that we are proud to share with you today.

(Whereupon, a video on Camp Corral by the Today Show was viewed.)

COMMANDER HOPE: The DAV family is proud to have supported Camp Corral nearly since its inception. Today with the support of the Charitable Service Trust, DAVA Just for Kids program, and our members, DAV is proud to make a special presentation to Camp Corral.

I would ask for a few special guests to join us for a special presentation. Please welcome to the podium Camp Corral Chief Executive Officer Mary Beth Hernandez, Auxiliary Commander LeeAnn Karg, and Golden Corral's Dolly Mercer. (Applause)

On behalf of DAV's Just be Kids program, please accept this donation of \$195,366.68. (Applause)

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARY BETH HERNANDEZ: Well, I can't top that and I certainly can't top that Today Show video. Today is my fifth full day as a CEO of Camp Corral. But I've been involved with the organization really since it was just an idea. And I want to tell you a little bit about why this is, our organization is so important.

I am the daughter of a veteran, the niece of a veteran and the aunt of a brave young man who did three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. And he came home with some of the invisible wounds of war. And so we saw firsthand in our family that at that time, 12 years ago, there really weren't the supports that there are now.

And I pledged to myself that I was going to do something and try to make a difference. So, Camp Corral is the way I have chosen to do that. And so, really, I can't think of a more fitting beginning to my career at Camp Corral than being here with you today. I'm just so proud and honored to be with you.

A couple of—a brief update about Camp Corral, our final camps, our final two camps start tomorrow. This summer we served 3,200 children in 16 states at 23 campsites, which is just phenomenal. We have only been in existence four years so our growth has just gone through the roof.

The bad news is that there were 6,500 children that we couldn't get into camps because of a lack of funding. So that's what keeps me up at night. That motivates me and that motivates our staff. And thanks to your support and the support of Golden Corral next year we will be able to send more kids to camp. (Applause)

The Today Show piece was just a huge boost in visibility for us. On Wednesday there were two of us in the office and as soon as that piece aired phones started ringing. Our website almost went down because of all the donations that started coming in. So I think we're really going to be able to leverage that increased visibility to raise even more funds for Camp Corral.

We have a table right out here. We have lots of great Camp Corral swag and I hope you guys will come visit us at the break and I look forward to meeting you. And, once again, from the bottom of my heart, thank you. (Applause)

MRS. DOLLY MERCER: I'm just going to take a minute. On behalf of all Golden Corral restaurants, thank you for what you do. We valued our partnership for the last 15 years with Military Appreciation and now Camp Corral. It's just been wonderful. And I hope it continues forever.

And, just one more thing: you're all invited to dinner for Military Appreciation in November, November the 11th on Wednesday this year. And you will be hearing more about it. So, please join us for dinner. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: DAV's compassion for disabled veterans and their families is clearly visible in its nationwide Transportation Network.

Our Hospital Service Coordinators and volunteers throughout the country arrange and facilitate transportation for injured and ill veterans, making it possible for them to receive the care that they need at VA medical facilities.

Since 1987 the National Organization, Chapters, Departments, National Service Foundation and Columbia Trust have purchased 2,967 vans at the cost of more than \$65 million. (Applause) This year seven more vehicles were donated to DAV's Transportation Network, which brings the total donated vehicles by Ford to nearly 200. (Applause)

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

Lynn Quigley serves as manager for Community Relations for Ford Motor Company Fund and 9 community services. In this capacity she is responsible for the development of numerous Ford Motor Fund initiatives.

A longtime friend of DAV, she has been a steadfast advocate whose service has contributed a great deal to our longstanding relationship. Please give a warm welcome to Lynn Quigley. (Applause) (Whereupon, the song Mustang Sally played as Ms. Quigley advanced to the podium.)

MS. LYNN QUIGLEY: Thank you, National Commander Hope. I'm extremely honored to be here with you and the men and women of DAV. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for our country and for veterans all across the nation.

As you may know, Ford has been supporting DAV since 1922. DAV is our longest-standing community partner. And we really value our partnership. But one thing that remains constant is that at Ford we continue to understand our responsibility to support veterans on many fronts.

Through our work with DAV we've learned that female veterans are impacted by military service and deployment differently than men and that there is a great need to address the unique challenges facing women as they transition out of service.

So earlier this year we collaborated with National Veterans Transition Services on the Freedom Sisters Reboot Workshop, a three-week program in Los Angeles that helped women veterans address the issues they are facing. Please watch the following video about this program.

(Whereupon, the Freedom Sisters Reboot Workshop video was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

MS. QUIGLEY: We're planning another Freedom's Sisters Reboot Workshop for this fall.

We also know how important it is to honor all that our veterans have done—and we've continued to support Honor flights to take World War II veterans to the memorial commemorating them in Washington.

And just this summer we brought veterans and their families to the second annual Ford Focus on Freedom event held in conjunction with the Ford Fireworks on the Detroit River.

And you may remember that last year we created the Operation Grateful Nation mural, This Land is Your Land which is made of thousands of individual drawings to show support to our active military. The mural is now on display at the Pentagon.

Project SNAP is back again this year to work with us on this year's mural based on the theme Welcome Home, so please stop by their table and join us in creating another mural. You can see the new image on the screen.

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

And a big thanks to all of you for supporting Ford as well. According to a recent Polk vehicle registration study, when American military families buy a new vehicle, they prefer Ford trucks, utilities and cars over any other brand. That is no surprise to us because since 2001 DAV members and their families have purchased more than 22,000 vehicles from Ford through the Ford Partnership Recognition Program or X Plan.

Those numbers put DAV members among the top three of the 3,700 companies that utilize this program to purchase vehicles. Thanks to all of you for your loyalty to Ford. (Applause)

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

This year for those DAV members that attend the conference we are giving an additional \$750 Bonus Cash on top of the existing X Plan pricing toward a new Ford or Lincoln vehicle. This offer is good through January 4th, 2016, so please stop by the Ford booth and register today.

Each person who completes the short survey when they stop by the Ford booth will receive a Ford 150 pin and an opportunity to spin the prize wheel for a chance to win one of many prizes, including a Go Pro Camera, a small scale die-cast Mustang signed by Bill Ford Jr., a \$50 gift card or an Apple watch. Everyone's a winner so please stop by and say hello to our team.

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

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

MS. QUIGLEY: Ford Motor Company began donating vehicles to DAV in 1996, and today I'd like to announce that we are proud to continue our support of DAV through the donation of seven Flex Vehicles. (Applause)

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

This year's recipients are VA medical centers in Little Rock, Arkansas; Iowa City, Iowa; Iron Mountain, Michigan; Omaha, Nebraska; Portland, Oregon; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Puget Sound or Seattle, Washington. (Applause) And now, on behalf of every Ford Motor Company employee I would like to present you with this ceremonial check which represents the value of the vehicle donation.

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

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Thank you.

MS. QUIGLEY: This gift means that Ford Motor Company has donated a total of 199 vehicles to DAV, representing a value of more than \$4.8 million. (Applause)

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

(Whereupon, Ms. Quigley presented a ceremonial check to Commander Hope and Adjutant Burgess, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MS. QUIGLEY: Thank you, National Adjutant Burgess. National Commander Hope, would you please stay here with me and I would like to ask Auxiliary National Commander Karg to please join us on the podium.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Burgess withdrew and DAV Auxiliary Commander Karg joined Ms. Quigley and Commander Hope.)

MS. QUIGLEY: DAV has a wonderful history and a bright future because of the strength of its leadership. In recognition of your hard work and dedication over the past year I would like to present each of you with a gift from Ford Motor Company. We hope you enjoy this beautiful blanket which features the Operation Grateful Nation mural. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Quigley presented the gifts to DAV Commander Hope and DAV Auxiliary Commander Karg.)

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

In closing, on behalf of the more than 194,000 men and women of Ford Motor Company, it is truly an honor to be here and to be of service to you, the men and women of DAV.

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

COMMANDER HOPE: It is important that future generations understand the service and sacrifices that veterans have made to our nation. Serving those who put their country above themselves is a passion for some outstanding young people. DAV is proud to incentivize and recognize tomorrow's leaders who have made a commitment to our cause.

Each year, with the support of the Ford Motor Company Fund, DAV rewards a group of dedicated young volunteers with scholarships for higher education for their service to veterans.

The award is named after one of the most revered leaders in the history of our cause: Jesse Brown. Jesse was a Marine veteran who was wounded in Vietnam in 1965. That did not stop his life calling of service to others. He joined DAV in 1967 and rose through the ranks, becoming Executive Director of our Washington Headquarters in 1988.

His service and dedication to ill and injured veterans was like a torch that inspired others to follow. In a testament to his steadfast dedication to veterans and his outstanding leadership he was selected by the President of the United States to become the first African American Secretary of Veterans Affairs in 1993. Serving those who put their country above themselves is not just a tradition but a way of life for some, like Jesse Brown.

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

This year we have selected eight of the nation's outstanding young volunteers to receive cash awards from this program. This year's top Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship goes to Hannah Farmer of Fayetteville, North Carolina. (Applause) She hopes to use the \$20,000 scholarship to major in medicine, with the goal of becoming a physician.

Hannah has volunteered at the Fayetteville VA medical center for four years and has accumulated 786 hours assisting veterans. (Applause) Her compassion and care for veterans knows no limits. She's already helped many veterans to become healthy and strong again. And DAV wishes the very best in her personal goal of becoming a medical doctor.

Please join me in welcoming Lynn Quigley and Hannah Farmer to the podium for this scholarship presentation. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Farmer and John Kleindienst joined Adjutant Hope for the presentation, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MS. HANNAH FARMER: First off, let me start by saying thank you so much to all of the men and women in this room who have served our country. I certainly would not be where I am today if it wasn't for you all.

And because of your service and generosity with this scholarship I will be attending Coastal Carolina University in the fall while studying biology. I cannot begin to describe how much this scholarship means to me and my family. I am incredibly grateful to all of you for this amazing opportunity. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: Congratulations, Hannah, and to all of our scholarship recipients. Let's give them all a big hand. (Applause)

DAV and Auxiliary members are among the most dedicated volunteers in our nation. They give countless hours of compassionate care to our injured and ill veterans. To honor their service and contributions the 2015 George H. Seal Memorial Trophies are being presented to individuals who represent the best of what volunteers mean to our veterans.

The DAV George Seal Award is awarded to Air Force veteran Robert G. Scruggs.

Bob has given more than 43 year nearly 20,000 volunteer hours to his fellow veterans at the VA medical center in Asheville, North Carolina. He is considered a mainstay of the medical center's volunteer force. He is held in the highest esteem for his hard work, dedication and the genuine concern he conveys toward all of his fellow veterans.

Though Bob is a disabled Vietnam veteran himself, he has not allowed his personal health to stand in the way. Instead, he focuses on one of the most important and valuable activities he can engage in for veterans: making contact with them.

He personally takes the time to engage his fellow veterans with genuine interest and concern, conveying the warmth and care so important to the healing process.

A life member of Chapter 14 in Billings, North Carolina, Bob is truly deserving of this illustrious award. Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to present the George H. Seal Memorial Trophy to Bob Scruggs. (Applause)

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

MR. ROBERT G. SCRUGGS: For a change, the Air Force has arrived. (Laughter) As you can tell, most up here already have something prepared. I've always winged it so I will also try to make it short. I do thank the organization greatly for this award. But I think most of us here, the volunteer, we're not doing it for the awards, for the accolades, we're looking for that smile on a face. (Applause)

And I think I had one of the best examples. I have a little pin on my cover that recognizes my dad's service 70th Division Battle of the Bulge. He retired 35 years as a nursing assistant with the VA hospital so I had the good example of what is there.

But, also, I heard as a child from the Book of Acts that it's better to give than to receive. And my time doing, whether I'm looking for volunteers or even in with the veterans, is when I leave them is there a smile on their face. If there is I feel like I've received the best paycheck that you can have.

And it's not just when I'm in the hospital. We're all involved in our various organizations, as well. But Thursday I transported. Tuesday I've got another transport. I wonder what would I do if I was in that situation. So as you can tell, I'm recruiting while I'm here. (Laughter)

So think about it. And I've had the pleasure, too, with the Charles George VA Hospital in Asheville that for a number of years we also have summer youth that volunteer. You'd be surprised the number of those that daddy or mamma are not only employees of the hospital but they are also fellow vets.

So, it's a case that, again, I thank the organization for the honor that they have bestowed upon me, for the example that my parents set for me, but, also, the fun of having known you're all honorable discharge.

In my book that makes you part of the family because, in all honesty, does a DD214 have race? Does it have age? Does it have sex on it? Yes, there is information there, but all it says is you're honorably discharged. So to me, we're all family, we just haven't had a chance to know each other yet. (Applause)

So, in the meantime, enjoy the convention. What he didn't tell you—you got two from North Carolina up here so I think I'd better clear out before Ron and I really get into something. Appreciate it. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: This year's DAV Auxiliary George H. Seal Memorial Trophy winner is Irene E. Sorah, a caring, devoted volunteer at the VA medical center in Knoxville, Tennessee, with the National Cemetery Volunteer Program and throughout the rest of the veterans' community.

A life member of DAV Auxiliary Unit 17 in Elizabethton, Tennessee, Irene provides comfort to family members of deceased veterans, always with a warm smile, expressing heartfelt thanks for their loved one's service. She even goes above and beyond, providing military funerals for all unclaimed veterans.

She has dedicated herself to helping others for 33 years—well more than 3,000 voluntary hours. A mentor and a role model for so many others, Irene is also most deserving of this honor.

I am very pleased to present the Auxiliary George H. Seal Memorial Trophy to Irene Sorah. I'd like to ask Commander Karg to please join me at the podium for this presentation.

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

MRS. IRENE E. SORAH: I have been a life member of the DAV Auxiliary for 38 years and been serving at the Mountain Home VA Medical Center in different capacities for over 33 years. I think it must be about 36. And I'm still doing some but I had to cut down on a whole lot of it because I just don't get around anymore.

Thank you all and I appreciate everything. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: The legacy of Wilson family is one that will continue to be successful for current veterans and the next generation of veterans who will follow us. In addition to all Art and his wife Mary have contributed to DAV, their name will be remembered and used to address one of the most important issues facing our veteran community.

Beyond receiving earned benefits, employment can be a roadblock separating veterans from the American Dream that they fought to defend. DAV has recently added a new department dedicated to knocking down barriers facing our nation's heroes who are searching for meaningful employment.

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

The EBV offers cutting-edge, experience in training in and small business management to veterans with disabilities. The EBV program's business plan competition mirrors DAV's mission of empowering veterans to live high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

So it's only natural that we lend our support to this competition by offering a financial award for the special category of "Top Venture Impacting Veterans," which is made possible by a contribution and ongoing commitment from one of DAV's true friends, Rick Fenstermacher, who was instrumental in helping to erect the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial as the Foundation CEO.

This award recognizes a disabled veteran who has taken on the challenge of starting his or her own business and has set an example to others.

Our first recipient had a unique vision when he started his own venture. Veterans Healing Farm extends to aid in the transition from military to civilian life. The program provides veterans with a purpose through agricultural work while encouraging healthy habits like eating well and physical activity. It does all of this in a peaceful and safe atmosphere.

John Mahshie, the founder and executive director of Veterans Healing Farm, joined the U.S. Air Force right out of high school. In the Air Force he experienced a strong sense of belonging and purpose. He had clear duties and goals. He had brothers and sisters he could depend on within the military community.

However, after leaving the military, there were no more orders, no more mission and a sense of isolation. For this reason, John started Veterans Healing Farm. He wanted to create a community for himself and fellow veterans. Last year was the first official year of Veterans Health Farm's operation, with 17 veteran families.

John runs the program along with his wife, Nicole, who is director of administrations. Nicole began her role as director in March 2013 following intensive business training through the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans Families.

I'll now invite John and Nicole Mahshie to the stage and ask Art Wilson and John Kleindienst to join us as we present this award. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. and Mrs. Mahshie were joined by Adjutant Burgess and Commander Hope and an official photograph was taken.)

MR. JOHN MAHSHIE: Hey, guys. I was going to be a little nervous but I'm Air Force and North Carolina, so, I think the last couple—(laughter). So we won the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with disabilities. We won their first prize which was \$30,000 and then also the Veterans, Best Venture Helping Veterans. In both cases, that money was instrumental. I cannot thank you guys enough for making that possible.

In 2014 we had 16 families involved in our community farm. This year we have 30 families, which is over 100 members. In addition to that, the money we have won, we actually used that to purchase two facilities. They're shipping containers that have been converted into a bunkhouse and a kitchen.

This will allow us to house eight veterans at a time, to bring them out for five days at a time, and to essentially put together a program similar to the EVB, a very intensive, crash-course program, a bootcamp.

But instead of teaching them business we're going to teach them holistic skills, teach them how to farm, teach them about farming animals, beekeeping, mushrooms, all sorts of activities in that nature.

In addition to that, this year we launched a new garden which is three times the size of our members' garden. And all the food we raise there goes to local food pantries serving veterans and other low-income families in our area.

We've already donated up to or approximately 1,700 pounds—well, more than 1,700 pounds. And we're on track to doing about 2,000 to 3,000.

So recently I was listening to a well-known public leader, speaking to a large audience. And he said, "Suicide is the most selfish thing an individual can do." He said, "It is the epitome of selfishness."

And with 22 veteran suicides a day, which is three times the national average, I wondered, does this guy really think that military veterans are three times more selfish than the civilian? Or how about divorce rates? Substance abuse? Homelessness? Or unemployment rates? Are veterans simply selfish, lazy or weak? Absolutely not.

Veterans are the most strong, selfless individuals in this nation. And these tragic epidemics have absolutely nothing to do with selfishness but a lack of community, compassion and support. Simply put—(applause) Simply put, veterans get things done and we are wired to serve. It's in our DNA.

The mission of the Veterans Health Farm is to give veterans a new mission to serve their communities and we could not do this without your help. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you, again. Another award has been given to a charity that brings Gold Star Families and fellow wounded or disabled veterans together to heal through sports, active recreational activities and fellowship.

Army Staff Sergeant and fellow disabled veteran Tanner Kuth founded Operation Purple Hearts of Gold in 2014 to serve as a springboard for wounded veterans and Gold Star family members to heal the emotional and physical scars of war.

The inspiration that both these special groups of people receive from each other helps to foster a bond that cannot be found from outside of the unique military family.

The program fosters an environment that promotes longterm mentorship and friendships. It promotes positive life engagement through sports competition, community service, education, employment and entrepreneurship.

Since his medical retirement, Tanner Kuth plays amputee football and softball. He has skied across glaciers and travels the country spreading a message of hope. Competitively, he's attained an official Top 35 World Ranking at adaptive snowboarding.

Though he was not able to make it to Denver, he is here in spirit.

Ladies and gentlemen, your DAV is on the rise. And leading our organization during these transformative days is a veteran I am honored to introduce.

This past year proved to be rife with change and challenge, requiring the steady, consistent guidance that we have come to know under our National Adjutant, Marc Burgess. He has continued to provide DAV with both the dedicated professionalism and thoughtful leadership necessary to manage our day-to-day operations, as well as a clear vision for the future of our organization.

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

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

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

Many of you know, especially those of you here in Denver, this last year has thrown a lot of wrenches into the mix for veterans, and we have all sat under this looming cloud of crisis at the VA, searching for the best answers. The topic dominated the conversation in 2014, and will continue to do so until the solutions are carried out.

But that does not and will not stop us from doing the great work that we do. DAV's focus on service work, legislative advocacy, employment initiatives, membership building and volunteerism has grown more sharp as veterans' need for support has become greater.

Now it's time to take a look at the DAV's work we did last year on behalf of veterans. We have charted a great deal of growth for our organization in the past 12 months and you should all be proud of the part that you played. With that, let the show begin.

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

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I think we could all agree that this has been another banner year for DAV, for the men and the women that we serve. We have had some major successes. And I believe, truly, the best is yet to come.

We could simply not accomplish all we do without your hard work and continued dedication, day in and day out. Every single day you wake up and decide to give it your all for veterans helps us achieve these great feats in the name of our brothers and sisters.

For example, I recently had the pleasure of congratulating Florida's Chapter 86 who took it upon themselves to end veteran homelessness in their county. They sent out what they referred to as "strike teams" comprised of DAV members and other supporting agencies.

They didn't wait for the veterans to come to them. And three years later, veteran homelessness in Flagler County, Florida, is eradicated and they are the first county in the state to achieve that goal. (Applause)

Kentucky Chapter 19's Robert Maze was asked this past Veterans Day weekend, for the second year in a row, to be the keynote speaker for a community Veterans Day observance.

In fact, I know several of you are often delivering speeches on patriotic holidays, proudly representing DAV and your fellow veterans.

In Oklahoma, Chapter 43's Mike Walters found 21 bronze service markers this past February that had sat in storage instead of beside their veterans' graves where they belonged. He charged his Chapter with researching these veterans, finding their survivors, and getting the markers properly placed before this past Memorial Day—a mission I am pleased to say they accomplished. (Applause)

Many of you have taken DAV's message to your communities, engaging the media to help inform the public about our services and key issues. In fact, in many communities, local DAV leaders are the first people local journalists think of when they are looking to speak with veterans about a story.

I could go on for hours about the commitments and accomplishments that you, the men and women in our communities, have taken on because you believe it's the right thing to do. I'm so very, very proud of each and every one of you.

Again, thank you for all that you do. (Applause)

Looking back on the past year, it's remarkable to see how much faith the veteran community places in our organization and in our mission. But it's clear, they know DAV has them and their families at the center of our operations.

I'm so grateful to all the men and women out in the field who make what we do possible. It's because of you we were able to represent more than 340,000 benefit claims for veterans and their families over the past year. It's because of you that so many veterans got the help that they needed and the benefits they earned.

It's why, as you just saw, we have been entrusted with more than one million powers-of-attorney for veterans' disability claims. And it's why we stand out among other veterans' service organizations for the sheer volume of work that we do and for the quality of services we provide.

And it's why we can feel good, knowing that future generations of veterans will return home to a country that recognizes their sacrifices and their service. This is a cause near and dear to all of us.

This spring, a Naval Reservist on our communications team was deployed to Afghanistan. Here is what she had to say about how DAV has her back while she is deployed.

(Whereupon, Charity Edgar addressed the convention via video.)

MS. CHARITY EDGAR: Hi, my name is Charity. I'm here and I'm an Assistant National Director for Communications at DAV at the Washington, D.C., headquarters. And I hope you're all having a great National Convention in Denver.

I wish I could be there but I'm actually in Kabul, Afghanistan. I'm deployed with the U.S. Navy as an Individual Augmentee to combine security transition command Afghanistan.

And so what we're doing is working with the Afghan National Army and Police to ensure that they are able to sustain all the progress that has been made in the past 14 years.

Now I love what I do here but I can't wait to get back to D.C. and join all of you and continue to fulfill the promise to the men and women who served.

I read about all the great things you are doing every time I get my *DAV Magazine*. And you are all an inspiration. I feel so fortunate to not only work for DAV but to be a member of an organization that truly believes and lives the mission each and every day.

Thank you for the support and I'll see you soon. (Applause)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: We certainly miss Charity and look forward to her returning to our communications staff.

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

I encourage you to remain active and engaged. This is one of our greatest strengths—in service, in advocacy, in volunteer work, and in our efforts to build our membership.

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

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

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

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

MR. DANIEL OLIVER: Danny Oliver, District 21, seconds.

COMMANDER HOPE: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

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

Coming home from tours in Afghanistan, the emotion and physical scars of war threw up numerous roadblocks for this individual. However, a fighting spirit helped him push beyond limitations to achieve personal and professional successes. He now is focused on giving back to the veteran community in his very own, unique way.

Ladies and gentlemen, for his work bringing veterans' issues to light, his patriotism and inspiring spirit, I am proud to introduce our 2015 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, Robbie Myers. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a video outlining Robbie Myers' service was viewed. When the lights came up, Mr. Myers was on the podium with Commander Hope and Adjutant Burgess, at which time an official photograph was taken while a standing ovation was given by the membership.)

COMMANDER HOPE: Robbie, if you would, if you would permit me to read this citation:

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

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

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

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

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

MR. ROBBIE MYERS: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen and my fellow veterans. I am honored to be accepting this award and I do so humbly, and knowing that there are many more deserving than myself.

Let me just take this moment first-off to acknowledge and share today's honor with the person that has stood by my side through so many hard times, my beautiful and amazing wife Jamie. Thank you for being my pillar, my everything when I felt like I had nothing. You always gave me hope and I love you, sweetheart. (Applause)

Let me start off by saying I promise that I will give or never give up on my mission to bring light on the obstacles that we as veterans face and help promote organizations like the DAV that are out there for us.

I racked my brain trying to come up with an amazing speech to give here today, only to realize that I'd be better off just speaking about what is in my heart.

I've done the research and I've seen the ridiculously high numbers that surround veterans' homelessness and unemployment, and not to mention the 22 irreplaceable lives that are lost with each passing day. It breaks my heart and makes me angry and drives me to want to make a difference.

As combat veterans, we go through a lot, some more than others. We aren't all lucky enough to have a family support system that is unwavering, just at home. Just in my immediate circle I've watched my own brothers and sisters suffer from divorce while on deployment, and upon return as well, the struggle with drugs, alcohol, the battle with depression and anxiety, and—one of my biggest struggles—post-traumatic stress disorder.

I've seen my own brothers and sisters go to school, get jobs, start businesses and be successful. The difference in these people's lives and in their circumstances is that they have someone to help them through all the transition that life has to offer after combat and, more importantly, life after military service.

They have family or friends or fellow veterans to help them get through the hard times and to navigate all the twists and turns along the path to being a civilian again, and even more so a successful one.

I went through so many job interviews and job fairs just hoping to get a call back. I'd get a call back but, more often than not, their expressions change when you tell them that you are retired due to something like PTSD. It seems to scare people off, like maybe we're just broken and not effective any more.

As combat veterans we come home with perspective on life that can only come from staring death in the face and wondering if today will be our last day.

In a world that is so focused on money and greed rather than what is more important, we face the new battle: the battle of getting people to understand that even with PTSD, even with TBI and anxiety, we still possess the best qualities that any employer would be happy to have, qualities like respect and discipline, loyalty and, of course, integrity.

It didn't take me long to realize that I was going to have to make my own success and since winning "Chopped", the show—sorry—since winning "Chopped" and showing the world that even a retired veteran can still be effective so many doors have opened up for me.

I've gone back to school full time and I plan on starting my own business within the next few years. Also, I am now working on a new show that is by veterans, for veterans, called "Come and Get it". We will give veterans work as well as giving a portion of all the proceeds back to various veterans' organizations.

I will keep bringing light to the victories that we have achieved after combat is behind us. I will keep going and keep pushing to show the world that while affected by what we went through we are still productive and valuable members of society.

I will keep standing by my brothers and sisters in any possible way because nobody knows what we're feeling or going through better than fellow veterans.

After losing so much in combat, the sheer fact—after losing so many in combat, the sheer fact that we are losing 22 veterans a day here at home is a devastation that I am unable to accept.

Veterans are strong, capable and willing to overcome any and all challenges. We will band together here at home the same way we did in combat. We will stand by one another in times of sorrow and times of success. We will have each other's back in every endeavor that we face. And we will watch that 22 a day dwindle to zero. We will lean on each other. (Applause) Thank you.

We will lean on each other every step of the way. I am proud of my time in the service and proud of my fellow veterans and am honored to be a member of this community. Thank you, again.

(Standing ovation)

COMMANDER HOPE: Welcome home. On behalf of all of us, Robbie, thank you for all you have done for your fellow veterans.

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

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

1. High-quality hospital and medical care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans with disabilities incurred in or aggravated by service in America's armed forces.
2. Adequate compensation for the loss resulting from such service-connected disabilities.
3. Vocational rehabilitation and/or education to help the disabled veteran prepare for and obtain gainful employment.
4. Enhanced opportunities for employment and preferential job placement so that the remaining ability of the disabled veteran is used productively.

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

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

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

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

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

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

I would now like to read into the record National Commander Hope's appointed Convention Committee Advisors: Credentials, Mike Dobmeier, Doug Wells; General Resolutions and Membership, Paul Varela, Adrian Atizado; Legislation and Veterans Rights, Joy Ilem, Shurhonda Love; Constitution and Bylaws, Brad Barton, Ed Hartman; Finance, Gary Lucas, Barry Jesinoski; Employment, Don Samuels, Jeff Hall; Hospital and Voluntary Services, Bill Baumann, John Kleindienst; Nomination of National Officers, Gene Murphy, Dick Marbes.

The Committee Advisors can pick up their Committee folders from the Resolution Coordinating Office in Governor's Square 9.

I do have a few announcements. First, let me remind us all that we are at an altitude here in Denver which most of us are not used to, as Action Jackson told us. Let's keep hydrated. So to fully enjoy our business here, let's make sure, please, again, you stay hydrated. And there are water stations throughout the hotel.

If you are a member of the National Executive Committee please stand by. Immediately following the conclusion of this session we will hold a rehearsal for the memorial service in this hall. Again, if you are a member of the NEC or in the memorial service program please stay in the hall when we adjourn. The memorial service will be held at 7:30 a.m. right here tomorrow morning.

Seminars start this afternoon with the POW/MIA Seminar in the Denver Room on the Second Level of the Tower at 3:00 o'clock. The Social Networking Seminar will be held in Grand Ballroom 1 on the Second Level of the Tower at 3:30.

The National Commander's reception will be held in the Plaza Foyer, Concourse Level, at 7:00 p.m. this evening.

For Fun Night tomorrow evening at 8:00 p.m. we will be treated to The Lieutenant Dan Band which is being presented by our friends at TriWest who have generously sponsored Gary and the band. (Applause)

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

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

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

Speaking of some of our top honorees, while you are going through our different exhibit areas, stop by the large photo collage to learn more about the National Disabled Winter Sports Clinic. More and more DAV Chapters and Departments are supporting this event. And as we visit the great state of Colorado, we wanted you to be more aware of one of DAV's and VA's top rehabilitative programs. Commander.

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

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

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER HOPE: Before we adjourn I'd be remiss if we failed to recognize a comrade who died this year while serving on the national line. National Third Junior Vice Commander Dennis Krulder, who dedicated his life to veterans, passed on in January. I'd like to ask that we take a brief moment of silence to honor Dennis and our fallen comrades who are no longer here to carry out our great mission.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

COMMANDER HOPE: This Convention stands in recess until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:10 o'clock, a.m. on Saturday, August 8, 2015.)

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**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
FIRST BUSINESS SESSION**

**AUGUST 9, 2015**

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The First Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 94th National Convention convened in the Plaza Ballroom, Concourse Level, Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, Colorado, on Sunday morning, August 9, 2015, and was called to order at 9:01 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Ronald F. Hope.

COMMANDER RONALD F. HOPE: The Convention will please come to order. As a reminder, I would like to ask everyone to please turn off your cellular phones and portable devices. Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. One.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

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

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Ladies and gentlemen, comrades, let's prepare our hearts and minds as we go before our Creator. Let us pray.

Heavenly Creator, we seek blessings on the tasks before us. Bless our efforts with clear insight, our deliberations with wisdom, our work with clarity and accuracy and our decisions with impartiality. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

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

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

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

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARREN TOBIN: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Credentials was called to order for its first business session on August 8th, 2015, by the Committee advisors Michael E. Dobmeier and Doug Wells.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention chairman and secretary. Warren Tobin from the Department of North Dakota was elected chairman and Carol Baldwin from the Department of Tennessee was elected as our secretary. The committee also met again this morning in Room E at the Denver Sheraton.

Roll call showed 930 delegates and 28 alternates have registered, which includes: 39 Departments and 365 Chapters; there are six national officers and 12 Past National Commanders present, for a total of 7,378 votes. This is a partial report for the informational purposes only and reflects the registration at the close of business as of 1800 hours August 8th, 2015.

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

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you, Warren.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOBIN: Thank you.

COMMANDER HOPE: At this time I would also like to introduce and recognize my National Chief-of-Staff Rodney Tucker, Officer-of-the-Day Cleveland Brown and Sergeant-at-Arms Bobby Williams. Please stand.

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

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you all for your support. It has made my job a whole lot easier this year. Thank you very much, gentlemen.

I would now like to introduce the Executive Director of DAV's National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C., Garry Augustine.

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

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

Mr. Augustine's DAV career began in 1988 as a National Service Officer trainee in Cleveland where, in 1997, he was promoted to Assistant Supervisor of the Cleveland DAV National Service Office. In 2000, Mr. Augustine became Supervisor of that same office.

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

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

He is DAV's principle spokesperson before Congress, the White House, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. In this role he continues to lead our advocacy efforts in Washington as others have before him. Thanks to his leadership DAV continues building on its solid reputation in the halls of power.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the Executive Director of DAV's National Service and Legislative Headquarters, Garry Augustine. (Applause)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GARRY AUGUSTINE: Good morning. (Response of "Good morning.")

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AUGUSTINE: National Commander Hope, National Adjutant Burgess, distinguished guests and delegates to DAV's 94th National Convention, I am truly honored to present my annual report to the membership as Executive Director of National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington.

Let me begin by thanking National Commander Ron Hope and National Adjutant Marc Burgess for their personal support and commitment to helping us achieve so much over the past year.

I also want to thank Auxiliary National Commander LeeAnn Karg and National Adjutant Pat Kemper for all of the vital work you do to support the men and women who served.

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

But without a doubt, the biggest thanks must go to DAV members, all of you here today and all those who couldn't join us in Denver. The number-one reason that DAV has been so successful is because of what you do back home. Thank you for the countless hours you volunteer and for all your efforts to improve the lives of America's veterans.

In my report this morning I will highlight some key accomplishments of our service and legislative programs from the past, from the past year, update you on the challenges and opportunities veterans and the VA face today, and share our vision for how we can help to fulfill our nation's promises to the men and women who served.

There is no doubt that the past year was an extremely difficult one for many veterans and especially for the Department of Veterans Affairs. The waiting list scandals and access crisis were inexcusable and there has to be full accountability for everyone involved.

We know that VA has problems that need to be addressed. But I stand here today optimistic. As Winston Churchill once said, and Churchill knew a thing or two about difficult times, "A pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

And that's what we have today an opportunity to use the attention that Congress, the media, and the American public have focused on veterans' issues to finally create the VA that veterans need and deserve.

Now is not the time to dwell on failures of the past but to look forward—look toward the successes of the future. I'm reminded of the words of George—General George S. Patton who said that, "Success is how high you bounce when you hit bottom."

And while VA may have hit a low, DAV will continue working to improve federal laws, regulations and programs that support veterans until they bounce back even higher.

One of our biggest successes in recent years came this past December 16th when the President signed legislation to expand advance appropriations to protect all veterans benefit payments.

It took a yearlong campaign, culminating with Commander Hope and Second Junior Vice Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster leading a multi-VSO delegation in a series of high-level meetings with House and Senate veterans' leaders.

After two marathon days on Capitol Hill, and thanks to the continued support of our members across the country, we were able to get Congress to act. As a result, even if Congress and the President get into another budget stalemate, or if the government shuts down again, veterans who rely on VA benefits can now be assured that there will be no interruptions in their payments. (Applause)

Building on that success, we relaunched Operation: Keep the Promise in 2015, focusing on two more key legislative priorities for DAV: supporting caregivers for veterans of all eras, and improving access to equitable health care and benefits for our women veterans.

Here is a short video on Operation: Keep the Promise 2015.

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

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AUGUSTINE: Already this year, there have been four bills introduced in the House and Senate that would expand the comprehensive caregiver assistance program to caregivers for all pre9/11 veterans.

We are also working with Congress and VA to make it easier for veterans to hire family or friends as caregivers under the Veteran-Directed Home and Community Based Services program and expect to have some more good news in the coming months.

The other focus of Operation: Keep the Promise is to raise awareness and promote solutions for the unique challenges women face during their transition from military service.

Today women comprise 15 percent of active-duty service members, 18 percent of reservists and almost 20 percent of new recruits. In just the past 15 years the number of women veterans using VA health care has more than doubled and their numbers are continuing to increase.

Last year DAV commissioned a special report entitled, "Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home" which was released in September.

The DAV report made 27 major policy changes and recommendations for action by VA and Congress to help break down barriers and fill gaps for women veterans in health care, specialized mental health, and homeless services, transition assistance programs, housing options, community support services, employment assistance and efforts to eradicate sexual assault in the military.

The report generated tremendous media coverage, including a front-page feature story in The Wall Street Journal. And DAV was invited to testify before both the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees.

I am pleased to report that already this year eight new bills have been introduced in Congress to implement the report's recommendations. And we will continue working to get Congress to pass all of them to ensure that women veterans—and all veterans—receive the full array of benefits they have earned and deserve. (Applause)

At the same time, our National Service Program continues to provide direct assistance and representation to wounded, injured and ill veterans seeking their benefits. In 100 offices throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico we employ a corps of approximately 270 National Service Officers and 32 Transition Service Officers who counsel and represent veterans and their families with claims for benefits.

We also train and certify over 2,300 Department and Chapter Service Officers and accredited more than a thousand County Service Officers who extend our reach and assistance even further.

Our Mobile Service Office program reached another 23,000 veterans in over 900 cities and towns. And this past year we added a new focus on reaching veterans at more than 100 college campuses across the country.

We are also continuing to leverage social media and the Internet to expand awareness of our social, our service program. I am pleased to share with you a sneak preview of what will become the first in a series of outreach videos about the claims and appeals process.

(Whereupon, the video "Who Should File a VA Claim?" was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. And for veterans whose claims were denied, we also provide free representation before the Board of Veterans Appeals.

In fact, DAV represents almost 30 percent of all appeals decided by the Board and about 75 percent of those appeals resulted in new benefit awards or with the appeal being remanded for additional development before a final decision.

For meritorious claims that do not prevail at the Board, DAV also operates a program to connect veterans with pro bono attorneys who provide personal representation at the Court, including over 1,500 cases in the past year.

And I am very proud to say that overall DAV represents more veterans filing claims and appeals than any other VSO. (Applause) In fact, this past January we reached a milestone when it became, we became the first and only organization authorized by one million veterans as their accredited representative. (Applause)

But the reason why DAV's Service Program is widely recognized as the best in the business is not due to the number of veterans we represent. It is because we find the best people, provide them with the best training and supply them with the tools they need to do their job.

But we are not resting on our laurels. DAV is continuing to embrace new technologies and electronic networks to deliver service and advocacy to injured and ill veterans and their families.

For example, we are developing a new generation training program called iTRAK which stands for Interactive, Training, Research, Advocacy and Knowledge. iTRAK will incorporate the newest information technology and afford our NSOs an interactive training platform that will allow them to remain on the leading edge of veterans' advocacy.

In addition to providing direct service and representation, your National Service staff in Washington are also working to help VA's digital transformation of their claims and appeals processing systems. I'm proud to say that we have filed more electronic claims than every other VSO combined. (Applause)

We are also working to protect our benefits and to block any proposed policies or rules that would infringe on our rights. For example, earlier this year VA put out a new regulation that made it mandatory to file every claims or appeal action, even informal claims, on standardized forms, without any exceptions for extenuating circumstances. We knew this rule might leave some veterans behind.

Because the rule was set to take effect on March 24th, we mobilized our grassroots communication networks and social media to educate veterans about the important changes soon to take effect. Here is one of the ways we helped to spread the word. Please run the video.

(Whereupon, the VA Napkin Video was viewed, followed by laughter and applause.)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AUGUSTINE: By the way, that was our own Peter Dickinson and Paul Varela from the D.C. headquarters doing the voices, another example of our multi-talented staff.

Using Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other social media tools, we were able to get this viral video in front of hundreds of thousands of veterans and supporters around the country. And we are continuing to work to change this policy.

Whether it is at VA or on Capitol Hill, DAV has been driving policy change to break down barriers for veterans since our founding in 1920.

And during the past two decades one of the main people leading that charge has been our own Joe Violante, our recently-retired National Legislative Director. During Joe's tenure DAV and veterans achieved some great victories and he leaves behind a legacy that we will continue to build on.

Someone once said that, "People wonder all their lives if they've made a difference but that Marines don't have that problem." And Joe, neither do you. (Applause) So for a lifetime dedicated to helping America's veterans, we say thank you.

Today, America's veterans stand at a critical crossroads. Over the next couple of years Congress and VA could permanently change the essential nature of veterans' programs and services and benefits.

There is a growing debate in Congress about the future of the VA, with some calling for it to be privatized, downsized or even eliminated altogether. Some even question whether our nation can afford to provide future generations of veterans the health care and benefits VA provides today.

However, we believe our nation cannot afford to break its promises to the men and women who served—not today, not tomorrow, not ever. (Applause) Veterans need and have earned timely, quality, and coordinated medical care. And only a healthy VA can best meet both their routine and specialized needs.

For the millions of veterans who choose and rely on VA, we must make sure that they can access VA health care when and where they need it. Let me be clear: no veteran should have to wait too long or travel too far for the care they need.

We agree that too much of what has transpired in the VA health care system is inexcusable and that VA must be held accountable. However, many of the current proposals for reform may look good on the surface but, in reality, could be devastating for veterans and their families.

Rather than give up on the VA health care system, we need to remain optimistic and continue working towards success. Despite all the recent problems, VA has been and can be the best, most accessible choice for veterans, capable of delivering high-quality, high-value health care.

To help accomplish this, DAV has developed a framework for reform.

First, VA needs to rebuild its internal capacity to provide timely, high-quality care. We need enough doctors, nurses and other health care professionals, along with sufficient treatment space, to meet the rising demand for care.

Second, the VA needs to restructure and consolidate all non-VA care programs, including the Choice program, into a single integrated, extended care network that provides seamless access for veterans wherever they live.

Third, VA needs to realign its health care services to increase access to care for all veterans, particularly for women veterans and those in rural America.

And, fourth, VA needs to reform its management and culture by increasing transparency and creating real accountability.

This is our vision for the future of the VA health care system and what we will be working towards.

Tomorrow we are very excited that both VA Secretary Bob McDonald and House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller will be here to discuss their visions for the future of VA. That will take place during the Service and Legislative Seminar which follows directly after the Benefits Protection Team Workshop beginning at 9:00 o'clock.

We expect a thoughtful conversation with these two leaders and I urge all of you to arrive early and remain throughout and be ready to stand with us to strengthen and implement our vision.

Finally, let me close by asking a question. What would life be like for us without VA? Not just any VA but a fully integrated, financially solvent VA?

Like many of you, I returned from my combat tour in Vietnam severely wounded, bedridden, facing multiple surgeries and unsure of my future at the tender age of 19. My life had been changed forever. Fortunately, the VA was there for me.

After 18 months at Walter Reed I was medically retired and turned over to the VA hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, who made sure my medical needs were met. The VA there also granted me disability compensation so I could meet my financial responsibilities.

After six more months of hospitalization and more surgeries, the VA got me walking by providing special shoes and orthosis bracing for my leg. After I started getting up and around I was able to go to college on the GI bill through the VA.

I even worked for the VA for a while when they offered me a job through a special program to hire veterans.

When I bought my first house, guess where I went? That's right, to the VA for a veteran loan with no money down.

And as I continued to have medical issues due to my combat injuries throughout my life, I went back to the VA for treatment and adaptations to my car and my house to allow me to function even when more surgeries relegated me to a wheelchair.

And guess what all that VA help cost me?

(Response of "Nothing.")

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AUGUSTINE: That's right. It was all provided without charge. Sound familiar? I know many of you have similar stories.

Are we really convinced that the private sector would have had the expertise, much less the capacity, to take care of me and all of my returning comrades who were wounded, injured or ill from their service?

Would I have been able to get an education, find a good job, or even buy my first home without a VA that offers an integrated array of health care and benefits?

Would I even be here today if all I got was a card and some cash and told to fend for myself in the private sector?

Maybe, but it would have been much more difficult.

Like many of you, I continue to turn to the VA for help as I approach my senior years. It's not perfect but in my opinion it's worth the effort to save and fix for those who depend on it. After all, less than 1 percent of our citizens serve in the military. But isn't that the 1 percent that should matter the most?

For our generation and those who came before us, the VA will be here through the end of our journeys. But what about the next generation? Will future soldiers, sailors, airman and Marines have a healthy VA ready to support them when they return home and throughout their lives? Or will they be on their own?

We have an obligation to do all we can to ensure that future generations of veterans, especially disabled veterans, have the same opportunities we had, even better ones. But that will only happen—that will—but the only way that will happen is if we are willing to stand up for what we believe.

We need to stand up to fix and reform the VA. We need to stand up to support and preserve the VA from those who would destroy and dismantle it. But, most importantly, we need to stand up for those veterans who will one day need to rely on the VA.

And I'm optimistic that with the strength and support of DAV members across the country we can, we must, and we will succeed. Thank you. (Applause) Commander Hope, that concludes my report to the Convention.

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

MR. CHAD MOOS: Mic 2.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 2.

MR. MOOS: Chad Moos, District 6, State of Virginia, would like to make the motion that we accept Executive Director Augustine's excellent report.

COMMANDER HOPE: Do I have a second?

MR. LEROY RICKMAN: Mic 1.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 1.

MR. RICKMAN: Leroy Rickman, Chapter 1, Florida, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER HOPE: I have a motion and a second. All those in favor signify by saying aye; all those opposed. The motion is carried. (Applause)

DAV has entered an unprecedented period of growth and diversification. Our success and strategic direction are in no small way a credit to the individual I am about to introduce.

National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski is a Gulf War era veteran of the United States Marine Corps who was medically discharged in 1993. A native of Otter Tail County, Minnesota, he was appointed to his current position in August 2013 after serving as Executive Director of National Service and Legislative Headquarters and in numerous other leadership positions at the executive level in Washington and Cold Spring.

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

As DAV has expanded the breadth and scope of the services that we offer our nation's veterans, Barry's strategic guidance and management have dramatically changed the organization's reach for the better.

His responsibilities include oversight of all National Headquarters Departments, including Communications, Membership, Fundraising, Voluntary Services, Employment, Human Resources, Information Technology, Direct Mail Services. And he is also DAV's Chief Financial Officer. I have also seen him make coffee. (Laughter)

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

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

(Response of "Good morning.")

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: National Commander Hope, guests and delegates to our 94th National Convention, it is certainly my privilege to share what is going on at your National Headquarters with so many of you who make our cause possible through your tireless efforts.

I want to thank Commander Hope and Adjutant Burgess whose support and confidence have fueled a giant leap forward in the evolution of our movement this year.

It's important that all of you, the dedicated people who stand at the helm of our great cause, know that we share your passion. We understand the fight. And we share your values.

We know the cost of war. And it is for the sacrifices of those who came before us that we dedicate our service in DAV. But, yet, we as a nation must constantly be reminded. Our stories must be told, like the story of a personal hero of mine, Dr. Lester Tenney, who we caught up with earlier this year.

(Whereupon, a video of Dr. Lester Tenney was viewed.)

DR. LESTER TENNEY: "It was called a 'death march' not because of how many died. Of the 12,000 Americans, only about 1,700 lived to come home. But they called it a death march because of the way they died.

"If you stopped on the road you were killed. If you had a Malaria attack they killed you. If you had to stop to defecate they killed you. If you just couldn't take another step they killed you. And how did they kill you? They would either bayonet you to death, shoot you or in some cases decapitate you.

"They did not give us water. They gave us no food. The temperature was about 108 degrees. The Americans that were captured, a good 80 percent of them had malaria; another 50 percent has dysentery.

"So we were gunshot wounds, malaria and dysentery and we had to walk this distance that they wanted us to. Under these conditions it was—it was unbearable.

"I think that what kept me going is about the second day I made the decision that the only way I was going to survive was if I started to set goals for myself.

"And I would walk and I would see a—I would see a herd of caribou in the distance. And I would say to myself, 'I must get to that herd of caribou.'

"I didn't know where they were. I didn't know how far they were. I didn't know how many days it was going to take me or how many hours. But I made every effort to get to that herd of caribou, no matter what happened.

"The Japanese told me to smile; I did. They told me to sit; I sat. They told me to march; I marched. They hit me; it was okay. They broke my nose. They broke my, knocked my teeth out. They split my head open but I still had to go to reach those herd of caribou.

"Then when I got to the herd of caribou, then I would find another goal and another goal and another goal. Every day was another goal. From that day on I lived my whole life that way.

"And those people who hold onto a grudge I think have a very different philosophy of life. And that's how they live. By not holding on to a grudge, by being able to 'roll with the punch,' I think it's a lot easier to live.

"My life is a lot happier because I have learned how to adjust to adversities and how to deal with it.

"The Disabled American Veterans, I'm a lifetime member. I believe that they are an organization that spells out clearly what their goals are. You know, Disabled American Veterans doesn't mean that you have to be disabled with the loss of a limb. You could be disabled other ways.

"And I do believe that everybody, every man that came back from Bataan are disabled in some manner, either mentally, emotionally, through physical attributes.

"And I think we are all a member of the DAV in one way or the other. If we're not, we certainly should be because the DAV was very kind to me in many ways. I am very appreciative of that."

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: Well, that's why we're here, folks. What a great American hero he is. People like Lester Tenney have earned our respect and his words highlight the sacred need for our unity and for our purpose. We can only hope that, in both honor and deed, we pay them a fitting and proper tribute. I believe we have done so this year. DAV is again on the move.

As we have noted, DAV crested 1.3 million members at the close of the year. With your help it's quite possible that we will end 2016 with a sustained membership of 1.3 million members. That's noteworthy because—(Applause)

That's noteworthy because of how unusual it is among member organizations nationwide, in particular, established veterans' organizations who are struggling, unfortunately. I'd like to take a moment to recognize someone who has led DAV's efforts in this area for many years.

Tony Baskerville, our National Membership Director, retired this year after four decades of dedicated service and multiple accolades. Tony started as a National Service Officer in 1975 and early-on was instrumental in DAV's homeless outreach.

He was mentored early in his career by renowned DAV leader Jesse Brown and was later recognized by the NAACP with the Jesse Brown Outstanding Leadership Award. For all his efforts, let's give Tony a big round of applause. (Applause)

While Tony's stewardship of DAV's membership system was exemplary, he would be the first to say that the primary reason for our success in recruiting is our commitment to service. It demonstrates our value. It inspires people to join. It is the most important factor affecting our growth.

Service, giving back to those who served, will always remain our foremost call. DAV members remain the most dedicated, meaningful volunteers in the nation.

DAV leads transportation efforts and in-hospital volunteerism. And we're just starting to see and measure the impact of nontraditional volunteer efforts as more and more Departments are logging Local Veterans Assistance Program, LVAP, hours.

At the same time, across the board we, along with every volunteer organization in our sector, are seeing a decline in volunteerism as we bridge generations. Many of our World War II veterans, like Lester Tenney, are no longer able to drive but they require our assistance. More baby boomers are working longer. And this has a diminishing effect on how many of our most valuable volunteers are available to take care of our veterans.

It means fewer drivers. It means more competition for the willing few who are able to make a significant volunteer commitment. It also means more work for those who are already committed—and many of you in this room know that very well. This is one of many challenges we face. But we must truly consider the cost of falling short.

We'll look for ways we can support media outreach to recruit volunteers. And we'll seek new ways to make students aware of the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship. And we'll work with you on projects and initiatives that help us gain ground in spite of the challenges before us.

To improve our efforts to attract and retain volunteers and active members we must improve our ability to communicate, both within our ranks and to the public. We have to be able to mobilize and engage as a body of members.

To my mind, I expect that we at your National Headquarters hold the highest standards for efficiency, for accuracy and integrity that mirror your work in the field. And we should provide you with the support and resources that you need to amplify your efforts in your communities.

We're doing more than ever before to get the word out about DAV and that includes involvement with partners like the History Channel. Last year, working together at Veterans Day, Commander Hope

represented us well as he joined "American Pickers" star Mike Wolfe. And when it came to the media, DAV practically owned Veterans Day last year. And we should be proud of that. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a video of Mike Wolfe and Commander Hope from American Pickers was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: That weekend we also hosted the DAV 200—The DAV 200: Honoring America's Heroes. This nationwide NASCAR series race was held in Phoenix.

The opportunity came to us on fairly short notice, but we'll be doing it again this year. And we will give you, at the very least, the opportunity to tune in and, we hope, a jump in awareness for DAV through the race in your communities. We anticipate a greater reach. And we are looking to a corporate partners to help us spread the word about DAV.

For those of you who weren't able to make it last year, here is a quick look at the race.

(Whereupon, a video about the DAV 200: Honoring America's Heroes was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: That's pretty exciting stuff. At the same time that the race and History Channel content was running, we'd developed a new resource that you're going to hear a lot more about in the coming year.

The DAV "Thank a Vet" program gives anyone who has three photos and just five minutes the ability to develop a touching electronic message honoring their loved one.

Last year was really a pilot year for the program, but with a little effort we very quickly found our audience could produce more than 2,200 videos, leading to 70,000 unique page views. Let me show you a quick illustration of how this dynamic resource works.

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

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: That's pretty sharp, isn't it? And we think it has real potential to carry DAV's message to an exciting new audience.

Mike Wolfe pitched the program in a video about his grandfather who served in the Navy, even. Country artist Craig Morgan, himself an Army veteran, lent his newly produced song, "If Not Me," to the cause. It's one of those things that you just really have to experience to understand.

(Whereupon, "Thank a Vet" photographs with Craig Morgan's song "If Not Me" were viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: This contributed to our efforts to reach people through our social networks, where we reached a new landmark. DAV eclipsed one million Facebook followers last month and was rated by Facebook as the top veterans' service organization page.

Our Twitter numbers topped 30,000. And we'll continue this outreach to work to ensure it helps our core mission and Chapters and Departments to achieve your goals.

By this time next year we believe we will have more than 1.3 million Facebook followers, exceeding our traditional membership total. It's a vibrant, engaged community where our members are extending our message and getting the word out about our services.

As all of this is going on, we continue to push for ways to secure new streams of financial support that fuel our mission and educate and inform the public. That includes Direct Response Television.

This year we took a closer look at these messages and worked to enhance the emotional draw of our piece—something we feel is making a more lasting impression on the prospective donors and the public.

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

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: We can't thank Bobby Barrera and his beautiful wife Marisela and his family enough for their time and effort in putting that together and the work that they did for DAV in that regard. Those things aren't easy to do. Bobby, thank you. (Applause)

We want to build relationships with the public. And we feel this type of message has that effect. We need people to understand and to connect with injured and ill veterans as well as with their families. We want people to commit and become recurring donors, and we want them to feel connected to the charity they are supporting.

We've held DAV 5K Walk, Run and Roll events in Cincinnati and San Diego and are adding Atlanta this fall. (Applause) Next year we'll add two more 5Ks to Tulsa and to the Virginia Beach/Tidewater area. (Applause) And we look forward to working to further perfect these very exciting events.

If you get a chance, go to a 5K. We encourage you to do it. It's another one of those things that you really have to experience to appreciate. But when you do, it's fantastic.

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

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: As most of you know, these aren't the only new programs DAV is undertaking.

It's hard at this stage to believe that DAV's Employment Department is in its infancy and what it is growing to become. We will have sponsored more than 100 all-veteran career fairs by the end of this year. In that time we will have facilitated the job fair experience for around 40,000 times for veterans, military members and their spouses.

We are looking at ways that we can improve the resources we provide job-seeking veterans so that we can empower them to meet their full professional potential, in spite of the challenges that they may face as a result of service.

The growth and ambition we have shown in the past year are a credit to many staff members and you in the field who support our programs of service. I'm proud that we've become more efficient and have focused on accuracy in all that we do.

That said, I am most proud that we are doing things the right way. We're upholding the standards of integrity which are the hallmark of the reputation our organization has built up for nearly a century. We're following a disciplined strategy. We're making calculated decisions and our efforts are paying off.

All the while, we have the foresight to know that DAV's success requires a national movement that goes well beyond the ground we hold in our headquarters buildings and our Chapter halls. Like you, we are working hard. And we're not hiding our game plan. We want you to know how everything works.

Because if a 5K can succeed in Cincinnati, there is probably something we can do in San Diego that will replicate that success. And if it works in San Diego, we will probably learn a new trick we can apply to Atlanta.

There are no secret recipes here. We're not interested in creating one exotic dish or success story to be shared among a few. We want a thousand cooks who can take the ingredients they have where they live and replicate that recipe to make DAV a household name in their communities.

We're trying to give you more to work with. Whether that means training that we make available online or support for media relations and special events—we're an email, or text, or Facebook message or a phone call away. And when you call, we do want to help you.

I'd ask that you take advantage of the tools and the resources that we are putting out there. While you're here go to the seminars, please. When you get back home, get online and check out the ones that you may have missed. And be a convention ambassador. Remind your fellow members where they can go to get the scoop.

And when you do, as you put your plans into action, tell us what's working. Tell us if there is something that we can do to refine our approach. We are vested in your success, which is our success, and share your values. We understand that our organization sits at a critical junction in terms of our future.

And we know what is at stake. We will not collectively or individually leave one of our own behind. We share your passion for our cause. And we understand the people we're fighting for and with. People like Alan Babin, who became DAV's Freedom Award Recipient in Snowmass this year.

(Whereupon, a video of Alan Babin was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: What an incredible young man he is. We're moving forward. And, as Alan said, "You can't go to the past and change it." But we're trying to make the future a little better than it is now for people like him, and people like you.

Thank you for all that you do. And thank you for making DAV better every day. Thank you, Commander. This concludes my report. (Applause)

(The following written annual report was submitted by James Marszalek, National Service Director:)



**ANNUAL REPORT OF JIM MARSZALEK  
NATIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR**

**WRITTEN REPORT SUBMITTED FOR  
THE DAV 94TH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
DENVER, COLORADO  
AUGUST 8–11, 2015**

NATIONAL COMMANDER RON F. HOPE, NATIONAL OFFICERS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, AND DELEGATES TO THE 94TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS: Evolution.

"Leave nothing for tomorrow which can be done today."— Abraham Lincoln

As National Service Director, it is my sincere pleasure to present to the delegates my report on the endeavors and achievements of the National Service Department. This annual report provides details concerning the DAV National Service Programs during 2014 and our impact in bringing the promise of hope and success into the lives of countless veterans, service members and their families.

DAV is embracing new technologies and digital resources to deliver service and advocacy to injured and ill veterans and their families. With the VA undergoing its most aggressive transformation to date in how it receives and processes claims, we are evolving in ways which are unprecedented throughout DAV history.

Since 2010, VA has been moving into a paperless, electronic environment with new procedures to improve processing of veterans' claims. DAV has been leading the way with the filing of electronic claims through the Stakeholders Enterprise Portal (SEP) and soon Digits 2 Digits (D2D). We've long recognized the need to afford our NSOs the resources to meet the demand of the electronic claims environment and have moved aggressively this year to ensure they have the best possible tools for the job. As a result, every NSO was provided new desktop scanners. With these new scanners, our NSOs, whether in their respective offices or performing outreach on the Mobile Service Office (MSO), have been on the leading edge of veterans' advocacy.

Furthermore, we are developing a new generation of DAV's Structured and Continued Training (SCT) Program, called iTRAK—interactive, Training, Research, Advocacy and Knowledge. iTRAK will incorporate the newest information technology available to us today and afford our NSOs an interactive training platform that will allow them to remain on the leading edge of veterans advocacy. Beyond its training functions, iTRAK will serve as an at-the-ready online resource for NSOs to use wherever they may be assisting veterans and their families.

Also, we are working to replace our current Case Management System (CMS), which is more than eight years old. The new CMS will provide our NSOs and TSOs the very best resources, with more flexibility and integration, to make our claims work increasingly digital. It will also improve our services for veterans and provide up-to-the-second access to information for our hard working Department and Chapter Service Officers who augment and support DAV's service efforts.

During the course of DAV's history, we have continually adapted to the ever-changing needs of our nation's heroes, their dependents and survivors. As our business practices continue to evolve based upon the rapidly changing advancements in technology, we will do everything possible to ensure all of our country's injured and ill veterans, as well as their families, receive the rights and benefits they have earned.

## **NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM**

Fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served is accomplished through DAV's flagship initiative. Service has always been the mainstay of DAV. Our largest endeavor in fulfilling DAV's mission is our National Service Program. In over 100 offices throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico, we employ a corps of approximately 270 NSOs and 32 Transition Service Officers (TSOs) who counsel and represent veterans and their families with claims for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense and other government agencies.

Our heroes need not be members to take advantage of our assistance, which is provided free of charge. With outlays of \$45,607,940.88 in 2014, these direct services make up the largest item in our budget for program activities. Between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2014, our NSOs and TSOs, who themselves defended the American way of life by way of their military service, represented nearly a quarter million veterans and their families in their claims for VA benefits, obtaining for them more than \$3.7 billion in new and retroactive benefits.

NSOs function as attorneys in fact, assisting injured heroes and their families in filing claims for VA compensation, rehabilitation and education programs, pensions, death benefits, employment and training programs. They provide free services such as information seminars and counseling, and community outreach activities such as the Mobile Service Office program. NSOs also represent veterans and active duty service men and women before Discharge Review Boards, Boards for Correction of Military Records, Physical Evaluation Boards, the Transition Goals Planning Service (GPS) and other official panels.

## **NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING PROGRAMS**

DAV National Service Officers continually train throughout their careers so that they are cognizant of the changes in all laws and regulations affecting veterans' benefits. This constant training assures that all DAV NSOs are at the forefront of veterans' advocacy. Our NSOs are highly trained professionals and skilled experts in developing and prosecuting veterans' claims through in-depth reviews of medical histories, in conjunction with application of current law and regulations. They also review rating board decisions, informing veterans and their families of the appeals process and of their appellate rights.

The extensive preparation required for these essential services provided by NSOs begins with our 16-month On-the-Job Training Program, which provides the foundation for new trainees. Trainees are instructed by tenured supervisory NSOs. The National Service staff at National Service and Legislative Headquarters administer and monitor the program and the instructors.

An NSO's training does not stop after completing 16 months of initial training. In fact training never stops because the laws, regulations and policies, which govern veterans' benefits, continue to change and grow in complexity. That's why equipping our NSOs with state-of-the-art computers and keeping their cutting-edge advocacy skills up to date is of paramount importance. DAV is the only veterans' service organization to have a training program certified for college credit by the American Council on Education.

In addition to these training programs, supervisory staff and selected NSOs from field offices across the country receive specialized instruction in management and leadership development. The goal is to produce the most highly trained representatives possible to serve veterans and their families.

## **NATIONAL APPEALS OFFICE**

DAV employs 10 National Appeals Officers (NAOs) whose duty is to represent veterans; they're dependents and survivors in their appeals before the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA). In FY 2014, DAV NAOs represented 29.2 percent of all appeals decided by the BVA, a caseload of approximately 16,224 appeals. Almost 47 percent of the cases represented by the DAV resulted in remands. These remands resulted in additional consideration or development for 7,534 claimants who had cases that were not adequately developed and considered by the Regional Offices that initially decided them. In more than 29 percent of the cases, involving 4,810 appellants represented by DAV, the claimants' appeals were allowed and the denial of benefits overturned. These numbers indicate that approximately 76 percent of the appeals represented by DAV resulted in original decisions being overturned or remanded to the regional office for additional development and re-adjudication.

## **JUDICIAL APPEALS**

DAV continues its *pro bono* representation program for clients seeking review in the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (Court). Through the DAV National Appeals Office, in 2014, these *pro bono* attorneys extended an offer of free representation before the veterans court in 2,086 appeals which had been denied by the BVA, and provided personal representation at the Court in over 1,534 of those cases. Since the inception of DAV's *pro bono* program before the federal courts, *pro bono* attorneys have made offers of free representation in more than 5,165 cases and provided free representation before the court in approximately 4,890 cases.

The substantial growth of this program would not have been possible without the coordinated efforts of DAV and two top-notch law firms—Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP of Washington, D.C., and Chisholm, Chisholm & Kilpatrick of Providence, Rhode Island. Robert Chisholm (of the Chisholm firm) and Ron Smith (of Finnegan) are two of the nation's most accomplished members of the veterans bar, and DAV is pleased to have them in prominent roles in our enlarged program at the Court. By this time next year, we hope to be able to report still another substantial increase in the number of veterans, dependents and survivors served by DAV through this venue.

## **TRANSITION SERVICE PROGRAM**

For the defenders of freedom making the all-important transition back into civilian life, DAV participates in Transition Assistance and Transition Goals Planning Success (GPS) programs.

Our TSOs provide benefits counseling and assistance to service members filing initial claims for VA benefits at nearly 100 military installations throughout the country. By filing compensation claims at separation centers where service medical records and examination facilities are readily available, we are able to provide prompt service to these future veterans. Over the last year, our TSOs conducted 908 formal presentations to 39,569 transitioning service members. During that same time they filed 17,126 claims for VA benefits. Counsel and representation for active duty service men and women during their transition was provided through the military's disability evaluation system. We devoted in excess of \$2 million to this program in 2014.

## **MOBILE SERVICE OFFICE PROGRAM**

The Mobile Service Office (MSO) Program continues to seek new venues to bring DAV service to veterans and dependents in their own communities. DAV National Service Offices are not always easy for veterans to visit due to distance, transportation, health and other reasons. By putting our service offices on the road and assisting veterans where they live, DAV is increasing veterans' accessibility to benefits.

DAV has been focused on a new initiative for 2014, which is to conduct site visits at colleges and universities throughout the nation using our MSO Program. Some colleges and universities visited include the University of Texas, Arizona State University and Indiana State University.

With 10 specially equipped MSOs visiting communities across the country, this outreach effort generates a considerable amount of claims work from veterans who may not otherwise have the opportunity to seek assistance at our National Service Offices. During 2014, our MSOs traveled 101,104 miles to 922 cities and towns of which 118 were located at colleges and universities. Our NSOs interviewed 23,645 veterans and other potential claimants during these appearances. Nearly \$1.1 million was expended for the MSO Program in 2014.

## **OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

The National Service Department has the cooperation, support and assistance of Department and Chapter Service Officers across the country. Each receives the training and information necessary to assist those we serve. Our Department and Chapter Service Officer Certification Training Program guarantees the vitality and growth of our local service programs. This provides an environment where our Hospital Service Coordinators, Department and Chapter Service Officers and volunteers work together for the common goal of service to our defenders of freedom. In 2014, DAV trained and certified 2,321 Department and Chapter Service Officers in 43 states.

During 2014, we conducted 33 Information Seminars at various Chapters across the country, with 2,827 individuals in attendance. These Information Seminars provide the opportunity for veterans to discuss VA benefits with our NSOs in their own community, giving Chapters an opportunity to recruit new members and encourage their involvement.

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

## **WOMEN VETERANS**

Serving in record numbers, women make up about 14 percent of the active duty force and 18 percent of the Guard and Reserve forces. Over 160 women service members have made the ultimate sacrifice in combat deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan and over a thousand have been injured or wounded. Since 2000, the number of women veterans using VA health care has more than doubled and their enrollment in VA's health care system is increasing faster than their male counterparts. Although VA has made concerted efforts to ramp up services to meet the increasing demand, VA has struggled to meet the unique health care and support needs of women coming to VA for care.

VA acknowledges the need for internal cultural changes to ensure women feel welcome at VA facilities, and to improve, tailor and expand health care services to comprehensively care for women veteran's gender specific needs. DAV is helping foster greater awareness of the unique needs of women veterans and is working cooperatively with VA officials through our legislative, communications and Foundation resources; providing testimony before Congress; and conducting a variety of forums and discussion groups in Washington, D.C., and throughout the nation.

On September 24, 2014, DAV released a landmark study "Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home." The report provides a comprehensive assessment of existing federal services available for women veterans and found gaps in health care, specialized mental health and homeless services, transition assistance programs, housing options, community support services, employment and efforts to eradicate sexual assault. The report reveals that while the number of women who volunteer to defend our nation is increasing dramatically—they currently do not have to same opportunities for a successful transition in a system with policies and programs that have focused on and were designed primarily for men.

DAV continues our determined advocacy for all veterans, and is the leading veterans' service organization in promoting the needs of women veterans at the national, Department and Chapter levels. In addition, the DAV Interim Women's Veterans Committee, made up of veterans from across the country, meets biannually at our Mid-Winter Conference and National Convention to help set our agenda on the needs of women veterans. To ensure women's unique experiences and sacrifices in serving our

nation in uniform are properly recognized, DAV actively seeks out and recruits women veterans to add to the 65 women now serving in our National and Transition Service Officer corps.

## **HOMELESS VETERANS**

VA has made ending veteran homelessness a top priority, undertaking an unprecedented campaign to dramatically increase awareness of VA services available for homeless veterans and veterans at risk of becoming homeless. Homelessness has been an ongoing focus by DAV and remains one of America's most complicated and important social issues.

DAV maintains many ongoing efforts through our Homeless Veterans Initiative to share in the vision of ending homelessness for our nation's veterans. DAV continues to seek legislation and policies that enhance the programs and services to help homeless veterans move from the streets to self-sufficiency. National Service Officers as well as Department and Chapter members have participated in stand downs for homeless veterans nationwide, and on behalf of the National Service Staff, we thank you for all that is done and being planned in order to enhance the lives of homeless veterans and their families across the nation.

## **RETIREMENTS**

DAV NSOs are service-connected disabled veterans from all walks of life. They uphold the great principles of this organization and work to ensure that veterans and their families have legal representation and a voice when filing claims to the VA for benefits. NSOs understand their role as veteran advocates and are dedicated to the DAV's mission of service and improving the lives of veterans disabled during military service.

Our experienced professional NSOs who have retired this past year leave a legacy of commitment and dedication of serving their comrades as advocates for fair and equitable benefits. These individuals served their country and then returned home to work on behalf of other injured and ill veterans as a result of their military service. From the National Service Staff, we wish each of these NSOs a long and healthy retirement. We appreciate their efforts in support of our cause. We had several retirements this year to include National Membership Director Tony Baskerville and NSO Greg Belak. Although Tony retired as the National Membership Director, he began his career as an NSO and will always be considered an NSO first by those who benefited from his advocacy and dedication. These individuals will certainly leave a void that is going to be difficult to fill but they are deserving of our thanks and gratitude. I wish them luck in their retirements and extend our appreciation for a life of service to DAV.

## **DEATHS**

We call to remembrance our National Service Officers who we lost this year. As the nation's veteran population rapidly declines—the attrition takes its toll on our NSO ranks. These NSOs have provided services and aided in fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served for scores of injured and ill veterans, their dependents and survivors. We shall recall and preserve the legacy of the following departed NSOs: Marvin Varias, Floyd Herron, Harold LaPonsie, Alan McCroskey, Harvey Millikin and Larry Dawson.

## **CONCLUSION**

At this time, I wish to recognize the leadership, professionalism and personal sacrifices made by our National Commander Ron Hope who I am proud to report served as a National Service Officer for more than 31 years and all of the National Line Officers; members of the National Executive Committee; the National Finance Committee; and the Officers and Board of Directors for both the National Service Foundation and Charitable Service Trust. I continue to be very grateful for the support and guidance of National Adjutant Marc Burgess. He is a true champion for veteran causes and has given overwhelming support to me and my team of Service Officers.

We are able to continue to tout our many successes due to their tireless efforts to ensure quality and professionalism in everything that we do. We are able to stay trained in our mission of service to injured and ill veterans and their families because they continue to ensure we have the tools to do so. My appreciation also goes to National Headquarters for their support of our goals and programs during the past year. I thank Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine and National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski for the resources they commit each and every day in support of the Service Department's mission. As a result of their continued support and contributions, the National Service Program time after time has added strength and resolve to everything we have done in 2014.

Appreciation is extended to the National Service Department staff members with whom I have the pleasure of working: Deputy National Service Director Chad Moos; Assistant National Service Directors Scott Trimarchi, John Maki, Justin Hart and Steven Wolf and our staff of devoted Service Support Specialists Amanda Evans, Angela D'Aguiar, Queen Blanks, Tyese McCall and the recently retired Emily Hall.

We would not be able to enjoy this success without the support received through the dedicated assistance given by the DAV Auxiliary, Department and Chapter Service Officers, and Hospital Service Coordinators. Thank you all for your support.

The mission of the DAV would not be accomplished without the dedication and commitment made by those individuals who have made a career of service to veterans by making the full-time commitment as a National Service Officers, Transition Service Officers and support staff members. These individuals work each and every day as tireless advocates on behalf of America's injured and ill veterans and their families. Please ensure you join me in recognizing the efforts of all those who work with the National Service Department to ensure our nation's heroes receive the professional services they so rightfully deserve.



**ANNUAL REPORT OF DOUGLAS K. WELLS  
NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

**WRITTEN REPORT SUBMITTED FOR  
THE DAV 94TH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
DENVER, COLORADO  
AUGUST 8–11, 2015**

It is with great humility I submit my first report as DAV's new National Membership Director to our 94th National Convention. I am very aware of the responsibility I have to all of you and the trust our members, National Adjutant Burgess and National Commander Hope have placed in me.

In 2007, National Membership Director Tony Baskerville said the loss of World War II veterans nationally was more than 1,000 each day as reported by VA. The nationwide attrition has impacted our ranks, with more than 3,000 DAV members passing monthly.

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

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

DAV membership continues to play a vital role as agents of change. With 52 state-level Departments and 1,349 active Chapters nationwide, we closed the 2014–2015 membership year with 1,301,539 veterans in DAV, exceeding our national membership goal.

The state of DAV's membership is excellent! We've made a historical milestone this year by exceeding 1.3 million members. It will take a concerted effort for us to make this a sustained landmark for the organization, but it is clear that DAV is the only established veterans service organization with a growing membership base.

This would not be possible without your help, the dedicated among you who are not afraid to ask the question, "Are you a member of DAV?" DAV's hard working corps of National Service Officers remains the backbone of DAV's recruiting efforts. Along with their other major commitments of service to veterans and their families, they recruited 10,602 part and full life members as well as 68 DAV Auxiliary members.

There are more than 4,000 dedicated members who also contributed to growing our ranks this year. Together, they brought 10,732 part and full life members as well as 3,653 DAV Auxiliary members into our organizations.

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

The DAV 2014/2015 recruiter of the year, who is credited with recruiting 165 part and full life members, is Mr. George Roso from McAlester, Oklahoma, Chapter 20.

Your top NSO recruiter, with 383 part—and full-paid life members is NSO Supervisor Andrew J. Edwards, of the St. Louis National Service Office.

In the area of Division top recruiters, the NSOs who took top honors for 2014–2015 are:

Division I (over 35,000 members): Romaine Barnett, Department of Texas

Division II (18,000–34,999 members): Andrew Edwards, Department of Missouri

Division IV (5,000–9,999 members): James Laverdiere, Department of Maine

Division V (less than 5,000 members): Robert W. McClellan, Department of Michigan

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

Division I: Edward W. Vandiver, Department of California

Division II: David P. Valtinson, Department of Minnesota

Division III: Daniel F. Hall, Department of Arkansas

Division IV: William T. Anton, Department of Nevada

Division V: Helen M. Parr, Department of South Dakota

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

The Department of Texas takes top honors. Commander Jay Johnston, Department of Texas, received this award on behalf of his great state's continued efforts.

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

This year's winner is the Department of South Dakota, represented by Commander Helen M. Parr.

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

This year's inductees are:

Andrew J. Edwards, Illinois

Daniel I. Knabe, Illinois

Albert L. Hughes, Michigan

George Roso, Oklahoma

Kwan C. Tillman, Michigan

Derek W. Norman, Missouri

Joseph G. Braun, Missouri

Nicholas Bernardi, New Jersey

Romaine Barnett, Texas

James R. Laverdiere, Maine

Sheila A. Sanders, Florida

Jason E. Zielke, Michigan

Thomas W. Herrington, Illinois

Michael A. Watts, New Jersey

Guy D. Anastasia, California

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

This year, the lucky winners are:

Life Member George Roso, McAlester, Oklahoma

Life Member Sheila A. Sanders, Jacksonville, Florida

NSO Supervisor Andrew J. Edwards, St. Louis, Missouri

NSO Trainee Albert L. Hughes, Detroit, Michigan

Associate NSO Michael A. Watts, Newark, New Jersey

DAV is pushing 1.3 million sustained members and more than 4,000 of them this year asked the question, "Are you a member or would you wish to join?"

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

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

I thank all who have contributed to DAV's legacy by supporting our membership recruiting efforts. We will continue to build and grow at a time when it is of the utmost importance.



**ANNUAL REPORT OF JOHN H. KLEINDIENST  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES**

**WRITTEN REPORT SUBMITTED FOR  
THE DAV 94TH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
DENVER, COLORADO  
AUGUST 8–11, 2015**

NATIONAL COMMANDER RON F. HOPE, NATIONAL OFFICERS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND DELEGATES TO THE 94TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS:

It is my pleasure to report to you on the progress we've made in DAV's Voluntary Services Programs.

Each year, DAV and DAV Auxiliary volunteers are called upon for an even greater commitment of their time and talents. And each year, they come through magnificently, not only meeting every new challenge but going well beyond the set expectations. The task may seem difficult, the obstacles insurmountable. Yet our DAV, DAV Auxiliary and youth volunteers have proven their true resolve. We can count on them to be there—when and where they're needed—to get the job done right.

In the program descriptions that follow, you will find statistics totaling the money spent, the hours donated, and the number of people who participated in our volunteer efforts. These figures can never fully represent the leadership and unselfish assistance provided by State Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS) Chairmen, Hospital Representatives, Deputies and individual volunteers. No one can put a price on programs like transportation to medical treatment, direct patient care, entertainment, recreational and sporting activities. No one can place a monetary value on doing for older veterans what they can no longer do for themselves. Nor could we place a dollar sign in front of the friendship one veteran extends to another...or the love an Auxiliary member holds out to a family much like their own. The statistics in this report merely measure what DAV and Auxiliary members, families and friends have done in accomplishing our organization's purpose. They cannot measure the gift our volunteers offer or the reward they receive in their own hearts.

**DAV DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICES PROGRAM**

The DAV Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service program is the largest of our volunteer initiatives. Through it, DAV volunteers provide a broad array of services to veterans in our nation's VA healthcare facilities. Under this program, 5,217 DAV VAVS volunteers donated 1,487,497 hours in 2014.

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 16 State Chairpersons, 136 VAVS Representatives, 132 Deputy Representatives, seven Associate Representatives and one Deputy Associate Representative.

The DAV volunteer effort is enhanced by a very active corps of 738 Auxiliary volunteers who donated 78,632 hours last year. Together, DAV and DAV Auxiliary volunteers provided 1,566,129 hours of VAVS service over the past year—considerably more than any other service organization.

**LOCAL VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LVAP)**

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

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

Since inception, 5,792 volunteers from 35 states have donated nearly 2.2 million hours of service through LVAP. We invite all Departments and Chapters to get involved and help make a difference. Volunteer incentives apply to all of our programs. LVAP volunteers are eligible for the same benefits and recognition as others. Youth volunteers who serve through LVAP are also eligible to apply for consideration to the DAV Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program.

LVAP activities may include Chapter Service Officer (CSO) and Department Service Officer (DSO) work; DAV outreach efforts such as the DAV 5K walk/run, Homeless Stand Downs, disaster cleanups, National Guard mobilizations and homecomings and approved fundraisers. Volunteers can use their time to provide direct assistance to veterans, widows or families by doing yard maintenance, home repairs or grocery shopping.

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

The LVAP Division winners are:

- Division I: The Department of Virginia, Past Department Commander, Jim Procnier, with 187,575 hours.
- Division II: The Department of Minnesota, Past Department Commander, David Valtinson, with 47,513 hours.
- Division III: The Department of Missouri, Past Department Commander, Tom Dolenz, with 17,889 hours.
- Division IV: The Department of Connecticut, Past Department Commander, Barry Bernier, with 13,030 hours.
- Division V: The Department of North Dakota, Past Department Commander, Roderick Olin, with 3,972 hours.

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

DAV is the only veterans' service organization which has a national volunteer recognition program to provide incentive awards for volunteers who provide service in activities in the name of DAV.

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

Because so many ill and injured veterans lack transportation to and from VA healthcare facilities for needed treatment, DAV operates a nationwide Transportation Network. This program continues to show tremendous growth as an indispensable resource for veterans. Across the nation, DAV Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCs) operate 197 active programs. They've recruited nearly 9,000 volunteer drivers who logged 24,356,351 miles last year, providing 716,302 rides for veterans to and from VA healthcare facilities. Many of these veterans rode in vans DAV purchased and donated to VA healthcare facilities for use in the Transportation Network. DAV Departments and Chapters, together with the National Organization, have now donated 2,967 vans to VA healthcare centers nationwide at a cost of \$65 million.

According to the independent sector, the number of hours donated to DAV's Transportation Network is valued at \$38,857,596 for the past year.

At the DAV's 93rd National Convention, Ford Motor Company donated five Ford Flex (7-passenger) vehicles and two Ford Transits (12-passenger) vehicles to the DAV Transportation Network. The VAMCs that received these vehicles were: Prescott, Arizona; Louisville, Kentucky; St. Louis, Missouri; Fargo, North Dakota; El Paso, Texas; Gainesville, Florida and Northport, New York. Ford has donated a total of 199 vehicles to the DAV Transportation Network since 1996.

This generous gift reflects Ford Motor Company's continued commitment to veterans. From the start, they have shown great interest in the DAV's mission of service and transportation to the many veterans who have no other means of getting to their VA medical appointments. Ford's participation with us is a real boost to the DAV Transportation Network program.

### **2015 GEORGE H. SEAL MEMORIAL AWARDS**

This year marks the 38th anniversary of the George H. Seal Memorial Award, which is given annually by DAV in recognition of extraordinary volunteer dedication to the needs of ill and injured veterans through the VAVS program. Only DAV and DAV Auxiliary members enrolled as accredited VAVS volunteers are eligible for the George H. Seal Memorial Award.

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

The 2015 George H. Seal Memorial Award recipients are Robert G. Scruggs of Mills River, North Carolina (Asheville VA Medical Center), and Irene E. Sorah of Johnson City, Tennessee (James H. Quillen VA Medical Center). DAV National Commander Ron F. Hope will present the award at the Opening Session of the 94th National Convention in Denver, Colorado.

**About the Recipients:**

DAV recipient, Robert G. Scruggs, is a disabled veteran who has not allowed his personal health issue to stand in the way of service. With over 43 years and 19,519 volunteer hours, he is still going strong and is one of the mainstays of the volunteer force. Robert works in Voluntary Service two times per week along with the Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN) Program weekly. He is heavily involved with Recreation Therapy, planning and transporting veterans to and from events and also serves on the VAVS Committee. He was instrumental in forming DAV Chapter 14's VTN program and serves as a VTN driver. Robert takes the opportunity to give a caring, outstretched hand of hope to veterans he is transporting and many have expressed their deepest appreciation for his efforts. At times, the veteran has asked him to stay with them while being seen by the provider, lending a level of compassion and care beyond just driving. He is also a "jack of all trades," fixing/repairing wheelchairs, sort and stores donated personal care items, helped with the restoration of a 1920's 2-story single dwelling house and assists with cookouts and other patient-related activities.

DAV Auxiliary recipient, Irene E. Sorah, volunteers as part of the VA's National Cemetery Volunteer Program. Irene provides the presence for the veterans that have no family during their final tribute. She also provides comfort to family members of a deceased veteran, the warm smile and the "thank you for your loved ones service" to the veteran's family, which means so much to the families. Irene has assisted with training other volunteers to keep the program fully staffed. She is also an active member of the VAVS Committee. Her volunteer assignment is a valuable part of customer satisfaction.

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

**2015 JESSE BROWN MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

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

The 2015 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarships recipients have widely divergent interests, but they have one thing in common—they honor those who defended our nation's freedom by volunteering their time to assist service men and women.

The recipient of the top Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship to receive \$20,000 is Hannah Farmer of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Miss Farmer has been a DAV volunteer since 2011 and has contributed 786 hours at the Fayetteville, North Carolina VA Medical Center, where she has been assigned as a recreation assistant for diversionary activities and as an office assistant maintaining and filing records, as well as answering calls. She has been the lead Youth Volunteer for the past three years and serves as the point of contact for new youth volunteers. Since her first year, Hannah has been invited to volunteer throughout the entire year—an opportunity that is only extended to outstanding youth volunteers. .

Hannah is looking forward to attending college to pursue a career in healthcare as a physician.

Other scholarship winners include:

Alain Carles	Miami VA Healthcare System	\$ 15,000
Sarah Pegouske	Battle Creek VA Medical Center	\$ 10,000
Durga Ganesh	VA Palo Alto Healthcare System	\$ 7,500
Andrew Warburton	VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System	\$ 7,500
Jaspreet Kaur	Eugene J. Towbin Healthcare Center (North Little Rock)	\$ 5,000
Braden Newman	Eugene J. Towbin Healthcare Center (North Little Rock)	\$ 5,000
Taylor Puckett	VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System	\$ 5,000

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

## NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

Athletic programs for handicapped veterans have always been important to DAV. We have a long, proud history of leadership in efforts that encourage athletic activity among ill and injured veterans of all ages. Working together with the VA, DAV leaders are committed to providing these men and women with opportunities to participate in sports which many thought would not be possible with their disabilities. This clinic is the largest rehabilitative clinic of its kind in the world.

More and more, doctors recognize it's not enough to stabilize patients medically and send them home. Without an introduction to sports or recreation, the hospital will see that person again and again. Disabled people involved in sports generally experience fewer medical problems than those who aren't, therapists say. Athletics help maintain cardiovascular conditioning, increase circulation to the extremities and help avert skin breakdowns. Another advantage is that sports are community-based rather than hospital-based undertakings. DAV believes disabled veterans should have the same opportunity as non-disabled individuals to participate in these activities.

During March 29–April 3, 2015, 346 severely disabled veterans took part in the 29th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic at Snowmass Village, Colorado. With hundreds of volunteers—including ski instructors, most of whom are certified in teaching the disabled—it was one of the best winter sports clinics ever conducted. An annual event sponsored jointly by DAV and the VA, the clinic is open to veterans and active duty service members with visual impairments, spinal cord injuries, certain neurological conditions, orthopedic amputations or other severe disabilities.

We want to thank the sponsors of the 2015 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic for their generous support. A special note of thanks to the ever increasing number of DAV and Auxiliary entities who are committed to this event.

Our sponsors this year were:

### HOST

Cisco	Prudential
DAV Department of Missouri and Chapter 2	Samsung
Ford Motor Company	The Selz Foundation
Military.com	Veterans Canteen Service

### NATIONAL

Health Net	Verizon
Elliott Hershberg	WellPoint Military Care
TriWest	Paul Wolfowitz and Friends

### GOLD

AstraZeneca	Iron Bow Technologies
Baxter Healthcare Corporation	Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems, Inc.
Booz Allen Hamilton	Masimo
CDW-G	Red River
Deloitte	SystemsMadeSimple
Fifth Third Bank	3M Health Care
Gene Taylor's	TwinMed, LLC
HelpOurWounded.org	United Airlines
The Independence Fund	World Wide Technology, Inc.

### SILVER

Anonymous	GTRI
Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks	Govplace
Coca-Cola	Lilly
DAV California Rehabilitation Foundation	Jim and Chrispy Peterson
DaVita, Inc.	Presidio/Welch Allyn
DAV State Commanders and Adjutants Association	QTC—A Lockheed Martin Company
DAV St. Louis Chapter 1	RR Donnelley Response Marketing Services
EMC2	Signature Performance
General Dynamics Information Technology	United Healthcare Military & Veterans

## **BRONZE**

AMSUS-SM	DAV Department of Virginia
The Alderson Family	EMW
Alkermes	Haivision
American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthics	Wanda S. Janus
Atlas Research	NetApp
Aspen Seating LLC – Ride Designs	Frank Pacello, Inc.
Bowlers to Veterans Link	Pacific Life
CA Technologies	Phase One Consulting Group
Concentra	Sigma Health Consulting, LLC
Crosscut, Inc.	Splunk Federal/Carahsoft
DAV Auxiliary	SRA International
DAV Blind Veterans National Chapter 1	Sutherland Government Solutions
DAV Department of Colorado	VetAdvisor
DAV Department of Florida	Western Colorado Chapter Military Officers Association of American

## **DAV FREEDOM AWARD**

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

The award's inscription reads: "Your accomplishments during the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic have proved to the world that a physical injury does not bar the doors to freedom. We salute your desire to excel so that others may follow." Every year, one participant is chosen for the DAV Freedom Award for Outstanding Courage and Achievement.

Army veteran Alan Babin was named recipient of the 2015 DAV Freedom Award at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass, Colorado, April 3rd.

On March 31, 2003, while serving as a medic in Iraq, his platoon came under attack and a fellow soldier was struck by enemy fire. Babin rushed to the soldier to render aid, and was shot through the stomach. The bullet tore through several vital organs and left a gaping wound in his torso. Babin clung to life for three hours before the firefight ceased long enough to medically evacuate him.

Several weeks later, while recovering at the former Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland, Babin contracted meningitis and suffered a debilitating stroke. He was left paralyzed, unable to communicate and completely dependent on others for his care.

Following more than 70 operations, including five brain surgeries, Babin slowly began showing signs of progress. In 2005, he attended his first Winter Sports Clinic.

### **Clinic Statistics**

#### **Total Veteran Participants: 346**

Male veterans: 288	Youngest participant: 23	Women veterans: 58
Oldest participant: 92	New veterans: 133	New OIF veterans: 30

#### **Branch of Service**

Army: 165	Air Force: 68	Navy: 67
Marines: 47	Coast Guard: 4	

#### **Periods of War**

World War II: 2	Gulf War: 53	Korean War: 2
Operation Iraqi Freedom: 69	Vietnam War: 39	Operation Enduring Freedom: 29

#### **Locations**

State Represented: 41	VA Medical Centers represented: 98
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## **DAV CELEBRITY ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM**

Continuing to provide a morale boost to injured and ill veterans, the DAV Celebrity Entertainment Program assures that hospitalized patients are not forgotten and that the American people still appreciate what they have done for all of us.

We are 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 70 hospital visits last year alone, these wonderful people include Retired Major League Baseball Umpire Larry Barnett and Major League Baseball Umpire Jerry Layne.

DAV is indeed honored that such outstanding celebrities want to be a part of the DAV Celebrity Entertainment Program. We recognize the enormous demands they face, and we appreciate the gift of their valuable time. They have demonstrated they care very deeply about the needs of our nation's heroes.

**IN CLOSING**

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

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sabrina Clark, who heads up the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program, her staff, and the VAVS leadership team across the nation for their devotion to volunteerism.

The Voluntary Services Department during this past year has been very fortunate to have the support of DAV National Commander Ron F. Hope and Auxiliary National Commander LeeAnn B. Karg and their staffs, the National Officers, DAV Interim Hospital Committee, The Columbia Trust, National Service Foundation and the Charitable Service Trust. Their assistance and support were essential ingredients of our 2014 success story. My sincere gratitude for the support of the staff of National Headquarters led by Executive Director Barry Jesinoski and the staff at National Service and Legislative Headquarters led by Executive Director Garry Augustine. My personal thanks to Kati Yockey, Voluntary Services Supervisor; Voluntary Services Support Specialist Linda DeMartino; Correspondents Odie Hall, Connie Kinney and Bradie Griffin; and Jennifer Gay, Assistant to the National Director of Voluntary Services for their invaluable assistance.

We've experienced outstanding support from DAV's corps of National Service Officers and Hospital Service Coordinators who have played a vital role in support of the Voluntary Services Programs. The success of those programs can, in part, be attributed to their participation and support. The successes reflected throughout this report were not by chance. National Adjutant Marc Burgess has always been committed to DAV's Voluntary Services Program and, on behalf of the Voluntary Services Department, we wish to thank him for his leadership and guidance and for having confidence in me to use my talents in extending the DAV's mission of hope into VA medical centers and the local community.

I would be remiss not to mention the true champions—the men and women and today's youth who care enough to make a difference in the lives of so many—the volunteer corps of DAV and DAV Auxiliary. As has often been said, there is no higher distinction than service to others. And there are none more distinguished than the men and women who are out there right now, working to bring the comfort of love and the joy of life to our nation's heroes and their families. Your devotion, compassion and commitment to DAV's mission of Fulfilling our Promises to the Men and Women Who Served is truly second to none.

Thank you.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE (VAVS)  
(JANUARY 1, 2014 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014)**

Number of VAVS Volunteers	5,217
Number of Hours by VAVS Volunteers	1,487,497

**VAVS APPOINTED POSITIONS**

Number of State Chairpersons	16
Number of State Chairpersons also serving as Representatives	10
Number of Representatives	136
Number of Deputy Representatives	132
Number of Associate Representatives	7
Number of Deputy Associate Representatives	1
Number of appointed positions	302
Annual joint reviews received for the year	42

**DAV TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM  
(JANUARY 1, 2014 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014)**

Total number of Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCS)	192
Number of veterans transported	716,302
Transportation hours	1,723,175
Transportation miles	24,356,351

## 2014 NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK GRANTS

National Transportation Network HSC program grants	\$ 481,147
National Transportation Network van grants (138 vans purchased and delivered in 2014)	\$ 964,790
<b>2014 Total National Grant Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,445,937</b>



### ANNUAL REPORT OF JOY J. ILEM NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

WRITTEN REPORT SUBMITTED FOR  
THE DAV 94TH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
DENVER, COLORADO  
AUGUST 8–11, 2015

#### NATIONAL COMMANDER RONALD F. HOPE AND DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES:

I want to begin my report to you—my first as National Legislative Director—by recognizing my predecessor, mentor, coach, confidante and dear colleague, Joseph A. Violante. I am saddened but compelled to report to you that Joe, who has led this organization's legislative department for the past two decades, retired from DAV on July 31. Joe was not only our leader, but also a national leader for America's veterans, fighting successfully for many of the most important veterans laws enacted over the past two decades. He also affected positive outcomes in countless regulations and policies of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Labor, the Department of Defense, and other agencies on matters specific to those who have sacrificed in service. Thanks to his steadfast and tireless leadership on Capitol Hill, DAV today commands immense respect from Congressional leaders, Administration officials, and major national media outlets that cover veterans affairs issues. The influential Capitol Hill newspaper *Roll Call* once termed Joe "the soldier's soldier on Capitol Hill," even though he proudly served in the United States Marine Corp during the Vietnam War.

Following his honorable discharge from the Marines, Joe successfully completed a law degree and practiced law in California for a number of years. In 1990 he joined our DAV Washington staff in our appellate work before the Board of Veterans Appeals. After leaving DAV's team in representing thousands of veterans to secure their benefits, Joe was reassigned to the DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters as Legislative Counsel. He was appointed Deputy National Legislative Director in 1996, then promoted to National Legislative Director in 1997.

Joe's leadership over the past two decades helped bring about a number of major reforms and improvements for veterans benefits, including: eligibility reform that opened the VA system and its benefits and services to more veterans, advance appropriations to shield veterans benefits and health care from budget stalemates establishment of caregiver benefits and services and expansion of the National Cemetery system to name just a few. As a leader of The Independent Budget (IB), Joe helped to increase funding for veterans health care and benefits to record levels, and continued to advocate for full funding until his last day on the job. His good work affected many other important changes too numerous to count that continue to help his fellow veterans live better and more rewarding lives. Thus, Joe Violante epitomizes what it means to be a part of our cause. I believe much of DAV's credibility in Washington, D.C., emanated from the work and dedication of Joe and the staff he led.

I am humbled that I was selected to take Joe's position as Legislative Director, but I cannot replace him—nobody could. Joe has been a unique example of a great leader in and for DAV. While I might walk in his path, I cannot fill his shoes; however, the legislative staff and I have learned much from Joe and we will work hard to carry on his tradition as strong advocates for service-disabled veterans. I am confident his decades-long legacy will endure. While, with sadness, DAV bids Joe farewell, we celebrate his right to a well-earned retirement after an extraordinary career. Godspeed to our friend and comrade—and DAV life member—Joseph A. Violante.

#### UPDATE ON VA

The past year has been another tumultuous one for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in response to the past year's waiting list scandals and health care access crisis. Since the last National Convention,

the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees have held more than 66 hearings and enacted emergency legislation to address VA's access-to-care crisis. One VA Secretary resigned and another was confirmed by the Senate; hundreds of VA health care executives left the system; and new procedures, plans and policies were put in place to respond to the access crisis by creating a new "choice" program to supplement VA's purchased care in the community programs. While much of this "emergency" legislation was aimed at addressing short-term problems, there are now concerns about so-called reforms that weaken health care for veterans in the long term. Of great concern to DAV are proposals that would downsize, privatize and put VA at risk of being eliminated altogether. Some proposals could return VA to an earlier era when the system essentially furnished only certain specialty care (such as spinal cord injury, amputation care and long-term care), while the remainder of eligible veterans would be sent to the private sector to fend for themselves. While these ideas may be appealing on the surface to some, DAV believes any such changes would not be in the best interests of veterans, particularly DAV members. While we too are frustrated with reports of mismanagement in VA, we believe that new VA Secretary McDonald has begun to institute a number of reforms that could transform VA into a more veteran-centric, efficient organization with better customer service for all veterans.

As reported to you last year, the access problems at VA are fundamentally the result of decades of Administration and Congressional underfunding of VA health care, budget gimmicks and false promises, despite the pleas every year by DAV and numerous other national veterans organizations that VA health care funding, whether proposed or appropriated, would be insufficient to meet demand, expectations and the challenges at hand. As far back as 2003, it was widely recognized that VA health care demand and VA health care funding were mismatched. In fact, in 2003, a presidential task force found that VA had a list of more than 236,000 veterans waiting six months or more for appointments, reached the same conclusion and warned that, without an infusion of new funding, VA would eventually face a crisis. Over the past 12 years, significant new medical care funds have been provided to VA, but annually we observed the continuation of funding decisions that still resulted in VA not being able to meet all the needs of its enrolled patients. As greater numbers of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans began enrolling following combat deployments, the shortages became particularly noticeable.

One hundred and fifty years ago, only a month before the Civil War ended, President Abraham Lincoln stood on the East Front of the U.S. Capitol to make his Second Inaugural Address, in which he made a solemn promise on behalf of the nation "...to care for him who shall have borne the battle, for his widow, and his orphan..." Those words, which are engraved on the entrance of the Department's building in Washington, D.C., were spoken just one day after Lincoln signed legislation to create the very first federal facility devoted exclusively to the care of war veterans, which ultimately evolved into today's VA health care system.

Since that date, leaders of Congress and Presidents have voiced unity in their bipartisan support of a robust federal health system to care for our nation's veterans. But after a very difficult year filled with a waiting list scandal and a health care access crisis—which resulted in the resignation of a sitting VA Secretary—there is now discussion about how best to keep that promise to the men and women who served and what the VA of the future should look like. While we certainly agree that change and reform are needed at the VA, we have a sacred obligation to ensure that America never abandons that sacred promise that still echoes from Lincoln's words.

Although the VA today provides comprehensive medical care to more than 6.7 million veterans each year, its primary mission is to meet the unique, specialized health care needs of service-connected disabled veterans. To accomplish this charge, VA health care is integrated with a clinical research program and academic affiliations with well over 100 of the world's most prominent schools of health professions to ensure veterans have access to the most advanced treatments in the world.

Furthermore, in order to achieve the best health outcomes for veterans, it is necessary to treat the whole veteran, and this holistic function is exactly what the VA is organized to do. VA provides comprehensive and preventative care that results in demonstrably improved quality, higher patient satisfaction and better health outcomes for the veterans it serves. For those veterans who rely on VA for care, those who have suffered amputations, paralysis, burns and other injuries and illnesses, we believe they deserve the "choice" to receive all or most of their care from a robust VA—a system that is able to provide preventative, primary, holistic care and specialized veteran-centric services.

Should the VA health care system be downsized as a result of a significant number of veterans departing VA through expanded "choice" options, leaving only a focus on VA's specialized services, some or all of the 3.8 million service-disabled veterans who rely on VA for their comprehensive care, including DAV members, would likely need to travel farther to get the care they need and would end up with fractured care, some being provided at VA and some in the community, not better

care as some have suggested. While DAV supported the choice options as a temporary measure to address the access delays, DAV warned of the potential impact on the system if this measure was made permanent. Choice is a sound bite, not a solution to the problem veterans face when trying to access VA health care. Choice is more about convenience than medical outcomes.

If VA were eliminated outright to no longer be an option for seriously disabled veterans, the private health care system would likely not be able to provide access to the specialized care and wraparound services they require. While the private sector also treats many of the same conditions in which VA specializes—including amputations, paralysis, burns, blindness, traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)—there is simply no comparison with the frequency, severity and co-morbidity routinely seen in veterans being treated by VA. Even a perfunctory visit to a VA medical center would vividly demonstrate that the types of patients VA treats would not be clinically and financially attractive to private hospitals and practices. Also, assuming all 3.8 million disabled veterans were dispersed into private care, they would constitute only 1.5 percent of the adult patient population in the private market. A market-based civilian health system assuredly could not provide the focus and resources necessary to advance the level of care for this small minority in the way that a dedicated, federal VA system does every day for 6.7 million VA enrollees.

## **SETTING A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR REFORMING VA HEALTH CARE**

We believe the VA health care system must right itself and choose a path to address its internal challenges, while integrating and coordinating the purchase of non-VA care whenever and wherever needed by enrolled veterans. DAV intends to aid VA in establishing a new road map as a guide to achieve this goal. We envision a framework to meet the needs of the next generation of America's veterans based on rebuilding, restructuring, realigning and reforming the VA health care system.

First, we must rebuild and sustain VA's capacity to provide timely, high quality care. VA needs to adopt a longterm strategy to recruit, hire and retain sufficient clinical staff at all VA facilities. In addition, VA must gain the commitment and funding to implement a longterm strategy to repair, maintain and expand, as necessary, usable treatment facilities to maximize access points where veterans can receive care. VA must build upon its temporary access initiatives implemented last year by permanently extending hours of operations around the country at CBOCs and other VA treatment facilities to increase access for veterans outside traditional working hours. To provide the highest quality care, we must strengthen VA's clinical research programs to prepare for veterans' future health care needs. In addition, we must sustain VA's academic affiliations to support teaching and research missions. This will support future VA staffing and recruitment efforts.

Second, VA must restructure its non-VA care program into a single integrated, extended care network. This will require that VA first complete the research and analysis related to the "choice" program discussed above, and allow the mandated Commission on Care to complete its work. I would note that former DAV Washington Executive Director Dave Gorman has been appointed by President Obama to serve on this Commission. We know that Dave will uphold the values that DAV stands for as the Commission develops recommendations for the future structure of the VA health care system.

Then, based on research and data from the Commission and others, VA must develop an integrated VA Extended Care Network that incorporates the best features of fee-basis, contract care, ARCH, PC3, "choice" and other purchased care programs. However, this will only work if Congress also provides a single, separate and guaranteed funding mechanism for this VA Extended Care program. To make this program veteran-centric, VA must complete the research discussed above related to private sector access standards in order to establish a new clinically-based access policy that is informed, objective and based on rigorously established factual evidence. In addition, VA must develop an appropriate and effective decision mechanism that ensures that veterans are able to access VA's Extended Care Network whenever medically necessary, as well as a new, transparent and dedicated review and appeal process capable of making rapid decisions to ensure veterans have timely access to care.

Third, we must realign and expand VA health care services to meet the diverse needs of future generations of veterans, beginning with VA establishing urgent care clinics with extended operating hours throughout the system. The VA, like any large health care system, should provide a walk-in capability to meet the urgent care needs of enrolled veterans. These services would be delivered by physicians and nurses in existing VA facilities, and smaller urgent care clinics strategically situated in new locations around the country. In addition, VA must extend access to care through enhanced web-based and tele-medicine options to reach even the most remote and rural veterans. One illustrative fact is that almost half of all veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan live in rural and remote areas, many far from a VA facility. VA's evolving program in rural health needs both an infusion of new funds and the ability to creatively

contract with rural provider groups to meet these veterans' needs. And with veteran demographics continuing to change, VA must eliminate barriers and expand services to ensure that women veterans have equal access to high quality, gender-specific, holistic, preventative health care. VA must also re-balance its longterm services and supports to provide veterans greater access to home—and community-based services to meet current and future needs, including expanding support for caregivers of veterans from all generations.

Fourth, VA must reform the management of health care by increasing efficiency, transparency and accountability in order to become a more veteran-centric organization and provide a better customer experience. VA can begin by developing a new patient-driven scheduling system, including web and app-based programs that allow veterans to self-schedule appointments. To support responsible organizational behavior, VA should redesign its Performance and Accountability Report (PAR) to establish new measurements focused on veteran-centric outcomes with transparency and accountability mechanisms. VA's budgeting process would benefit by implementing a more transparent and accountable system for planning, programming, budgeting and execution, or PPBE. This approach is already working for the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, and legislation is pending to bring the same model to VA.

In order to ensure that veterans receive the benefits and services they have earned, every VA employee, manager and leader must faithfully fulfill their duties and responsibilities. When they fail, whether from poor performance or misconduct, systems must be established to support decisive and timely actions to hold them accountable, including demotion, suspension or removal as appropriate. Finally, VA must hold all of its employees—at all levels—to the highest standards of performance and accountability, while balancing the need to make the VA an employer of choice among federal agencies and the private sector.

My fellow DAV members, the framework I have outlined here and that DAV has provided to Congress certainly is not intended to be a final or detailed plan, but it offers a new pathway that could lead to a future that would truly fulfill Lincoln's promise. DAV is convinced that the VA health care system has been, and with appropriate reforms, can and must be the centerpiece of how our nation delivers health care to America's veterans.

While the VA faces serious challenges, the answer is not to dismantle or abandon VA. Instead, we must honor the service and sacrifices of our nation's veterans by creating a modern, high-quality, accessible and accountable VA health care system. Anything less breaks a sacred promise, ignores the national obligation that Lincoln described and leaves veterans to fend for themselves in a private sector health system ill prepared to care for them.

DAV continues to work with the Administration and Congress to address the problems that have been identified. We are also calling on the Administration and Congress to remember why this crisis occurred, and urging them to prevent another recurrence by adequately funding VA for its true patient care demand. Finally, it is critical that VA become more transparent to those of us who are vested in the VA system, including all DAV members, and their families and survivors, and to be more forthcoming with us when problems and challenges arise in the future.

By all measures, this crisis did tremendous damage to the reputation of an institution that, over the past 15 years, had been lauded for its safety, quality, cost-effectiveness and patient satisfaction. DAV is working hard with VA and Congress to return VA health care to that status. In fact, we believe that this crisis may become one of VA's best opportunities to demonstrate why the VA is so important, not only to veterans who have served, but also to the nation at large. VA plays a crucial role in meeting the specialized needs of veterans, but it also is a foundation of graduate medical education, and conducts a significant clinical research program that has improved health care and the health status of our entire population. DAV will need its grassroots to use this knowledge to remind Congress why the VA is essential and important to us as disabled veterans. We encourage you to stay active, get involved at your own VA locally and provide appropriate feedback to your medical center director regarding the care at your facility. We must all work together to ensure a viable health care system for future generations of disabled veterans.

## **HEARINGS**

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

We accomplish this mission in many different ways, including meetings with members of Congress, congressional staff and VA officials, encouraging grassroots activities and by coauthoring *The Independent*

Budget. In a more formal manner, we present both written and oral testimony to congressional committees on issues of importance to DAV and our members.

Since last year's Annual Report to the National Convention, the DAV Legislative staff testified at 21 Congressional hearings, covering 74 bills and draft measures, as well as myriad other issues. Below is a summary of all of these hearings.

On September 10, 2014, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations about how the Board of Veterans' Appeals can improve its operations for the benefit of veterans and appellants.

On November 19, 2014, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health on six legislative proposals.

On December 3, 2014, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health regarding expansion of the Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Program to those wounded before September 11, 2001.

On January 22, 2015, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs concerning challenges facing the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

On January 27, 2015, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning five legislative proposals.

On February 12, 2015, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity concerning the President's budget for the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service.

On February 24, 2015, DAV National Commander Ronald F. Hope testified before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees to present DAV's legislative agenda for the year.

On February 26, 2015, DAV testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, on behalf of the Independent Budget, on the fiscal year 2016 budget for the Veterans Benefits Administration and benefits systems.

On March 24, 2015, DAV testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014.

On April 14, 2015, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, concerning 10 legislative proposals.

On April 21, 2015, DAV testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning women veterans issues.

On April 23, 2015, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health concerning seven legislative proposals.

On April 30, 2015, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning women veterans issues.

On May 12, 2015, DAV testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014.

On May 13, 2015, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014.

On May 13, 2015, DAV submitted testimony for the record to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on 13 legislative proposals.

On June 2, 2015, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity on nine legislative proposals.

On June 3, 2015, DAV testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on seven legislative proposals.

On June 24, 2015, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs regarding 10 legislative proposals.

On June 24, 2015, DAV testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee regarding seven legislative proposals.

On July 8, 2015, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity concerning the performance of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program of the VA.

DAV written testimony can be found on the DAV website. Many of the hearings are available to view on video by visiting the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee websites.

## **ENACTED LEGISLATION**

### **Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA)**

As reported last year, two significant proposals were under consideration by a Congressional Committee of Conference in August 2014. These bills would authorize veterans in certain circumstances to receive their care by private providers at VA expense, if they lived 40 miles or more from a VA facility or had to wait longer than 30 days for care from VA, even though the Governmental Accountability Office has testified before Congress that current law already authorizes VA to contract for veterans' care, providing a strong suggestion that this provision was not needed. Also, in common in both bills were a number of proposed private entities, task forces, commissions and other appointed groups to examine various aspects of VA health care, including its outpatient scheduling and specialty referral practices, health care infrastructure and its planning, and VA health care management systems, with a requirement of the submission of rapid reports on such topics to both the VA Secretary and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs containing recommendations for reform. The bills would grant the VA Secretary an expedited power to terminate or otherwise remove certain members of VA's Senior Executive Service, if such action were warranted in the view of the Secretary.

On August 7, 2014, two days before the beginning of our convention, the President approved H.R. 3230 as Public Law 113146. This omnibus measure enacted numerous new approaches to enable veterans to receive health care both from within the VA and through contract arrangements. One of the elements of the bill required VA to issue 9.1 million so-called "choice" cards. VA struggled to quickly implement the choice measures, and thereby created confusion among VA staff at the local level, including fee basis and contract managers and staff, and even medical center and network executives as to the purposes and methods through which the choice program should be administered. Also, veterans who received choice cards were given the impression that these cards entitled them to private care at VA expense without pre-approval. However, VA has begun to clarify and improve its employee training and outreach to enrolled veterans on the policy and proper use of choice cards. To date, over 150,000 authorizations have been approved by VA to enable veterans to receive at least some of their care from private providers at VA expense.

The legislation also authorized a number of infrastructure and human resources enhancements to enable VA to better meet its in-house health care workload.

Finally, the legislation appropriated \$15.5 billion in emergency funding to carry out these mandates.

As for the Commission on Care, established by this legislation, I am again excited to note that President Obama appointed Dave Gorman, former DAV Washington Headquarters Executive Director, as one of the 15 commissioners. Currently, the majority of the commissioners have been appointed and, by law, the Commission was required to have its first meeting once a majority of the commissioners were appointed, but no meeting has been set at this time. The Commission will look at the future of VA health care over the next two decades.

DAV is closely monitoring VA's implementation and management of what DAV considers a temporary measure to aid VA in reducing VA health care access challenges. We remain uncertain whether this program will be reauthorized when it expires in 2017.

### **Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014**

On September 26, 2014, the President approved a measure that extended numerous statutory authorities for VA programs that are important to DAV, our membership and all veterans who use VA benefits and services, including the requirement that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities; the pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces; the pilot program on assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care; VA's authority to use physicians other than VA employees to conduct medical disability evaluations of VA benefit applicants; authority of the VA Secretary and the Secretary of Labor to enter into a contract to provide referral and counseling services to certain veterans who are at risk of homelessness, through FY 2015; VA Secretary's authority to enter into agreements with nonprofit organizations, states or localities to provide housing assistance to homeless veterans, through FY 2015; and Secretary's authority to enter into an agreement with National Academy of Sciences (NAS) for a study of the associations between diseases and exposure to dioxin and other chemical compounds in herbicides, through 2015. The bill also made a series of technical and clarifying changes to the VACAA.

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

On September 26, 2014, with the President's signature, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act became Public Law 113181. The Act provides a 1.7% increase in veterans' disability compensation, DIC and other related veterans benefits, which became effective December 1, 2014. Again, for the second year running, this COLA does not include the provision of rounding down increases to the nearest whole dollar amount, a policy that DAV has consistently fought for many years and is in line with our longstanding resolution opposing such reductions.

## **Key Legislative Initiatives**

Three key legislative priorities for DAV for the 114th Congress include improving VA services for women veterans, comprehensive benefits for caregivers of disabled veterans of all eras, and legislation to authorize fully developed appeals.

## **WOMEN VETERANS**

DAV is working hard to foster greater awareness about the role of women in the military today and about their unique needs as they transition home. Women are serving in the U.S. military in record numbers and comprise 20 percent of new recruits, nearly 15 percent of active-duty service members and 18 percent of reservists. More than 300,000 women have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, over 160 women have been killed in action and over 1,000 were wounded.

As these women return home from wartime service they are turning to VA in record numbers—in fact the number of women veterans accessing VA health care services has more than doubled since 2000. To shed light on the unique challenges facing women in transition from military service, DAV commissioned a special report, “Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home”, released on September 24, 2014, in conjunction with a Capitol Hill screening of the documentary, *Journey to Normal: Women of War Come Home*. The screening was followed by a panel discussion with the filmmaker, seven women featured in the film, as well as DAV's lead researcher. DAV's report provides a comprehensive assessment of existing federal services available for women veterans. It identified gaps for women veterans in health care, specialized mental health and homeless services, transition assistance programs, housing options, community support services, employment assistance and efforts to eradicate sexual assault in the military.

The DAV report identified 27 key policy changes and recommendations and called on Congress to take immediate action. To date, the report has spurred the introduction of seven bills in the House of Representatives and the Senate:

- S. 469, Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act of 2015;
- S. 471/H.R. 1356, Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act of 2015;
- H.R. 1496, to improve the access to child care for certain veterans receiving health care at a VA facility;
- H.R. 1575, to make permanent the pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces;
- H.R. 1948, Veterans Access to Child Care Act; and
- H.R. 2054, to provide for increased access to VA medical care for women veterans.

DAV's report prompted two Congressional hearings: the first held by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, “Fulfilling the Promise to Women Veterans,” on April 21, 2015; the second hearing was held by the House of Representatives Committee on Veterans Affairs, “Examining Access and Quality of Care and Services for Women Veterans,” on April 30, 2015.

DAV is the leading veterans service organization in promoting the needs of women veterans at the national, Department and Chapter levels. DAV's Interim Women's Veterans Committee, made up of veterans from across the country, meets biannually at the Mid-Winter Conference and National Convention, and helps set our policy agenda on the needs of women veterans. In addition, DAV actively recruits women veterans to supplement the over 60 women now serving in our National and Transition Service Officer Corps.

## **CAREGIVER SUPPORT SERVICES**

Late last year, Congress held a hearing on VA's Comprehensive Caregiver Support Program and how best to expand eligibility to severely ill and injured veterans of all eras. During the hearing, concerns were expressed about the program, and arguments were made that improvements to the program should be made prior to further expansion. DAV believes that program improvements can be achieved as eligibility expands, without further delay. DAV is working to address concerns about the program

and continues to engage Congress to ensure caregivers of all severely disabled veterans receive comprehensive support.

Members of Congress pointed out that additional VA caregiver support coordinators (CSC) were needed in order to be responsive and meet the needs of caregivers participating in the program. DAV worked with VA to ensure funding was allocated for an additional 42 CSCs at the beginning of fiscal year (FY) 2015, and we are working with Congress to ensure \$10 million is directed to hire additional CSCs for FY 2016. Also, the IT system that supports caregivers needs improvement. We worked with VA to ensure funds were released in FY 2015 to make necessary corrections and urged the Department to request additional funding for FY 2016 to deliver a comprehensive IT solution for this important program.

In addition to these efforts, a number of bills have been introduced with direct input from DAV that would expand the eligibility for VA's Comprehensive Caregiver Support Program to veterans of all eras:

- S. 657 and H.R. 1899, the Caregivers Expansion and Improvement Act;
- S. 1085, the Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2015; and
- H.R. 1969, a similar bill in the House.

Another VA program provides caregiver support and is accessible to severely ill and injured veterans of all eras. The Veteran-Directed Home & Community Based Services (VD-HCBS) program authorizes a monthly flexible spending budget to buy goods and services based on assessed needs to live safely at home. Veterans participating in this program are able to hire family or friends to provide for personal care needs—or to provide support to family caregivers. However, VD-HCBS is currently operational at only 50 VA Medical Centers in 28 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico. It is DAV's goal to have VD-HCBS available nationwide at all VA medical centers. With your help, we can make this goal a reality. To find out more about the program and whether it is available at your local VAMC, go to [www.dav.org/caregiver](http://www.dav.org/caregiver).

Since the beginning of the 114th Congress, the legislative staff held dozens of meetings with members of the House and Senate and their staffs, to educate them about DAV and our key legislative priorities. We have particularly focused on the new members of Congress and the Senate who were elected in 2014, and those who are members of the Veterans' Affairs Committees, to ensure they understand the needs of injured and ill veterans, and understand and will support DAV's initiatives, and our national priorities.

## **FIXING VBA'S CLAIMS PROCESSING AND APPEALS SYSTEMS**

Since our last Convention in 2014, DAV has continued to work alongside Congress, the VA, veterans service organizations (VSOs) and other stakeholders to ensure that veterans, their dependents and survivors receive timely and accurate decisions on their claims. Furthermore, we have also been placing an increasing emphasis on reforming the equally backlogged appeals process to ensure that those veterans whose legitimate claims are denied by VBA, can receive timely and accurate decisions on their appeals.

For more than four years, VBA has engaged in a dramatic transformation of its claims-processing system and has achieved significant progress towards reaching its goals—that all claims be completed within 125 days with 98 percent accuracy by the end of 2015. While we applaud this success, we remain focused on the ultimate goal of a modern, veteran-centric system designed to decide every claim right the first time.

Over the past four years, VBA has concentrated the great majority of its efforts and targeted almost every available resource toward reducing the backlog of pending claims, all with the intent of reaching the 2015 goal. Since the backlog of claims peaked at about 611,000 in March 2013, VBA has been successful in reducing that number by more than 75%, and will be close to reaching its target of zero pending claims by the end of the year.

VBA has also reported that claims accuracy has increased from 83 percent in 2011 to more than 91 percent this year, and accuracy at the issue level—each individual benefit pursued within a claim—is about 96 percent. VBA also reports that veterans with pending claims are waiting, on average, more than 150 days less for a decision today compared to the March waiting times in 2013.

However, in an effort to reach its 2015 goals, VBA had to focus all available resources on these specific claims goals, which had the effect of diverting personnel away from other responsibilities, such as those assigned to process appeals. We have partnered closely with VBA during its transformation and will continue to use our influence to ensure that all veterans, their dependents and survivors seeking entitlement to benefits have their claims processed efficiently and accurately.

Although VBA has made some noteworthy progress in claims processing, the number of appealed claims decisions has been steadily rising. Currently, there are about 65,000 appeals pending at the Board of Veterans Appeals (Board), a little more than half are physically at the Board and the balance have been certified to BVA but not yet called up to the Board. In addition, almost 300,000 more appeals

are at various stages within VBA, the majority at the Notice of Disagreement stage and the balance at the Statement of the Case stage, Form 9, certification (Form 8) or remand stage, for a total of about 360,000 pending appeals. In part, this growth of pending appeals is a direct result of VBA completing more claims, and requires that more resources and personnel be allocated to the Board. However, as referenced above, it is also a function of less attention being devoted by VBA to processing appeals in favor of processing claims, and that must not be allowed to recur.

The longterm solutions must be a mix of innovative policy and legislation to adequately address this problem. While we have advocated for greater resources for the Board, we have also worked with VBA to identify practical reforms and collaborated with fellow stakeholders to develop a practical legislative proposal, called the Fully Developed Appeal (FDA) pilot program, to increase efficiency at the Board.

One of the best ways to reduce appeals is to ensure that veterans (and their representatives) receive rating decisions in a reasonable and predictable time-frame with understandable and correct decisions. To improve decision notifications, we proposed and VBA agreed to form a working group to address the Automated Decision Letter (ADL) process, which we serve on with other VSOs and VBA experts to strengthen the ADL process.

DAV has also steadfastly supported strengthening the Decision Review Officer (DRO) program as a local alternative to continuing appeals to the Board. The DRO review can often provide positive outcomes for veterans more quickly and with less burden on VBA.

Over the past year, DAV also took the lead in bringing together all stakeholders in a working group to seek new improvements to the appeals process, resulting in the FDA proposal, which is similar to and modeled on the Fully Developed Claims program. To file an FDA, an appellant would be required to submit all the private evidence they want considered at the time of filing their appeal; if they later submit additional private evidence they would be excluded from the FDA program and returned to the normal appeals process without any loss of rights. However, if the Board develops new federal records that were not part of the original claims record, or orders new examinations or independent medical opinions, the appellants would not only be given copies of the new evidence but also would be provided 45 days to submit additional evidence, including private evidence, in response.

As part of the FDA program, appellants would agree to an expedited process at VBA that eliminates the SOC, Form 9, any hearing and the Form 8 certification processes which could save veterans up to 1,000 days or more waiting for their appeals to be transferred from VBA to the Board. The veteran would retain the absolute right to withdraw from this program at any time prior to disposition by the Board, which would revert the appeal back to the standard appeal processing model, including the full options for DRO review as well as both informal and formal hearings.

In response to our FDA recommendations, bipartisan legislation was introduced in the House (H.R. 800, the Express Appeals Act) in February and has been the subject of legislative hearings. We will continue to work towards passage of this legislation in both the House and Senate over the next year. While the FDA will not by itself address all of the appeals systems challenges, it is an important step forward that we will continue to learn from and build upon in the years ahead.

## **ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS VICTORY FOR VETERANS' BENEFITS**

During the past year DAV achieved one of our biggest legislative victories in years when Congress approved, and the President signed, legislation to expand advance appropriations to include all veterans benefit programs. As a result, veterans and their survivors who rely on VA benefits will no longer need to worry about interruptions in payments due to unrelated budget showdowns or government shutdowns.

In October 2013, the federal government was shut down for 16 days. When Congress and the Administration fail to pass the federal budget on time, an instance that has occurred in 23 of the past 26 years, benefit payments to veterans, their families and survivors are put in jeopardy. Had the last shutdown continued for even a few more days than it did, mandatory obligations of the government, including disability compensation and pension payments to veterans and their survivors, would have been suspended. More than four million disabled and poor veterans rely on these payments—for some, it is their primary or only source of income.

In order to eliminate this threat, last year, DAV renewed our efforts to pass legislation to protect veterans' benefits from Congressional dysfunction and gridlock. For more than a decade, DAV and other veterans service organizations (VSOs) have been working together to reform the VA budget and appropriations process with advance funding that would shield VA from budget delays and government shutdowns. We first achieved success in 2009 with our Stand Up For Veterans campaign when Congress passed, and the President signed, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act, legislation that provided VA health care with advance appropriations.

As a result, even during the government shutdown of 2013, VA's hospitals and clinics were able to continue without interruption because they had received their funding in advance. However, no such guarantees or protection existed for veterans' benefits, such as disability compensation, educational assistance or survivor compensation.

In order to extend protection to veterans benefit payments, DAV and our VSO partners undertook an intensified campaign last year to pass the Putting Veterans Funding First Act, legislation that had been introduced in the House by Chairman Jeff Miller of Florida, and in the Senate by former Senator Mark Begich of Alaska and Senator John Boozman of Arkansas.

To draw Congress and the nation's attention to the importance of enacting this legislation, we planned, organized and launched Operation: Keep the Promise on February 25, 2014, to pressure Congress to pass the Putting Veterans Funding First Act. Together with hundreds of fellow veterans, other VSO leaders, as well as a bipartisan group of Senators and House members, then-Commander Joe Johnston led a powerful rally in front of the U.S. Capitol calling for congressional action.

Our comprehensive, multifaceted Operation: Keep the Promise further amplified that message through a massive grassroots campaign coordinated primarily via social media. Over 2,000 YouTube viewers watched Commander Johnston's video message and another 4,000 people visited DAV.org to learn about Operation: Keep the Promise. Our grassroots members and supporters placed over 4,000 phone calls and 6,000 emails to Congress calling for the passage of the Putting Veterans Funding First Act. In addition, Operation: Keep the Promise reached over 800,000 people through Thunderclap, over 3.5 million people through Facebook and Twitter and another 2.7 million through messages on strategically targeted websites across the country.

Within a month, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee did what the House Committee had already done the year before: they approved the legislation and sent it to the full Senate for further consideration. Over the next several months, as the VA health care scheduling scandal and access crisis burst into the news, we argued that it was more critical than ever to provide VA funding through advance appropriations.

Finally, in the waning weeks of 2014, we undertook one final push to finish what we had started. Commander Ron Hope, along with 2nd Junior Vice Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster and DAV's Washington leadership, led a multi-VSO delegation in a series of high level meetings with the leadership of the House and Senate to get this legislation passed before Congress adjourned. Thanks to our continued advocacy, both in Washington and across the country, and with the help of some key leaders in Congress, particularly Senator Barbara Mikulski, then-Chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee and House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Miller, we were able to get Congress to pass this historic legislation.

As a result, veterans, family members and survivors who rely on disability compensation, pension, educational assistance and other critical VA benefits can be assured that their benefit payments will be delivered on time, every month, regardless of any political gridlock, budget stalemate or government shutdown.

## **KEY MEETINGS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS**

On November 6, 2014, DAV participated in a round-table sponsored by Concerned Veterans of America to discuss the future of VA health care.

On November 19, 2014, DAV participated in a round-table discussion with the House Democratic Leadership, concerning a number of legislative and policy issues affecting wounded veterans and VA.

On February 26, 2015, DAV participated in a Congressional round-table with Minority Leader Pelosi and other members of the House Democratic Leadership about a variety of matters affecting VA health and benefits programs and the needs of ill and injured veterans, along with DAV and other VSO priorities for the 114th Congress.

On February 27, 2015, DAV participated in a Congressional round-table with House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller regarding legislative priorities and policy issues the Committee should address during the 114th Congress.

On March 4, 2015, DAV was represented at a Congressional round-table sponsored by the Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, to discuss the appeals process, the backlog of appeals and improvements in the process.

On June 17, 2015, DAV participated in a Congressional round-table sponsored by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi to discuss DAV's views and priorities in respect to VA health care.

These events, whether public or private, are extremely important because they provide DAV with an informal forum to present our views to congressional leadership. I firmly believe that DAV's legislative program is a success because of our ability to sit down with congressional leadership, discuss relevant

issues and, along with other members of the veteran/military/family community, thereby influence Congress about the importance of enacting our priorities into law.

### **FISCAL YEAR 2016 INDEPENDENT BUDGET**

The Independent Budget (IB) coauthors (DAV, AMVETS, Paralyzed Veterans of America and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States) recommended these levels for Fiscal Year 2016 as follows:

- Total discretionary funding: \$74.4 billion
- \$63.2 billion, VA medical care
- \$619 million, medical and prosthetic research
- \$3.2 billion, VA's general operating expenses
- \$2.7 billion, total capital infrastructure programs and grants
- \$1.9 billion, for major medical facility construction projects
- \$575 million, minor construction projects
- \$248 million, VA grants to state homes and state cemeteries.

More detail on these recommendations for both policy and budget matters can be found at [www.independentbudget.org](http://www.independentbudget.org).

### **FISCAL YEAR 2016 ADMINISTRATION BUDGET**

The Administration submitted its budget request to Congress in February 2014 as follows:

- Total discretionary funding: \$73.3 billion
- \$63.1 billion, VA medical care (assuming collection of \$3.2 billion in payments/reimbursements from veterans and insurers)
- \$622 million, medical and prosthetic research
- \$3.1 billion, general operating expenses
- \$1.5 billion, total capital infrastructure programs and grants
- \$1.1 billion, major medical facility construction projects
- \$406 million, minor construction projects
- \$125 million, VA grants to state homes and state cemeteries.

For FY 2017, the Administration proposed an advance appropriation in total medical care of \$66.5 billion.

### **HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL**

H.R. 2029, the 2016 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, was passed by the House on April 30, 2015, with the following funding levels:

- Total discretionary funding: \$71 billion
- \$61.8 billion, VA medical care (assuming collection of \$2.4 billion in payments/reimbursements from veterans and insurers)
- \$619 million, medical and prosthetic research
- \$3 billion, general operating expenses
- \$1.7 billion, total capital infrastructure programs and grants
- \$1.1 billion, major medical facility construction projects
- \$406 million, minor construction projects
- \$125 million, VA grants to state homes and state cemeteries.

In response to this bill, the DAV, our IB partners and the Administration voiced strong opposition to the funding levels proposed in this measure. It would underfund VA by just over \$2 billion compared to the Administration's request and by over \$3 billion based on the IB recommendations.

### **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS BILL**

On May 21, 2015, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved and reported a draft bill to fund VA for FY 2016 as follows:

- \$71.7 billion, total discretionary funding
- \$62 billion, total medical care
- \$622 million, medical and prosthetic research
- \$3 billion, general operating expenses
- \$1.6 billion, total capital infrastructure programs and grants
- \$1 billion, major medical facility construction projects
- \$378 million, minor construction projects
- \$146 million, VA grants to state homes and state cemeteries.

The Senate bill would approve roughly \$600 million more than the House bill would provide. When compared against the IB, however, both the House and Senate bills significantly underfund VA programs for next year.

It should be noted that shortly after the introduction of H.R. 2029 the Administration indicated that if the bill were presented to the President in its current iteration, the President would likely issue a veto.

DAV and our IB partners continue to monitor VA's budget process closely and will work with Congress and the Administration to ensure that VA receives resources sufficient to meet demand for services and care.

## **DAV 2015 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE**

The DAV Mid-Winter Conference held February 22–25, 2015, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia, was once again a great success, with historic attendance by our members and their families. During the conference, DAV's National Service and Legislative staffs presented key information on a variety of subjects of concern to hundreds of DAV members from across the country. DAV members in attendance used that week to visit their elected representatives on Capitol Hill, to present DAV's most important national legislative priorities as well as their own issues of concern from their states and local congressional districts.

The focal point of the conference was National Commander Ronald Hope's presentation on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, to a standing-room-only joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees, in the Dirksen Senate Office Building. Commander Hope did an excellent job in presenting DAV's legislative agenda and our concerns for this year. The Commander's remarks were well received by the members of the Committees.

This Mid-Winter Conference experience is grassroots lobbying at its finest and most effective, and provides me and my staff the energy and ideas to conduct our work in Washington, D.C. throughout the year. I congratulate and thank all our members who attended this year's highly successful DAV Mid-Winter Conference and encourage your attendance at next year's event, February 21–24, 2016. Join us to show our commitment and resolve to make the Administration, VA and Congress more responsive to the needs of our nation's heroes, their families and survivors.

## **OPERATION: KEEP THE PROMISE 2015**

Building on our successes in 2014, DAV determined that we would re-brand and relaunch Operation: Keep the Promise in 2015 to promote two key legislative priorities for DAV: caregiver support for veterans of all eras and improved access to health care and benefits for women veterans. These issues are discussed in detail earlier in my report.

During our Mid-Winter Conference in February 2015, we launched Operation: Keep the Promise 2015, reorganized as a yearlong campaign using social media, grassroots activism and Capitol Hill events and activities to promote changes in laws, regulations and policies affecting caregivers and women veterans. On February 24, the day of DAV's annual presentation to a Joint Senate-House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Commander Hope led a symbolic "march" to the Senate hearing room with hundreds of DAV members calling on Congress to "keep the promise" to care for all veterans. We further amplified our message using Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to call for expanded support to caregivers of all eras and increased efforts to remove barriers women face when seeking health care and other benefits from VA.

Already this year, legislation has been introduced to expand the caregiver assistance program to pre-9/11 veterans, as well as several bills to strengthen women veterans programs. Throughout the remainder of 2015, DAV will continue to place special attention on these two key issues under the banner of Operation: Keep the Promise.

## **CONCLUSION**

In the upcoming year, the Legislative Department will be dealing with the aftermath of the access-to-care crisis within VA, and will remain engaged in the debate over veterans' "choice" and the future of the VA health care system, on behalf of DAV members who are significant consumers of VA across all programs, services and benefits. DAV will continue to lead the way in helping solve the complex problems that have plagued the VA benefits claims process and health care system, to ensure that all veterans receive the full range of benefits they have earned through their service and receive them in a timely manner. As indicated earlier, DAV is leading an initiative to expedite the appeals process as well, because the chronic problems of the adjudication system have resulted in a growing backlog in veterans' appeals, and now BVA, too, is facing a daunting backlog with a much longer term processing time to resolve appeals. Finally, we will continue to request adequate funding for all veterans programs and call upon Congress to use its oversight

authority to ensure VA properly uses its funding to provide timely, quality services and benefits to disabled veterans, and to their caregivers, families and survivors.

In the year ahead, undoubtedly a number of new issues will arise, and we will continue to face challenges to maintain the benefits veterans have earned through their service and sacrifices, including ways to ensure timely access to non-VA health care without dismantling the VA health care system. DAV stands ready to face these challenges head-on with the unwavering support and strength from you, our membership. We need your active participation and dedication to help us achieve DAV's legislative goals. If you haven't already done so, I strongly encourage all delegates at this National Convention, and your family members, to sign up and participate in the DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network), easily found at the DAV website, [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org). Signing up will ensure that you receive up-to-date alerts on important issues and help us achieve success on Capitol Hill.

In closing, the successes the Legislative Department achieved during the past year to protect veterans benefits from erosion and enhance VA services required the full commitment and support of DAV's leadership and the enduring dedication and participation of our membership. Therefore, let me acknowledge the highly effective manner in which National Commander Ron F. Hope and the DAV National Line Officers communicated our message to our elected officials and to the American public. Let me especially acknowledge the essential support we receive from DAV's professional management, National Adjutant J. Marc Burgess, Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine, National Headquarters Executive Director Barry A. Jesinoski and the professional staffs of the DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters and National Headquarters.

I want to thank all DAV and DAVA members for their contributions during this past year, and in particular the members of my staff in Washington: Assistant National Legislative Directors Adrian Atizado and Paul Varela, Associate National Legislative Director Shurhonda Love, Senior Executive Advisor Peter Dickinson, Senior Advisor John Bradley and Consultant Amy Webb; and Legislative Support Specialists Lisa Bogle and Caren Wooley. I call upon you to continue engaging with us in the National Service and Legislative Headquarters, with Congress and the Administration in advancing our mission of fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served.



**ANNUAL REPORT OF JEFF HALL  
NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT DIRECTOR**

**WRITTEN REPORT SUBMITTED FOR  
THE DAV 94TH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
DENVER, COLORADO  
AUGUST 8–11, 2015**

DAV has long been recognized as the undisputed leader in successfully prosecuting claims for earned benefits for America's bravest men and women. However, many of our NSOs, DSOs and CSOs, myself included, have always felt some pangs of remorse at the second obvious step: helping a veteran find meaningful and fulfilling employment.

Last year DAV empowered America's veterans by establishing a National Employment Program and committed more than \$800,000 to its startup so the program could begin work immediately.

The need for this program is overwhelming. Tens of thousands are now making the transition from military to civilian life. We expect about 250,000 service members to transition in 2015, and by 2017 we expect that number to be close to one million.

DAV recognized that veterans, especially service-disabled veterans, continued to face challenges in the employment battlespace.

That's why we partnered with RecruitMilitary® and, last year, sponsored 34 veteran career fairs in 29 cities, which created venues for more than 60 companies per event that recognized and were actively seeking the unique talents veterans bring to the workplace.

More than 14,000 veterans and spouses attended these free career fairs, which prompted DAV to make the operational decision to sponsor more than 70 veteran career fairs in 2015.

In order to give veterans every advantage in the transition process, we incorporated our VA benefits and claims experts in these events. Service Officers aided hundreds of veterans, spouses and survivors with their earned VA or DoD benefits.

Our Department provides many resources outside of our sponsored career fairs. At [jobs.dav.org](http://jobs.dav.org), a veteran or spouse will find a job-search board with more than 800,000 employment opportunities and I'm pleased to report we average about 5,000 visits to our webpage every month. We have plans to expand the resources at [jobs.dav.org](http://jobs.dav.org). The website will be revamped and will feature additional employment and educational resources, webinars and will promote certain employers who have demonstrated that hiring veterans is part of their business strategy.

I'm very pleased with what has been a busy first year and am looking forward to our continued efforts to help all veterans, disabled or otherwise, as well as their spouses, active duty, reserve and Guard members find meaningful employment.

# RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES

## JULY 1, 2013–JUNE 30, 2014

<b>OFFICE: NATIONAL TOTALS</b>			<b>OFFICE: PHOENIX, ARIZONA</b>			<b>OFFICE: SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA</b>		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	80,295		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,399		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	172	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	49,901		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	778		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	143	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	79,666		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,512		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	199	
4. PENSION	3,730		4. PENSION	70		4. PENSION	7	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	5,015		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	40		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	56,079		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	820		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	12	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3,666		8. MISCELLANEOUS	29		8. MISCELLANEOUS	0	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	2,600		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	60		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	98		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	18		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	4		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	1,225		12. DEATH PENSION	13		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	597		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1,133		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	31		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	2	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	9		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	284,032		16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,760		16. TOTAL AWARDS	\$823,380.00	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$268,166,955.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,681,371.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$19,883,690.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$4,243,787,302.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$82,775,189.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$19,883,690.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$4,511,954,297.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$87,456,560.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$20,707,079.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	302,619		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,853		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,104	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	114,829		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,138		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,138	
PAPER	111,782		PAPER	2,113		PAPER	1,118	
ELECTRONIC	3,047		ELECTRONIC	25		ELECTRONIC	20	
22. INTERVIEWS	189,196		22. INTERVIEWS	6,315		22. INTERVIEWS	2,480	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	257,425		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,604		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,535	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	36,585		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	24		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	23	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	14		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	213,747		26. NEW CLAIMS	3,516		26. NEW CLAIMS	2,058	
PAPER	208,579		PAPER	3,438		PAPER	2,022	
ELECTRONIC	5,168		ELECTRONIC	78		ELECTRONIC	36	
27. MEMBERSHIP	7,214		27. MEMBERSHIP	157		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	850		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	40780		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	
<b>OFFICE: MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA</b>			<b>OFFICE: LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS</b>			<b>OFFICE: OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA</b>		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,671		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	954		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,418	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,240		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,205		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,537	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,012		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,441		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,687	
4. PENSION	108		4. PENSION	67		4. PENSION	74	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	107		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	61		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	35	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,719		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	380		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	783	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	194		8. MISCELLANEOUS	81		8. MISCELLANEOUS	119	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	56		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	76		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	60	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	2	
12. DEATH PENSION	41		12. DEATH PENSION	12		12. DEATH PENSION	13	
13. INSURANCE	1		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	29		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	18		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	58	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,159		16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,250		16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,905	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,848,129.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,211,249.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,523,105.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$100,208,950.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$66,326,163.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$98,284,986.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$107,057,079.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$70,537,412.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$103,808,091.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,510		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,211		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,018	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,798		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	861		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,374	
PAPER	1,746		PAPER	825		PAPER	2,338	
ELECTRONIC	52		ELECTRONIC	36		ELECTRONIC	36	
22. INTERVIEWS	3,983		22. INTERVIEWS	4,312		22. INTERVIEWS	9,098	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,378		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,054		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,420	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	7		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	488	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,059		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,839		26. NEW CLAIMS	4,388	
PAPER	3,031		PAPER	1,761		PAPER	4,341	
ELECTRONIC	28		ELECTRONIC	78		ELECTRONIC	47	
27. MEMBERSHIP	278		27. MEMBERSHIP	105		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	70	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	2506	
<b>OFFICE: ANCHORAGE, ALASKA</b>			<b>OFFICE: LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA</b>			<b>OFFICE: SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA</b>		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	330		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,503		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	4,761	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	220		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	800		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,873	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	279		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,324		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,894	
4. PENSION	11		4. PENSION	80		4. PENSION	54	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	66		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	38	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	179		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,110		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	253	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	1		8. MISCELLANEOUS	19		8. MISCELLANEOUS	174	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	12		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	19		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	43	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	14		12. DEATH PENSION	2	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	8		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	9		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	13	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,040		16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,944		16. TOTAL AWARDS	11,112	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$693,794.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,359,989.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$8,870,460.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$14,087,322.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$94,084,162.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$149,924,162.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$14,781,116.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$99,444,151.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$158,794,622.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,125		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,959		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	11,191	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	470		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,866		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,748	
PAPER	467		PAPER	1,864		PAPER	3,740	
ELECTRONIC	3		ELECTRONIC	2		ELECTRONIC	8	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,324		22. INTERVIEWS	4,858		22. INTERVIEWS	8,381	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,869		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,615		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	9,681	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	547		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	11,576	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,258		26. NEW CLAIMS	4,686		26. NEW CLAIMS	5,174	
PAPER	1,249		PAPER	4,642		PAPER	5,093	
ELECTRONIC	9		ELECTRONIC	44		ELECTRONIC	81	
27. MEMBERSHIP	4		27. MEMBERSHIP	176		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	1		28. BRIEFINGS	24		28. BRIEFINGS	253	
29. PARTICIPANTS	30		29. PARTICIPANTS	678		29. PARTICIPANTS	15296	

**OFFICE: DENVER, COLORADO**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,647
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,117
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,546
4. PENSION	62
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	61
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	812
8. MISCELLANEOUS	253
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	54
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	9
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	14
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,577
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,737,820.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$72,795,247.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$77,533,067.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	9,262
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,693
PAPER	4,651
ELECTRONIC	42
22. INTERVIEWS	6,694
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	8,658
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3,160
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	8,403
PAPER	8,261
ELECTRONIC	142
27. MEMBERSHIP	104
28. BRIEFINGS	21
29. PARTICIPANTS	597

**OFFICE: WASHINGTON, D.C.**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	78
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	110
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	83
4. PENSION	1
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	7
8. MISCELLANEOUS	5
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	1
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	280
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$310,242.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$5,544,535.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$5,854,777.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,418
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	691
PAPER	694
ELECTRONIC	17
22. INTERVIEWS	3,613
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,251
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,175
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,688
PAPER	2,654
ELECTRONIC	34
27. MEMBERSHIP	187
28. BRIEFINGS	7
29. PARTICIPANTS	154

**OFFICE: ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	4,578
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	3,533
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	6,347
4. PENSION	278
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	2,149
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	4,045
8. MISCELLANEOUS	726
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	199
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	236
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	202
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	22,293
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$17,090,676.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$269,577,836.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$286,668,512.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	16,828
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	6,924
PAPER	6,639
ELECTRONIC	285
22. INTERVIEWS	5,830
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	14,432
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,797
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	13,930
PAPER	13,667
ELECTRONIC	263
27. MEMBERSHIP	406
28. BRIEFINGS	10
29. PARTICIPANTS	342

**OFFICE: NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	865
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	437
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	992
4. PENSION	21
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	20
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	297
8. MISCELLANEOUS	6
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	11
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	6
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	11
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,467
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,318,336.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$34,806,987.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$37,125,323.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,350
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	956
PAPER	945
ELECTRONIC	11
22. INTERVIEWS	1,994
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,202
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,987
PAPER	1,941
ELECTRONIC	46
27. MEMBERSHIP	12
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	10
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	17
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	9
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	3
8. MISCELLANEOUS	6
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	40
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$23,315.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$426,580.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$449,895.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	18,922
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,896
PAPER	1,640
ELECTRONIC	56
22. INTERVIEWS	1,813
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,908
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	20
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,216
PAPER	2,982
ELECTRONIC	234
27. MEMBERSHIP	99
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	248
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	163
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	210
4. PENSION	5
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	5
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	2
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	639
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$520,043.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$8,659,898.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$9,179,941.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	599
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	408
PAPER	405
ELECTRONIC	3
22. INTERVIEWS	1,006
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	598
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	757
PAPER	749
ELECTRONIC	8
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: WILMINGTON, DELAWARE**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	106
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	82
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	126
4. PENSION	6
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	2
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	17
8. MISCELLANEOUS	6
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	4
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	351
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$320,985.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$5,280,709.07
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$5,601,694.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,919
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,016
PAPER	1,005
ELECTRONIC	11
22. INTERVIEWS	1,758
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,775
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,031
PAPER	1,955
ELECTRONIC	76
27. MEMBERSHIP	154
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: DC NAT'L SVC & LEGIS HQTRS.**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	0
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$0.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$0.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$0.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	0
PAPER	0
ELECTRONIC	0
22. INTERVIEWS	4
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	0
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	0
PAPER	0
ELECTRONIC	0
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	10
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	43
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	40
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	3
8. MISCELLANEOUS	2
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	65
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$36,547.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$733,612.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$770,159.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	111
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	147
PAPER	146
ELECTRONIC	1
22. INTERVIEWS	1,347
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	94
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	740
PAPER	697
ELECTRONIC	43
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,725
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,199
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,569
4. PENSION	57
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	26
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	3,391
8. MISCELLANEOUS	74
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	40
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	6
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	11
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	8,098
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,522,300.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$107,700,909.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$114,223,209.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,120
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,941
PAPER	2,889
ELECTRONIC	52
22. INTERVIEWS	4,696
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,376
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,454
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,574
PAPER	4,515
ELECTRONIC	59
27. MEMBERSHIP	4
28. BRIEFINGS	54
29. PARTICIPANTS	2146

**OFFICE: INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,515
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	561
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	889
4. PENSION	59
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	39
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	753
8. MISCELLANEOUS	2
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	43
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	34
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,901
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,099,000.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$48,838,224.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$51,937,224.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,684
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	880
PAPER	870
ELECTRONIC	10
22. INTERVIEWS	1,897
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,354
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,490
PAPER	2,446
ELECTRONIC	44
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,364
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	618
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,680
4. PENSION	92
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	53
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	692
8. MISCELLANEOUS	34
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	75
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	31
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,648
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,662,595.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$69,747,779.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$74,410,374.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	7,085
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,565
PAPER	2,447
ELECTRONIC	118
22. INTERVIEWS	1,093
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,469
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	980
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,842
PAPER	3,688
ELECTRONIC	154
27. MEMBERSHIP	103
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: BOISE, IDAHO**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	405
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	225
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	405
4. PENSION	23
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	5
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	348
8. MISCELLANEOUS	24
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	16
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	7
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	9
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,541
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,273,075.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$19,508,138.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$20,781,213.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,610
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	807
PAPER	596
ELECTRONIC	11
22. INTERVIEWS	3,782
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,438
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	38
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,158
PAPER	1,140
ELECTRONIC	18
27. MEMBERSHIP	27
28. BRIEFINGS	7
29. PARTICIPANTS	269

**OFFICE: DES MOINES, IOWA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	509
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	506
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	506
4. PENSION	58
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	16
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	181
8. MISCELLANEOUS	8
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	30
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	45
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	42
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,625
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,595,328.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$25,683,605.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$27,258,933.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,059
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	609
PAPER	603
ELECTRONIC	6
22. INTERVIEWS	552
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,974
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,479
PAPER	1,472
ELECTRONIC	7
27. MEMBERSHIP	80
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	598
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	225
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	853
4. PENSION	21
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	72
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	360
8. MISCELLANEOUS	46
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	17
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	5
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,424
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,567,568.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$45,273,850.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$47,841,418.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,694
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,054
PAPER	2,041
ELECTRONIC	13
22. INTERVIEWS	2,372
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,574
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	597
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,982
PAPER	1,958
ELECTRONIC	24
27. MEMBERSHIP	87
28. BRIEFINGS	32
29. PARTICIPANTS	295

**OFFICE: CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	833
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	632
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	904
4. PENSION	111
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	108
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	414
8. MISCELLANEOUS	27
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	65
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	8
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	31
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,139
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,036,920.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$53,779,000.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$56,815,920.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,252
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,681
PAPER	1,591
ELECTRONIC	90
22. INTERVIEWS	4,066
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	785
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	451
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,134
PAPER	1,948
ELECTRONIC	186
27. MEMBERSHIP	101
28. BRIEFINGS	10
29. PARTICIPANTS	359

**OFFICE: WICHITA, KANSAS**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	784
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	479
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	959
4. PENSION	38
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	56
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	155
8. MISCELLANEOUS	45
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	33
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	9
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	4
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	14
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,577
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,495,965.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$36,959,303.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$39,455,268.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,898
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	884
PAPER	879
ELECTRONIC	5
22. INTERVIEWS	1,732
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,784
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,616
PAPER	1,608
ELECTRONIC	8
27. MEMBERSHIP	43
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: TOGUS, MAINE**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	450
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	510
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	590
4. PENSION	18
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	19
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	193
8. MISCELLANEOUS	8
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	21
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	12
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,823
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,904,899.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$29,486,714.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$31,391,613.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,676
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	733
PAPER	404
ELECTRONIC	329
22. INTERVIEWS	1,914
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,599
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,508
PAPER	897
ELECTRONIC	611
27. MEMBERSHIP	68
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,958
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	755
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,869
4. PENSION	45
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	60
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	221
8. MISCELLANEOUS	2
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	25
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	7
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	4
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,946
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,754,244.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$92,227,673.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$96,981,917.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,947
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,491
PAPER	1,441
ELECTRONIC	50
22. INTERVIEWS	4,925
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,785
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	26
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,506
PAPER	3,428
ELECTRONIC	78
27. MEMBERSHIP	7
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,628
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,430
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,756
4. PENSION	229
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	121
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	388
8. MISCELLANEOUS	131
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	123
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	106
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	27
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,941
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,541,785.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$103,035,195.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$108,576,980.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,664
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,968
PAPER	3,922
ELECTRONIC	46
22. INTERVIEWS	2,298
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,942
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	6,853
PAPER	6,787
ELECTRONIC	66
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	2
29. PARTICIPANTS	114

**OFFICE: ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,108
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,045
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,515
4. PENSION	188
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	136
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	19,178
8. MISCELLANEOUS	123
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	106
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	9
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	39
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	40
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	26,487
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$23,329,538.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$255,914,190.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$279,243,728.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,144
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,354
PAPER	3,290
ELECTRONIC	64
22. INTERVIEWS	2,235
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,772
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS 1	7
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	6,005
PAPER	5,992
ELECTRONIC	13
27. MEMBERSHIP	476
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	4
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	5
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	11
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,286.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$395,644.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$398,930.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3
PAPER	3
ELECTRONIC	5
22. INTERVIEWS	9
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	6
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	7
PAPER	5
ELECTRONIC	2
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,337
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,341
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,237
4. PENSION	142
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	62
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	387
8. MISCELLANEOUS	28
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	156
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	8
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	51
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	77
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,825
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,784,356.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$81,097,673.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$86,882,029.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	9,468
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,495
PAPER	1,473
ELECTRONIC	22
22. INTERVIEWS	4,488
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,669
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,896
PAPER	3,583
ELECTRONIC	313
27. MEMBERSHIP	132
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: FORT HARRISON, MISSOURI**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	139
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	128
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	269
4. PENSION	15
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	10
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	5
8. MISCELLANEOUS	8
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	573
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$537,215.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$7,487,156.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$8,024,371.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,000
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	319
PAPER	319
ELECTRONIC	0
22. INTERVIEWS	395
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,929
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	538
PAPER	534
ELECTRONIC	4
27. MEMBERSHIP	10
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,056
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,288
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,958
4. PENSION	44
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	34
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	165
8. MISCELLANEOUS	30
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	52
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	21
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	28
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,676
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,246,294.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$116,440,210.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$122,688,504.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,964
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,840
PAPER	1,761
ELECTRONIC	79
22. INTERVIEWS	3,314
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,687
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,327
PAPER	3,156
ELECTRONIC	171
27. MEMBERSHIP	41
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	260
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	219
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	432
4. PENSION	87
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	9
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	365
8. MISCELLANEOUS	19
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,415
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,254,075.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$18,364,045.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$19,618,120.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,835
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	601
PAPER	601
ELECTRONIC	3
22. INTERVIEWS	1,224
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,575
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	872
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	998
PAPER	975
ELECTRONIC	23
27. MEMBERSHIP	16
28. BRIEFINGS	23
29. PARTICIPANTS	812

**OFFICE: LINCOLN, NEBRASKA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	202
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	162
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	322
4. PENSION	10
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	86
8. MISCELLANEOUS	2
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	8
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	11
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	817
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$712,990.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$8,502,357.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$9,215,347.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,120
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	281
PAPER	263
ELECTRONIC	18
22. INTERVIEWS	585
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,797
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	544
PAPER	528
ELECTRONIC	16
27. MEMBERSHIP	1
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

<b>OFFICE: RENO, NEVADA</b>			<b>OFFICE: NEWARK, NEW JERSEY</b>			<b>OFFICE: ALBANY, NEW YORK</b>		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	624		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	454		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	39	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	299		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	539		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	20	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	300		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	976		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	19	
4. PENSION	27		4. PENSION	24		4. PENSION	1	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	14		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	16		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	70		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	29		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	25		8. MISCELLANEOUS	45		8. MISCELLANEOUS	0	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	24		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	16		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	3	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	3		12. DEATH PENSION	3		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	15		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,392		16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,118		16. TOTAL AWARDS	83	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,138,417.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,336,129.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$78,569.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$24,416,313.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$36,104,310.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$1,916,407.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$25,554,730.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$38,440,439.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$1,994,976.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,539		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,799		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	584	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,332		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	787		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	111	
PAPER	1,303		PAPER	676		PAPER	103	
ELECTRONIC	29		ELECTRONIC	111		ELECTRONIC	8	
22. INTERVIEWS	3,069		22. INTERVIEWS	2,396		22. INTERVIEWS	938	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,331		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,511		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	525	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	28		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,624		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,235		26. NEW CLAIMS	360	
PAPER	1,593		PAPER	1,993		PAPER	303	
ELECTRONIC	31		ELECTRONIC	242		ELECTRONIC	57	
27. MEMBERSHIP	78		27. MEMBERSHIP	267		27. MEMBERSHIP	21	
28. BRIEFINGS	1		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	7		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	
<b>OFFICE: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA</b>			<b>OFFICE: ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO</b>			<b>OFFICE: BUFFALO, NEW YORK</b>		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	311		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,421		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	240	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	208		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,072		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	360	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	208		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,712		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	280	
4. PENSION	9		4. PENSION	62		4. PENSION	6	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	6		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	92		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	10	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	50		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	621		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	5,317	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	11		8. MISCELLANEOUS	29		8. MISCELLANEOUS	4	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	11		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	63		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	1		12. DEATH PENSION	24		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	5		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	26		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	2	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	835		16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,123		16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,159	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$864,097.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,349,666.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,935,547.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$15,324,570.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$82,598,241.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$68,005,603.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$16,188,667.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$87,947,907.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$75,941,150.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	700		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,676		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,800	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	969		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,860		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	422	
PAPER	969		PAPER	1,635		PAPER	412	
ELECTRONIC	27		ELECTRONIC	25		ELECTRONIC	10	
22. INTERVIEWS	2,927		22. INTERVIEWS	3,266		22. INTERVIEWS	962	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	563		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,517		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,684	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	52		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	7		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,091		26. NEW CLAIMS	2,394		26. NEW CLAIMS	965	
PAPER	2,046		PAPER	2,365		PAPER	923	
ELECTRONIC	45		ELECTRONIC	29		ELECTRONIC	38	
27. MEMBERSHIP	42		27. MEMBERSHIP	160		27. MEMBERSHIP	8	
28. BRIEFINGS	7		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	607		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	
<b>OFFICE: MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>			<b>OFFICE: NEW YORK, NEW YORK</b>			<b>OFFICE: SYRACUSE, NEW YORK</b>		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	338		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	785		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	178		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	751		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	306		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	605		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0	
4. PENSION	0		4. PENSION	20		4. PENSION	0	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	6		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	22		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	12		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0		8. MISCELLANEOUS	3		8. MISCELLANEOUS	0	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	2		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	31		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	830		16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,242		16. TOTAL AWARDS	1	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$869,823.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,131,582.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$101.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$14,972,439.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$50,071,019.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$14,452.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$15,842,262.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$82,202,601.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$14,553.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,960		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,473		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	70	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	693		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,519		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	18	
PAPER	661		PAPER	1,495		PAPER	17	
ELECTRONIC	32		ELECTRONIC	24		ELECTRONIC	1	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,915		22. INTERVIEWS	1,583		22. INTERVIEWS	21	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,780		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,353		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	65	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	5		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,308		26. NEW CLAIMS	2,373		26. NEW CLAIMS	33	
PAPER	1,242		PAPER	2,348		PAPER	28	
ELECTRONIC	66		ELECTRONIC	25		ELECTRONIC	5	
27. MEMBERSHIP	23		27. MEMBERSHIP	83		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

**OFFICE: WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	5,006
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,954
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,196
4. PENSION	45
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	36
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,973
8. MISCELLANEOUS	35
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	41
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	13
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	26
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	11,329
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$11,427,177.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$176,192,085.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$187,619,262.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,193
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,454
PAPER	3,968
ELECTRONIC	486
22. INTERVIEWS	2,572
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,548
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2,344
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	6,239
PAPER	6,181
ELECTRONIC	58
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	32
29. PARTICIPANTS	3541

**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	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	36
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	473
PAPER	467
ELECTRONIC	6
22. INTERVIEWS	694
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	19
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	42
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	853
PAPER	853
ELECTRONIC	0
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: PORTLAND, OREGON**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	598
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	440
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	871
4. PENSION	32
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	36
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	440
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	21
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	7
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	10
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,458
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,415,932.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$35,489,651.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$37,905,583.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,883
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	623
PAPER	618
ELECTRONIC	5
22. INTERVIEWS	1,531
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,647
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	36
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,527
PAPER	1,495
ELECTRONIC	32
27. MEMBERSHIP	62
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	444
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	424
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	550
4. PENSION	28
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	8
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	112
8. MISCELLANEOUS	43
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	53
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	28
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	13
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,695
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,537,797.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$22,223,824.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$23,761,621.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,596
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	665
PAPER	660
ELECTRONIC	5
22. INTERVIEWS	1,295
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,476
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,541
PAPER	1,501
ELECTRONIC	40
27. MEMBERSHIP	55
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,603
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,292
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	4,327
4. PENSION	75
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	98
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	835
8. MISCELLANEOUS	23
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	122
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	22
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	39
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	9,438
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$10,325,457.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$156,946,694.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$167,272,151.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,758
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,724
PAPER 4,664	
ELECTRONIC	60
22. INTERVIEWS	3,003
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,321
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	106
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	7,790
PAPER	7,750
ELECTRONIC	40
27. MEMBERSHIP	55
28. BRIEFINGS	23
29. PARTICIPANTS	722

**OFFICE: PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,151
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	868
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,243
4. PENSION	61
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	48
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	280
8. MISCELLANEOUS	10
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	37
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	23
13. INSURANCE	596
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	28
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,346
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,125,349.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$71,102,222.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$75,227,571.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,492
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,918
PAPER	1,894
ELECTRONIC	24
22. INTERVIEWS	3,483
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,290
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,460
PAPER	3,368
ELECTRONIC	92
27. MEMBERSHIP	280
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: CLEVELAND, OHIO**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	3,842
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,528
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,405
4. PENSION	296
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	255
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,241
8. MISCELLANEOUS	163
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	119
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	7
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	96
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	13
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	10,967
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$9,807,199.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$166,805,163.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$176,612,362.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	9,517
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,215
PAPER	4,192
ELECTRONIC	23
22. INTERVIEWS	2,380
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	8,886
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	696
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	13,398
PAPER	13,191
ELECTRONIC	207
27. MEMBERSHIP	331
28. BRIEFINGS	28
29. PARTICIPANTS	1141

**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	139
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	131
PAPER	125
ELECTRONIC	6
22. INTERVIEWS	136
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	53
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	237
PAPER	224
ELECTRONIC	13
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: WILKESBARRE, 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	0
PAPER	0
ELECTRONIC	0
22. INTERVIEWS	0
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	0
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	0
PAPER	0
ELECTRONIC	0
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	960
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	606
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,070
4. PENSION	35
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	38
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	45
8. MISCELLANEOUS	48
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	23
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	9
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	7
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,842
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,600,448.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$46,952,865.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$49,553,313.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,841
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	727
PAPER	720
ELECTRONIC	7
22. INTERVIEWS	1,071
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,688
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,480
PAPER	1,432
ELECTRONIC	48
27. MEMBERSHIP	144
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	197
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	237
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	559
4. PENSION	16
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	28
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	231
8. MISCELLANEOUS	21
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	10
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	5
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,906
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,537,587.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$18,573,762.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$20,111,349.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,531
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	415
PAPER	414
ELECTRONIC	1
22. INTERVIEWS	1,310
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,291
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,197
PAPER	1,161
ELECTRONIC	36
27. MEMBERSHIP	72
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: HOUSTON, TEXAS**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,343
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,230
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,504
4. PENSION	94
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	96
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	665
8. MISCELLANEOUS	62
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	139
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	38
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	18
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,189
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,342,182.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$124,325,041.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$131,667,223.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,855
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,115
PAPER	1,104
ELECTRONIC	11
22. INTERVIEWS	5,444
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,645
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,272
PAPER	5,169
ELECTRONIC	103
27. MEMBERSHIP	39
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	960
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	606
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,070
4. PENSION	35
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	38
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	45
8. MISCELLANEOUS	48
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	23
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	9
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	7
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,842
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,600,448.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$46,952,865.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$49,553,313.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,841
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	727
PAPER	720
ELECTRONIC	7
22. INTERVIEWS	1,071
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,688
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,480
PAPER	1,432
ELECTRONIC	48
27. MEMBERSHIP	144
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,107
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,866
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,479
4. PENSION	165
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	212
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	518
8. MISCELLANEOUS	110
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	73
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	37
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	14
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,583
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$8,220,991.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$122,460,861.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$130,681,852.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,507
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	5,224
PAPER	5,171
ELECTRONIC	53
22. INTERVIEWS	2,974
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,920
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,294
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	6,886
PAPER	6,769
ELECTRONIC	117
27. MEMBERSHIP	128
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	99
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	29
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	29
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	2
8. MISCELLANEOUS	14
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	5
16. TOTAL AWARDS	178
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$234,516.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$4,901,318.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$5,135,834.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	998
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,676
PAPER	2,646
ELECTRONIC	30
22. INTERVIEWS	9,321
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,665
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	378
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,578
PAPER	5,548
ELECTRONIC 3	0
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	42
29. PARTICIPANTS	374

**OFFICE: COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,022
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,452
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,854
4. PENSION	62
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	17
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	696
8. MISCELLANEOUS	20
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	22
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	19
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,177
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,928,498.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$101,847,792.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$107,576,290.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	7,009
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,476
PAPER	2,406
ELECTRONIC	70
22. INTERVIEWS	6,069
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,095
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	58
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	2
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,457
PAPER	4,406
ELECTRONIC	51
27. MEMBERSHIP	180
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: WACO, TEXAS**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	4,420
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	3,319
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	4,514
4. PENSION	228
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	213
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	3,287
8. MISCELLANEOUS	368
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	92
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	33
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	68
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	16,542
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$14,508,675.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$222,598,821.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$237,107,496.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	17,158
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,812
PAPER	4,717
ELECTRONIC	95
22. INTERVIEWS	2,444
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	16,116
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	676
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	8,908
PAPER	8,827
ELECTRONIC	81
27. MEMBERSHIP	364
28. BRIEFINGS	28
29. PARTICIPANTS	2,256

**OFFICE: SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	6,723
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	960
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,983
4. PENSION	46
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	18
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	40
8. MISCELLANEOUS	4
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	14
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	12
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	9,813
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$10,020,526.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$194,687,421.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$204,687,947.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	10,291
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	711
PAPER	700
ELECTRONIC	11
22. INTERVIEWS	2,586
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	10,103
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,260
PAPER	1,225
ELECTRONIC	35
27. MEMBERSHIP	66
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VERMONT**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	120
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	55
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	152
4. PENSION	1
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	3
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	4
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	335
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$387,491.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$6,119,457.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$6,506,948.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,145
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	442
PAPER	406
ELECTRONIC	36
22. INTERVIEWS	1,358
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,999
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	811
PAPER	767
ELECTRONIC	44
27. MEMBERSHIP	1
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	67
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	157
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	102
4. PENSION	4
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	2
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	59
8. MISCELLANEOUS	68
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	10
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	1
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	5
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	478
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$507,878.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$7,391,959.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$7,899,837.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	987
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	311
PAPER	298
ELECTRONIC	13
22. INTERVIEWS	727
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	938
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	984
PAPER	929
ELECTRONIC	55
27. MEMBERSHIP	1,019
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	350
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	274
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	523
4. PENSION	59
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	178
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	157
8. MISCELLANEOUS	265
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	8
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	8
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	5
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,823
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,648,902.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$29,401,543.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$31,050,445.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,461
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,053
PAPER	1,033
ELECTRONIC	20
22. INTERVIEWS	3,760
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,040
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	56
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,431
PAPER	1,416
ELECTRONIC	15
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	7
29. PARTICIPANTS	273

**OFFICE: ROANOKE, VIRGINIA**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,809
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	648
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,189
4. PENSION	31
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	18
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	237
8. MISCELLANEOUS	13
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	38
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	17
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,789
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,589,247.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$68,759,988.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$72,349,235.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	7,064
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,487
PAPER	4,380
ELECTRONIC	107
22. INTERVIEWS	2,861
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,266
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,671
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,975
PAPER	4,944
ELECTRONIC	31
27. MEMBERSHIP	35
28. BRIEFINGS	81
29. PARTICIPANTS	5,919

**OFFICE: MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	569
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	548
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,056
4. PENSION	91
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	66
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	232
8. MISCELLANEOUS	17
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	70
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	26
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	32
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,727
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,774,055.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$39,702,445.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$42,476,500.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,074
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,014
PAPER	970
ELECTRONIC	44
22. INTERVIEWS	2,289
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,963
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	3
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,347
PAPER	2,286
ELECTRONIC	61
27. MEMBERSHIP	56
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**OFFICE: HONOLULU, HAWAII**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	397
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	181
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	296
4. PENSION	1
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	3
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	413
8. MISCELLANEOUS	5
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	4
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	4
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,307
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,664,128.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$19,048,443.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$20,712,571.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,889
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,286
PAPER	1,275
ELECTRONIC	11
22. INTERVIEWS	3,033
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	791
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3,215
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,474
PAPER	2,417
ELECTRONIC	57
27. MEMBERSHIP	242
28. BRIEFINGS	22
29. PARTICIPANTS	752

**OFFICE: SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	3,055
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,347
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,919
4. PENSION	110
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	35
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	730
8. MISCELLANEOUS	93
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	109
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	9
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	23
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	40
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,470
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,102,217.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$136,763,644.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$143,865,861.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,706
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,355
PAPER	3,260
ELECTRONIC	95
22. INTERVIEWS	2,517
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,852
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2,598
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,921
PAPER	5,757
ELECTRONIC	164
27. MEMBERSHIP	20
28. BRIEFINGS	65
29. PARTICIPANTS	1,591

**OFFICE: CHEYENNE, WYOMING**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	399
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	309
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	255
4. PENSION	17
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	23
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	8
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	19
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	5
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,039
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$670,471.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$11,830,909.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$12,501,379.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	7,095
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,753
PAPER	1,734
ELECTRONIC	19
22. INTERVIEWS	4,126
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,706
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	14
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,643
PAPER	4,507
ELECTRONIC	136
27. MEMBERSHIP	87
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you.

COMMANDER HOPE: Great. Great job. Thank you, Barry. May I have a motion to accept Mr. Jesinoski's report?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mic 2.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 2.

MR. MANNY LOZANO: Mic 2, Manny Lozano, Chapter 28, Department of Georgia, make the motion that we accept Barry's report.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mic 1.

COMMANDER HOPE: I have a motion. Do I have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 3.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 4.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 3.

MR. LeROY ACOSTA: LeRoy Acosta, District 16, DAV Dick Cosgriff San Diego Chapter 2, Mr. Jesinoski's home Chapter, seconds.

COMMANDER HOPE: I have a motion and I have a second. All those in favor signify by saying aye; all those opposed. The motion carried. (Applause)

It is my pleasure to recognize the exceptional VA employees by introducing the National Commander's Outstanding VA Employee Award. These awards recognize their leadership, success and compassion in support of our nation's ill and injured veterans.

The award for Veterans Health Administration employee is being presented to a longtime friend of DAV, who I have had the privilege of knowing for many years. She has personally been responsible for creating miracles for thousands of our nation's most profoundly disabled heroes.

Teresa Parks is the VA's director of the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, the most visible event highlighting the partnership of DAV and the VA. Teresa has been dedicated to serving injured and ill veterans with the VA for nearly two decades. In her current role she coordinates all activities and lodging for the world's largest rehabilitative event of its kind.

Each year she goes above and beyond to aid veterans with traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, amputations, visual impairments and other service-connected injuries to ensure each individual has a fun, meaningful and rehabilitative experience at the clinic.

I have been blessed to see her in action both as a participant and as National Commander. And I can tell you from the experience that she embodies a compassion and a commitment that makes her an obvious choice for this recognition.

Teresa's knowledge is invaluable. And she has been a true partner alongside DAV in empowering veterans at the clinic. If you want just a slight glimpse of what Teresa makes happen at this event, please check out the collage in the visitor's area. It's truly an incredible event. And she is a rock star in the VA world as far as thousands are concerned.

I'll ask DAV's National Voluntary Services Director and Winter Sports Clinic Coordinator John Kleindienst to the stage, please.

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask for you to give a warm reception to the VHA Employee of the Year, Teresa Parks. (Applause)

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

MS. TERESA PARKS: Thank you very much. I have to tell you it has just been truly an honor to spend my career serving veterans, and a privilege to work hand-in-hand with the DAV changing the lives of veterans through the Winter Sports Clinic.

We really do make a difference in the lives of veterans and I thank you all very much for your service and for you to continue to fight for veterans. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: I have had the privilege to go out there three different times. And the last two times I've been out there, every time that Teresa has been introduced there is a, for those who could stand, they stood, and the applause lasted longer than for anybody else.

Peter Nastasi serves as both a change management agent and a public affairs officer at the Buffalo, New York, VA Regional Office. For his outstanding performance he is being honored with the award presented to our Outstanding Veterans Benefits Administration Employee.

Peter manages the many VA change initiatives set forth by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. In an evolving environment with frequent changes to the processes and technology, he has been instrumental in improving communication between the Veterans Benefit Administration and VSOs, like DAV.

Among the many projects he has worked on during his VA career, Peter developed a test program at the Buffalo VA Regional Office to assist VSOs with electronic claims submittals. Through this program,

electronic submissions jumped from 56 percent of total claims in November 2014 to 75 percent of total claims the following month.

I'll ask National Service Director Jim Marszalek to the stage for your assistance.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome a true professional who consistently works to improve the partnerships between VA and the VSOs. Please join me in applauding Peter Nastasi for his efforts in assisting DAV. (Applause)

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

MR. PETER NASTASI: Thank you very much. I am truly honored and humbled to be one of three selections for the National Commander's Award. You know, working at the Buffalo Regional Office as a change management agent, it's a blessing and sometimes a curse. (Laughter)

I am one of those folks who, in this politically correct world we live in, it's very difficult for me sometimes to, I guess, more or less, be politically correct. (Laughter) And, you know, I've been very fortunate to be on the front-lines of working with the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal, SEP, which I know a lot of you are very familiar with, VBMS and Centralized Mail, and—coming to an office near you soon—the National Work Queue.

So you can understand that sometimes I have frustrations, just like you. And despite all of our personal opinions about those things I just mentioned, I'm sure everyone in here can agree that the VA has been doing some wonderful things. We've been doing some fantastic things over the last few years. And then in the blink of an eye we do something that has you scratching your head.

Nevertheless, over the last two years I have met two wonderful individuals, two committed individuals that work for your organization. Howard "Howie" Britton and Tim McGowan have been instrumental. Fortunately for me, I work for a director, Ms. Donna Milea, who allows me the freedom to meet with Howie and Tim and we discuss and have those difficult conversations, always trying to make things better for the veteran.

We understand completely that despite our successes and failures in Buffalo one thing is for sure, it won't come from a lack of trying. We definitely understand that building one great partnership can have a profound impact on the success of our agency. And we also know that having one shared vision with that partner can help us accomplish the impossible.

That partnership exists in Buffalo. It is between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the DAV. And, of course, that shared vision is to care for our nation's heroes. Again, I am truly honored and humbled to be one of three VA selections and I thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: The National Commander's Award for the Outstanding National Cemetery Administration Employee is awarded to Gregorio Kishketon of Washington, D.C.

Gregorio was a cemetery representative, outreach coordinator and minority veterans' program coordinator at the Dallas/Fort Worth National Cemetery, where he was responsible for facilitating and scheduling services, ordering grave markers, meeting with the next-of-kin and assisting with various outreach activities, to name a few.

Recently, he received a promotion to D.C. at VA Central Office, working for the National Cemetery Administration.

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Gregorio understands that he and his staff have only one chance to make this solemn day right for the families of heroes. And they go above and beyond to exhibit compassion and professionalism.

Community engagement is a priority for Gregorio. He is committed to ensuring his fellow veterans are aware of their benefits and understand they are eligible to be interred at a national cemetery free of charge—because the fee has been paid through their service to their country.

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

Let's give a warm welcome to Gregorio Kishketon. (Applause) (Whereupon, Mr. Kishketon advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. GREGORIO KISHKETON: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. KISHKETON: It is truly an honor to be here today and to help celebrate with the other two recipients: Miss Teresa Parks with the VHA and Peter Nastasi with VBA. I just wanted to say that I accept this award on behalf of the Dallas/Fort Worth National Cemetery and staff for nominating me and for allowing me to have a wonderful place to work every day.

It was truly a blessing to be able to assist the families in laying their loved ones to rest and with full military honors and so forth.

I also would like to thank my staff and my boss, Jim Flannigan, at Memorial Program Services in Washington, D.C., and all the wonderful work that they do there, as well.

I also would like to thank one other person, in particular, here who made an effort to be here this morning and that is the executive director, General Stephen Best. Would you stand, General Best? (Whereupon, General Best stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

MR. KISHKETON: General Best is the MSN 3 which is now—General Best was the MSN 3, what is now known as the Continental Division since the reorganization of the VA, and is a wonderful person to work for. I've spoken with him on numerous occasions and he truly cares about every veteran out there and their families.

I would also like to thank my God for basically giving me an opportunity to be here. Had it not been for him my journey probably would have not gotten me here.

I would also like to thank my mother, of course. Raising seven children during a time when it was a very tough time for a woman to raise seven children on her own and look how, look where I am, so.

And lastly, or in conclusion, I would like to say, accept this award, excuse me, on behalf of all the veterans out there that are homeless and that suffer from mental illnesses. I truly, truly understand where they have been because I have been there myself. So I accept this honor, this privilege, this award on their behalf. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you, again, to our Outstanding VA employees. Please give them a great hand on behalf of all the employees who labor every day. (Applause)

It is now my pleasure to recognize the Outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representatives and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program recipients for 2015. These awards recognize the commitment and compassion of two individuals who are dedicated to serving our nation's injured and ill veterans.

The recipients being recognized are a shining example of veterans helping veterans and I am proud to honor them for their selfless service. The award for Outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative is presented to Curtis Chalupa of Fort Worth, Texas.

Curtis is an Army veteran who takes pride in helping fellow veterans obtain meaningful employment and a better quality of life through his work at the Texas Veterans Commission. Curtis devotes an incredible amount of energy to helping veterans.

This year alone Curtis contacted more than 481 employers to talk about veterans seeking, job-seekers and their unique skills. He helped 133 veterans find meaningful employment, the most in the state among Local Veterans Employment Representatives, including 25 disabled veterans.

A disabled veteran himself and a recipient of the Purple Heart, Curtis remains absolutely aware that hiring disabled veterans comes first and keeps that in mind as he contacts employers and advocates for those veteran candidates.

Curtis made it his personal mission to establish close, personal ties with his region's employers and is often tasked to make sure, to make use of his other talents such as writing employer recognition awards and preparing events solely dedicated to facilitate finding veterans' meaningful employment.

I'd ask that our National Employment Director Jeff Hall join me on stage.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in recognizing Curtis Chalupa. (Applause)

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

MR. CURTIS CHALUPA: Good morning, everybody.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. CHALUPA: I'd like to thank you for the invitation to join you here at your National Convention to receive this recognition. It's an honor and I'm very humbled.

My organization, the Texas Veterans Commission, like yours, has a mission of fulfilling our promise to the men and women who have served by advocating for the rights they have earned for serving in our nation's armed forces.

I, personally, cannot think of a more rewarding occupation as we get to assist the best and brightest men this nation has to offer. My promise to you is that I will continue to do my best by assisting these veterans transition back into the civilian community by helping them secure suitable and longterm employment.

Thank you, again. It is truly an honor. God bless you, the DAV, and the United States of America. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: This year's Outstanding Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Award Specialist is Brad Aune, an employment specialist at Job Service in North Dakota. In this capacity, Brad ensures that every veteran who seeks his support receives the answers and assistance they are looking for.

Brad, a fellow disabled veteran, developed a training program for employers which includes how to recruit veteran talent, how to work with transitioning veterans and provides them with an understanding of military culture.

Brad also serves as the Fargo-Morehead Homeless Coalition Committee to stay abreast of issues and opportunities regarding homeless disabled veterans.

It is not uncommon for Brad to encounter dejected veterans who feel they have no hope of finding a job.

This includes veterans recently released from incarceration. Rather than let a bad situation turn worse, Brad conducts training at the Cass County Jail and teaches subjects like job search techniques, resume writing and interview skills, just to name a few. He's found great success in moving veterans from a place of incarceration to achieving self-sufficiency.

Brad noticed that at various job fairs throughout North Dakota veterans, especially disabled veterans, were having trouble successfully navigating the fair. So, on his own initiative, Brad designed a workshop that he holds for veterans a day before the job fair.

He teaches them interview skills, what employers have the best opportunities for veterans, and how to make resumes stronger, and the importance of follow-up with employers after the job fair.

Brad works very closely with the local VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment counselors in Fargo, North Dakota, and conducts labor market research to assist those clients going through vocational rehab to find employment. And he has a success rate of 100 percent. (Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me recognizing Brad Aune. (Applause)

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

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Semper Fi.

MR. BRAD AUNE: I'd like to, you know, thank the DAV for recognizing me in this award. I'd like to—you know, I've been with the DAV. They've been my power of attorney since I retired from the military.

They have always been there for me, starting with the Service Officer that referred me to the DAV, power of attorney. And I'd like to thank Job Service North Dakota for allowing me to go off with my ideas and do what I think is right to try to get veterans back on track and focus on them and be their friend and get their pride back in their service and allowing them to express themselves and just a very rewarding job. You know?

I really enjoy what I do. Every day you get an opportunity to get up and work with veterans and get them on the path that they want to be on, being self-sufficient, doing what they want to do. Get them out of homelessness. Get them back on track. So it's a great opportunity and I thank the DAV for allowing me to get this award. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: Each year DAV recognizes companies who go out of their way to recruit and employ disabled veterans. It is my pleasure to announce the DAV Employer of the Year Awards for two outstanding organizations who recognize the value of hiring American veterans.

Smart employers know that veterans are an invaluable asset to any team. They're highly trainable, dependable, adaptable and they come ingrained with a strong work ethic.

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

Their CEO is a disabled veteran himself, so he's very aware that when you hire veterans it's not philanthropy; it's smart business.

Additionally, Legion Logistics ensures every veteran who contacts the company receives, at a minimum, a telephone interview. If they cannot offer a job, the company then sends the veteran's information to other local support agencies for assistance. So far, the company has referred 57 veterans—48 of whom are working, thanks to this follow-through.

It is my distinct pleasure to invite Vice President and fellow veteran, Levi Papai on stage to receive the DAV Outstanding Small Employer of the Year Award. (Applause)

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

MR. LEVI PAPAI: First off, I would like to thank each and every one of you for both your service and sacrifice as a fellow veteran. Legion Logistics was started by Tony, a service-disabled veteran himself, as a way to realize his dreams and a way to bring that to other veterans, themselves. And I am an example of that.

Five years ago I come off a deployment and I was milking cows full-time. (Laughter) Lacey and Tony called me up—(Applause) Granted, it is an honorable profession, yes. But, still, you know, I thought I could apply myself better.

Lacey and Tony gave me a call and they said, please, come down and give this business a try and we will see what we can do. Four years ago this month I started. Now I'm the VP of Operations—because they were willing to give me that chance. (Applause)

And we want to be able to give that chance—thank you. We want to be able to give that chance to as many veterans as possible because they are an asset and one that can never be ignored.

So thank you very much for the recognition. It means the world to us and we hope to do right by you. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: Our next recipient is also adamant about having veterans in their ranks. Michigan-based Roush Enterprises—and for those of you who are NASCAR fans, yes, it's that Jack Roush—has on its team more than 250 veteran employees, including many disabled veterans.

Roush Enterprises' philosophy is that veterans are hardworking, dedicated, loyal employees who bring highly-technical skills that they learned in the military to the high-tech world of automotive and aeronautical engineering. They find that veterans adapt quickly and require less formal training.

Company Chairman Jack Roush said in a letter to each of Roush Enterprises' veteran employees prior to Veterans Day last year:

"I want you to know that I am thankful for the sacrifices you made for this country. And I realize our success is only possible in a nation steeped in the values that you swore to defend. I am glad you joined our team."

Jack has a retired Army Command Sergeant Major, a disabled veteran himself, managing the Roush Veterans' Initiative Hiring Program. His sole job is to recruit veteran talent for the company.

Command Sergeant Major Dave Dunckel, Roush Enterprises' Veterans' Initiatives Manager, retired from the Army last year after 25 years of honorable service, having served in every war era since Vietnam. DAV has long been a part of his life as his father was a DAV member.

Would Dave Dunckel please join me to accept the DAV Outstanding Large Employer of the Year Award? (Applause)

(Whereupon, Command Sergeant Major Dunckel advanced to the podium to accept the DAV Outstanding Large Employer of the Year Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR DAVID DUNCKEL: I didn't prepare anything. They didn't tell me I was going to be speaking. (Laughter)

In May of 2014 we started the Roush Veterans' Initiative Program with the goal of hiring 30 veterans into full-time positions over the next 12 months. And 12 months later we had well over 100 full-time veterans hired and an almost equal number of part-time veterans hired into Roush Industries. We are very proud of our efforts. (Applause)

Jack has the philosophy that not only do we recognize a veteran's past performance, we also recognize their future potential. So this is just the beginning of this program and we hope to bring many, many more veterans into our workforce.

And thank you very much. It has been an honor to spend this weekend with America's finest. (Applause) Thank you very much.

COMMANDER HOPE: In October 2007 we announced the creation of the Local Veteran Assistance Program or LVAP to assist veterans and their dependents in their local communities through a variety of initiatives.

Opportunities abound for individuals to empower veterans and their families to live high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

Not all volunteers live in close proximity to a VA medical center or other VA facilities. And others have special skills or prefer nontraditional volunteerism. LVAP allows volunteers to provide needed services to veterans and their families as DAV volunteers. It honors our organization and encourages and recognizes volunteerism.

Since inception of the program more than 5,500 volunteers in 35 states have donated over 2.1 million hours of service through LVAP. We invite all Departments and Chapters to get involved and make a difference.

Volunteer incentives apply to all of our programs. LVAP volunteers are eligible for the same benefits and recognition as others. Youth volunteers who serve through LVAP will also be eligible to apply for consideration to the DAV Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program.

LVAP activities may include Chapter and Department Service Officer work, DAV outreach efforts, and approved fundraisers.

Volunteers can use their time to provide direct assistance to veterans, survivors or families by doing yard maintenance, home repairs or taking veterans on errands.

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

I'll ask John Kleindienst to the stage for your assistance, please.

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

Division 1, The Department of Virginia, Past Department Commander Jim Proconier, with 187,575 hours. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Proconier advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

PAST COMMANDER JIM PROCUNIER: On behalf of the over 40,000 members of the DAV Department of Virginia, I will accept this award. Virginia, stand up.

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

PAST COMMANDER PROCUNIER: Threepeat. We got our hat trick. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: Division 2, the Department of Minnesota, Past Department Commander David Valtinson, with 47,513 hours. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Valtinson advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

PAST COMMANDER DAVID VALTINSON: On behalf of the Department of Minnesota DAV, they're out there somewhere. You guys can stand up. I will accept this award. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: Division 3, The Department of Missouri, Past Department Commander Tom Dolenz with 17,889 hours. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Dolenz advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

PAST COMMANDER TOM DOLENZ: I would like to thank the Department of Missouri for this award. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: Division 4, the Department of Connecticut, Past Department Commander Barry Burneer is not here. He is ill. Accepting in his behalf will be John Mrosz. And they've got 3,000—I'm sorry. What's the hours on that—13,030 hours. (Applause)

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

MR. JOHN MROSZ: On behalf of the state of Connecticut where all our members work very hard for us to achieve this award I thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: Division 5, the Department of North Dakota, Past Department Commander Roderick Olin, with 3,972 hours. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Olin advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

PAST COMMANDER RODERICK OLIN: Yes, on behalf of the Department of North Dakota I humbly accept this award and I want to give a special thanks to my friend Jim Huckadahl who constantly bugs us to turn our hours in. So thanks, Jim. (Applause)

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

The demographics within DAV's membership ranks are ever-changing. We are, sadly, seeing losses among our World War II veterans as the needs among our Vietnam-era veterans are growing.

Meanwhile, we're welcoming home a new generation of warriors who have fought through multiple deployments in two wars. This all-volunteer force represents a small fraction of the population; and though they survived horrific injuries, we know that war has changed them and that their needs are great.

Fortunately, we can be proud to announce that DAV continues to do an outstanding job bringing in new members to ensure the legacy of our voice in the nation's capital.

Amazingly, every DAV Department reached its recruiting goal this year. For that, give yourselves a well-earned round of applause. (Applause)

Without further ado, I'd ask National Membership Director Doug Wells up here, again, as we recognize our top Departments and recruiters whose contributions have made this tremendous success possible.

Division I, Departments with more than 35,000 members. For Division I, our top recruiting Department happens to be the largest Department in the organization. Please give a round of applause for Past Department Commander Edward W. Vandiver, DAV Department of California. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Vandiver advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER HOPE: For Division II, Departments with 18,000 to 34,000 members. For Division II we honor great recruiting skills of our veterans. Please give a warm welcome for Past Department Commander David P. Valtinson, DAV Department of Minnesota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Valtinson advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER HOPE: Division III, Departments with 10,000 to 17,000 members. For Division III, please give a rousing reception for Past Department Commander Daniel Hall, DAV Department of Arkansas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Hall advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER HOPE: Division IV, Departments with 5,000 to 9,999 members. For Division IV, please put your hands together for Past Department Commander William T. Anton, DAV Department of Nevada. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Anton advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER HOPE: Last but certainly not least, Departments with 5,000 members or less. For Division V, let's put your hands together for Past Department Commander Helen Parr, DAV Department of South Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Parr advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

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

This year's award recipient has taken this trophy home for the past six consecutive years. The Department of Texas takes top honors. (Applause) Jay Johnson, Department Commander, will receive this award on behalf of her (sic) great state's continued efforts. (Applause)

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

MR. JAY JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. JOHNSON: Last year Commander Lindsay stood here and next year we want my replacement to stand here. We do it big in Texas. (Applause) You can always tell a Texan, but you can't tell us much. All right? (Laughter) Thank you.

Now, seriously, to the Chapter commanders and all who have made this possible, thank you and God bless you and let's do it again. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: The Robert S. Marx Award is presented to the Department that completes the year with the highest percentage increase of fully-paid life members over the goal. This year's winner is the Department of South Dakota, represented by Past Department Commander, again, Helen Parr. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Past Commander Parr advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

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

This year's inductees are: George Roso, Oklahoma; (Applause) Sheila A. Sanders, Florida; (Applause) Andrew J. Edwards, Missouri; (Applause) Albert L. Hughes, Michigan; (Applause) and Michael A. Watts, New Jersey. (Applause) Let's give them a hand. (Applause)

As this year's top recruiters they have been selected by the membership to select an exclusive prize from a list of gifts.

One of the primary reasons why DAV has continued to build and maintain its membership for so many years is that veterans who experience DAV's free services understand the life-changing value of our organization.

The work of our service officers at every level is amazing. But equally amazing is their ability to communicate the value of membership to the veterans who have benefited from our assistance.

The work of the National Service Officers has been critical to the health of our membership for many years and is greatly appreciated.

It is important that we recognize the contributions of these professionals and the added passion that they bring makes people want to be a part of our organization. Therefore, it is with great pride that I present the top recruiter from our NSO corps who, remarkably, recruited 383 veterans to join our ranks.

Ladies and gentlemen, please put your hands together for Andrew J. Edwards, DAV National Service Office in Saint Louis, Missouri. (Applause)

(Whereupon, NSO Andrew J. Edwards advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER HOPE: Our top recruiter from our fraternal ranks is the membership chair for a rural chapter in Southeast Oklahoma. Through his dedication and leadership his chapter is one of the largest in the Department, out-recruiting chapters in much more populated areas.

Last year alone he is credited with recruiting 171 members to join DAV. This was his third straight year of recruiting at least 100 new members. Please give a warm reception for the man from Chapter 20 in Krebs, Oklahoma, George Roso. (Applause)

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

COMMANDER HOPE: Friends, please remember, when you introduce a veteran to DAV you are providing a great service to them and to our organization. You never know who will join until you ask. Please keep up the good work in this area. It's critical to our success.

I'd like to call on Board of Directors' Treasurer Gary Lucus for his report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TREASURER GARY LUCUS: National Commander Hope, DAV members and guests, the members of the Board of Directors join me in this report and they are Chairman Joseph W. Johnston, Ohio; Vice Chairman Moses A. McIntosh, Jr. of Georgia; Secretary J. Marc Burgess; Directors Johnny N. Stewart from Arizona, Danny Oliver of Oklahoma, Rolly D. Lee Sr., from Michigan, along with National Commander Hope and National Judge Advocate Dobmeier who also served as advisors.

It is my honor and privilege to present a report on the financial affairs of our organization for the six-month period ending June 30th, 2015. DAV's total solicited support through that date was \$48.3 million.

Direct marketing contributions were \$40.7 million, primarily from mailing 38 million solicitation pieces. Requests—bequests were \$5.2 million. By year's end we expect to send 79.8 million pieces of fundraising mail and generate an estimated \$111.1 million in total solicited support.

Under the Department Fundraising Program payouts to Departments in December 2014 through June 2015 totaled \$2.8 million. Since the program began in 1994, \$89.1 million have been distributed to Departments for their service programs. The Board would like to thank the Departments for their continued participation in this program, and especially for our members for their generosity.

As of June 2015, DAV received total support and revenue from all sources of \$91.3 million. Through June 2015, DAV has total expenditures of \$105.4 million, of which \$78.7 million were for service programs—that's 74.7 percent of the total expenses. It is important to remember that these expenditures are for the federally-chartered purposes of our organization.

Over the same period expenditures for fundraising were \$21.8 million, and were compatible to the 2014. Administrative outlays were \$5 million, \$1.1 million or 25.9 percent, higher than this time last year. In early 2015 a membership development mailing was sent to 1.3 million prospective members at a cost of \$840,000. There wasn't this mailing in 2014.

As of June 30th, 2015, the market value of our general fund longterm investment portfolio is \$367.9 million, a 1-percent increase over the \$373.2 million reported as of June 30th, 2014.

DAV's unrestricted net assets or its net worth have decreased from \$304.6 million at this time last year to \$283.5 million. However, over the last 5.5 years the value of our net assets has continued to trend upward, growing by \$24 million or 9 percent because of DAV's hardworking staff nationwide and at both headquarters has been (sic) expanded the sources to support this revenue and enhance—I get tongue-tied—our exemplary programs, yet control our operating expenses.

We are pleased to report that at the June 30th, 2015, the Life Membership Fund Reserve was \$66.2 million. And at a projected earnings rate on investment of 6.7 percent we estimated that the fund will be deleted by the year 2026 with 510,000 members remaining for distribution.

Commander, it is my privilege to present DAV's proposed 2016 Annual Budget for ratification by the Convention. At the June 9th, 2015, meeting of the Board of Directors held at National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Kentucky, the Board was presented the 2016 proposed budget.

The budget was assembled by the DAV Accounting and Finance Department with the assistance of Department Directors and was reviewed by National Adjutant Burgess, and Executive Directors Jesinoski

and Augustine. The Board unanimously approved the proposed budget at that time, a copy of which was provided in your Convention attendees' registration forms.

I would like to thank National Adjutant Marc Burgess and his staff for all their hard work which makes this report possible. Let me thank you, Commander Hope, for the support I received in my role as the Board of Directors' Treasurer. It has been an honor to hold this position.

Commander, this concludes my report to the National Convention, a report I feel honored to offer to our delegates. Thank you. And I move the adoption of this report and approval of the proposed 2016 Annual Budget.

# Disabled American Veterans

Financial Statements as of and for the  
Year Ended December 31, 2014, and  
Independent Auditors' Report

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of  
Disabled American Veterans:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans ("DAV"), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2014, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditors' Responsibility

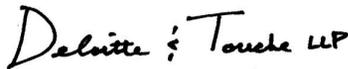
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of DAV as of December 31, 2014, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



April 3, 2015



# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

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### SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

Support:	
Contributions	\$ 114,661,280
Contributed services and facilities — primarily services	42,112,064
Contributed media and materials	<u>12,086,429</u>
Total support	<u>168,859,773</u>
Revenue:	
Membership dues and fees	6,083,245
Income from investments — net	13,970,918
List royalties	1,039,817
Miscellaneous revenue	<u>34,681</u>
Total revenue	<u>21,128,661</u>
Realized investment gains	<u>6,957,348</u>
Total support and revenue	<u>196,945,782</u>

### EXPENSES:

Program services:	
National service program	51,037,749
Legislative service program	1,871,329
Voluntary service program	42,378,452
State services and disaster relief	4,412,141
Publications and other communications	10,261,614
Membership program	6,480,793
Public awareness outreach	<u>32,355,645</u>
Total program services	<u>148,797,723</u>
Supporting services:	
Fundraising costs	37,837,681
Administrative and general	<u>7,634,523</u>
Total supporting services	<u>45,472,204</u>
Total expenses	<u>194,269,927</u>

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED  
APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS

2,675,855

CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS

6,295,909

EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE AND CHANGE IN UNREALIZED  
APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS OVER EXPENSES

8,971,764

PENSION LIABILITY AND OTHER POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATION ADJUSTMENT

(10,929,753)

CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

(1,957,989)

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS — Beginning of year

291,202,695

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS — End of year

\$ 289,244,706

See notes to financial statements.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**  
**STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	National Service Program	Legislative Service Program	Voluntary Service Program	State Services and Disaster Relief	Publications and Other Communications	Membership Program	Public Awareness Outreach	Total Program Services	Fundraising Costs	Administrative and General	Total Supporting Services	Total
Salaries	\$ 22,469,751	\$ 772,979	\$ 351,695	\$ 800,542	\$ 1,215,608	\$ 574	\$ 25,611,149	\$ 3,638,511	\$ 4,498,372	\$ 8,136,883	\$ 33,748,032	
Employee benefits	11,397,130	365,627	202,411	358,402	709,794		13,033,364	1,961,358	2,337,769	4,299,127	17,328,491	
Payroll taxes	1,795,119	53,944	28,889	63,836	86,139		2,027,927	304,516	349,971	654,487	2,682,414	
DAV transportation network and LTVAP volunteers			257,106				40,185,814				257,106	
Volunteer training			257,106				257,106				257,106	
Volunteer Clinic			64,420				64,420				64,420	
Columbia Trust			64,420				64,420				64,420	
Other grants	57,111	4,500	2,194	152,180	10,000	50	224,035		5,200	231,235	90,450	
Disaster relief				90,450			4,169,511				4,169,511	
State service program				4,169,511			68,750				68,750	
Scholarships			68,750			930,523	930,523				930,523	
Expenses of national convention						573,739	573,739				573,739	
Expenses of national commander and committees	2,548,870		58,668		63,327	81,977	2,692,842				2,692,842	
Travel, training, and relocation	1,926,250	46,392					1,926,250	97,112		206,828	1,926,250	
Publications	4,433,291						11,740,615				11,740,615	
Contributed Media and Materials	916,764	1,176	38,990	1,144,426	1,144,426	155,094	2,258,042	329,342		329,342	12,069,957	
Postage and shipping	369,583	17,157	12,526	26,572	110,605	110,605	536,443	11,322,764	52,973	11,375,737	13,633,779	
Equipment rental and maintenance	1,134,716	101,097	22,850	767,852	162,495	162,495	2,189,010	868,824	783,318	1,307,991	1,844,434	
Supplies	92,853	1,458	31,231	767,852	162,495	1,079	1,269,972	6,334	355,358	1,224,182	3,413,192	
Insurance	110,170	3,415	2,455	8,851	6,160	6,160	131,031	12,053	171,674	183,727	314,758	
Telephone	686,627		25,084	3,832,102	3,387	3,387	728,100	140,247	556,072	696,319	1,422,419	
Outside services	272,060	154,142		3,832,102	3,387	3,387	4,887,187	1,504,545	839	1,505,404	6,392,591	
Printing of magazine				887,187			887,187				887,187	
Cost of mailing materials	56,213	483	2,322	65,448	242,060	989	367,515	39,034,649	322	39,034,971	39,402,486	
Heat, light, water, and power	176,542						176,542		332,044	332,044	508,586	
Security service	165,161						165,161	3,771	144,754	148,525	313,686	
Depreciation of property and equipment	369,765		777	13,126	2,354	2,354	386,022	127,808	906,731	1,034,539	1,420,361	
Legal fees	4,327	1,628			1,266	1,266	7,221	4,767	168,913	173,680	180,901	
Professional fees	106,658	340,358	56,032	1,333,043	461,375		2,297,446	1,163,676	1,839,342	3,023,018	5,320,464	
Other expenses	16,977	6,814	5,000	6,814	6,814	6,814	47,833	1,422,419	1,422,419	1,422,419	3,171,251	
Allocations from (to) other departments	1,849,071	6,813	267,187	762,382	1,735,404		(23,304,427)		(6,322,724)		(29,027,162)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 51,037,749</b>	<b>\$ 1,871,329</b>	<b>\$ 42,378,452</b>	<b>\$ 4,412,141</b>	<b>\$ 10,261,614</b>	<b>\$ 6,480,793</b>	<b>\$ 32,335,645</b>	<b>\$ 148,797,723</b>	<b>\$ 37,837,681</b>	<b>\$ 7,634,523</b>	<b>\$ 45,472,204</b>	<b>\$ 194,269,927</b>

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

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CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Change in unrestricted net assets	\$ (1,957,989)
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Noncash investment contributions	(71,293)
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	(6,447,825)
Pension liability and other postretirement benefit obligation adjustment	10,929,753
Depreciation	1,420,561
Gain on disposal of property and equipment	(14,268)
Realized investment gains	(8,825,699)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
Accounts receivable	(546,257)
Interest and dividends receivable	11,942
Solicitation materials	632,738
Prepaid expenses	(871,138)
Other assets	240,446
Accounts payable	(4,435,956)
Accrued expenses and other	5,255,388
Other liabilities	145,688
Deferred dues and service fees collected in advance	624,505
Deferred revenue	(260,269)
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	<u>(910,342)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(5,080,015)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Payments for property and equipment	(2,132,986)
Proceeds from the sale of property and equipment	16,196
Purchases of investments	(81,437,466)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	<u>90,309,881</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>6,755,625</u>
NET INCREASE IN CASH	1,675,610
CASH — Beginning of year	<u>8,205,381</u>
CASH — End of year	<u>\$ 9,880,991</u>

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

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### 1. ORGANIZATION

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is a Congressionally chartered, not-for-profit service organization. DAV is dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. DAV accomplishes this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access a full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

- Providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government;
- Providing outreach concerning its program services to the American people, generally, and to disabled veterans and their families, specifically;
- Representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses, and their orphans before Congress, the White House, and the judicial branch, as well as state and local governments;
- Extending DAV's mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of state-level departments and local chapters; and
- Providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Financial Statements** — The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

**New Accounting Standards** — In October 2012, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2012-05, *Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230), Not-for-Profit Entities: Classification of the Sale Proceeds of Donated Financial Assets in the Statement of Cash Flows*. The ASU requires a Not-for-Profit to classify cash receipts from the sale of donated financial assets consistently with cash donations received in the statement of cash flows if those receipts were from the sale of donated financial assets that upon receipt were directed without any Not-for-Profit-imposed limitations for sale and were converted nearly immediately to cash. Accordingly, the cash receipts from the sale of those financial assets should be classified as cash inflows from operating activities, unless the donor restricted the use of contributed resources to long-term purposes, in which case those receipts should be classified as cash flows from financing activities. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after June 15, 2013, and should be applied prospectively. DAV adopted the ASU and it did not have a material impact on DAV's presentation of cash flows.

**Cash** — DAV maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts, which, at times, exceed federally insured limits. DAV has not experienced any losses in such accounts.

**Solicitation Materials** — Inventories are carried at the lower of cost or market, generally determined on the first-in, first-out basis.

**Property and Equipment** — Property and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation, and at December 31, 2014, are composed of the following:

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>	<b>Net Book Value</b>
Land and improvements	\$ 995,014	\$ 466,855	528,159
Buildings and improvements	11,097,430	8,404,479	2,692,951
Machinery and other equipment	23,303,375	21,266,120	2,037,255
Construction in process	<u>2,614,438</u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>2,614,438</u>
 Total	 <u>\$ 38,010,257</u>	 <u>\$ 30,137,454</u>	 <u>\$ 7,872,803</u>

Depreciation is computed generally on the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of assets, which range from three to 20 years.

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

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

**Contributed Services and Facilities** — DAV operates extensive programs through which volunteers contribute many hours of service to veterans; the hours that are donated to veterans at medical facilities of the VA and donated hours of Chapter Service Officers through the Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) are used to tabulate Contributed Services. Of the 1,806,601 hours accounted for in 2014, 1,782,076 are hours for the DAV's Nationwide Transportation Network and LVAP Program. Using a value per hour of \$22.55 developed by Independent Sector, an organization that provides oversight to nonprofit organizations in America, the value of these hours contributed to the DAV Transportation Network and LVAP program is \$40,185,814. This value, together with the value of certain contributed facilities, is recorded as support and expenses in the accompanying statement of activities and statement of functional expenses.

**Contributed Media and Materials** — DAV produces public service announcements through various mediums (television, radio, digital, social media) of which approximately \$12.1 million was donated through independent third parties. The value of the donated media is provided through an independent third party utilizing an estimated market value for each type of medium. The value of contributed media and materials is recorded as support and expenses in the accompanying statement of activities and statement of functional expenses.

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

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

**Use of Estimates** — The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of support, revenues, and expenses during the reporting period. Actual amounts could differ from those estimates.

**Allocation of Joint Costs** — In 2014, DAV incurred joint costs of \$53,208,722 for informational materials and activities that included fundraising appeals. Of those costs, \$25,008,099 was allocated to public awareness outreach (program services) and \$28,200,623 was allocated to fundraising costs.

### 3. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Under the bylaws of DAV, any eligible person may become a life member. Amounts paid for membership are placed in separate life membership accounts and invested; the only withdrawals permitted from these accounts are amounts required to pay chapter, department, and national (DAV) per capita dues for services to be provided to the life members. Generally, life membership assets for DAV National Headquarters per capita dues are transferred to the general assets of DAV at the beginning of the membership year (July 1) and deferred and recognized as revenue in the statement of activities over the course of the membership year. The per capita chapter and department dues are distributed at the beginning of the membership year. The reserve for future distribution of membership dues represents the liability for the future life membership distributions to DAV National Headquarters, departments, and chapters to assist with providing member services.

The changes during 2014 in the reserve for future distribution of life membership dues are summarized below:

Balance — January 1, 2014	<u>\$ 61,919,951</u>
Additions:	
Membership dues received	5,693,107
Earnings on invested assets — net	2,403,415
Gain on sale of investments	<u>1,868,351</u>
Total additions	<u>9,964,873</u>
Distribution of membership dues:	
National headquarters	6,707,750
Local chapters	2,149,304
State departments	2,110,374
Other expense	<u>59,703</u>
Total distribution of membership dues	<u>11,027,131</u>
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>151,916</u>
Balance — December 31, 2014	<u>\$ 61,009,609</u>

Life membership net earnings on invested assets of \$2,403,415 are comprised of gross interest and dividends of \$2,434,436 — net of investment fees paid of \$31,021.

#### 4. INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES

Investments are recorded at fair value. The fair value of DAV's investments is determined based on the quoted market prices of the related securities or quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets. Gains and losses on the sale of investment securities are recognized based upon the specific identification method and are reflected as a separate component of total support and revenue for the investments in the general fund. DAV's policy is to report cash and cash equivalents, which includes money market funds, within its trust accounts as investments.

The cost and fair value of general fund investments in securities and the net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2014, are summarized below:

	Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,628,540	\$ 5,628,540	\$
U.S. Government agency notes	11,594,358	11,586,642	(7,716)
Common stocks	13,429,205	19,321,855	5,892,650
Mutual bond funds	126,487,101	125,294,395	(1,192,706)
Mutual equity funds/ETFs	<u>187,816,482</u>	<u>231,523,113</u>	<u>43,706,631</u>
Total	<u>\$ 344,955,686</u>	<u>\$ 393,354,545</u>	<u>\$ 48,398,859</u>

The General fund income from investments — net, \$13,970,918, is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$14,156,377, reduced by investment management and custody fees of \$185,459.

The cost and fair value of life membership fund investments in securities and the net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2014, are summarized below:

	Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 174,507	\$ 174,507	\$
Common stocks	1,863,088	2,713,279	850,191
Mutual bond funds	15,460,229	15,223,449	(236,780)
Mutual equity funds/ETFs	<u>33,205,650</u>	<u>40,683,282</u>	<u>7,477,632</u>
Total	<u>\$50,703,474</u>	<u>\$58,794,517</u>	<u>\$ 8,091,043</u>

As of December 31, 2014, the amount of securities in the general fund or life membership fund in a continuous unrealized loss position for a duration of greater than twelve months is not material.

## 5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

ASC 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures, provides a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value, as follows: Level 1, which refers to securities valued using unadjusted quoted prices from active markets for identical assets; Level 2, which refers to securities not traded on an active market but for which observable market inputs are readily available; and Level 3, which refers to securities valued based on significant unobservable inputs. Assets are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

DAV did not hold any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement (Level 3) during 2014.

DAV's policy is to recognize significant transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no transfers between Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 during 2014.

**Asset Valuation Techniques** — Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for general fund, life fund and pension plan assets recorded at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2014.

Cash equivalents, composed of money market funds, are categorized as Level 1. Such investments are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The money market fund represents the DAV's shares in a registered investment company's fund.

Common stocks and U.S. Government securities (U.S. Treasury Notes) held are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the individual security is traded.

U.S. Government agency notes are categorized as Level 2. They are valued using third-party pricing services. These services may use, for example, model-based pricing methods that utilize observable market data as inputs. Broker dealer bids or quotes of securities with similar characteristics may also be used.

Shares of registered investment companies (mutual funds) are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at quoted market prices that represent the net asset value of shares held at year-end.

Corporate bonds held are categorized as Level 2. They are valued using third-party pricing services. These services may use, for example, model-based pricing methods that utilize observable market data as inputs. Broker dealer bids or quotes of securities with similar characteristics may also be used.

The major categories of general fund financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2014, are as follows:

<b>Asset Category</b>	<b>Fair Value Measurement Using</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)</b>	<b>Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ 5,628,540</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 5,628,540</u>
U.S. Government agency notes	<u></u>	<u>11,586,642</u>	<u>11,586,642</u>
Common stocks	<u>19,321,855</u>	<u></u>	<u>19,321,855</u>
Mutual funds:			
Domestic fixed-income funds	104,613,004		104,613,004
International fixed-income funds	20,681,391		20,681,391
Domestic equity funds/ETFs	168,049,918		168,049,918
International equity funds	55,551,883		55,551,883
Real estate equity funds	<u>7,921,312</u>	<u></u>	<u>7,921,312</u>
Total mutual funds	<u>356,817,508</u>	<u></u>	<u>356,817,508</u>
Total general fund assets	<u>\$ 381,767,903</u>	<u>\$ 11,586,642</u>	<u>\$ 393,354,545</u>

The major categories of life membership fund financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2014, are as follows:

<b>Asset Category</b>	<b>Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)</b>	<b>Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ 174,507</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 174,507</u>
Common stocks	<u>2,713,279</u>	<u></u>	<u>2,713,279</u>
Mutual funds:			
Domestic fixed-income funds	11,829,159		11,829,159
International fixed-income funds	3,394,290		3,394,290
Domestic equity funds/ETFs	28,649,821		28,649,821
International equity funds	10,725,671		10,725,671
Real estate equity funds	<u>1,307,790</u>	<u></u>	<u>1,307,790</u>
Total mutual funds	<u>55,906,731</u>	<u></u>	<u>55,906,731</u>
Total life membership fund assets	<u>\$ 58,794,517</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 58,794,517</u>

## 6. PENSION PLAN AND POSTRETIREMENT BENEFITS

**Pension Plan** — DAV has a defined benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees and certain employees of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary (DAVA). Benefits are based on years of service and employees' compensation. Contributions are intended to fully fund, over a period of seven years, the benefits attributed to service to date based on market interest rates established by the IRS. In 2014, DAV funded amounts in accordance with the recommended actuarially determined contribution amount. Contributions to the plan are based on the unit credit actuarial cost method.

**Other Postretirement Benefit Plans** — DAV provides certain healthcare and life insurance benefits (other postretirement benefits) for its retired employees and their spouses as well as certain retired employees and their spouses of DAVA. Substantially all of DAV's employees may become eligible for these benefits if they reach early retirement age and complete 20 years of service. Since DAV's retirees are considered "stand alone" they are not subject to any mandated coverage change by healthcare reform. However, the excise (a.k.a. "Cadillac") tax that is set to begin in 2018 would apply and has been valued.

The measurement date for the plans is December 31, 2014. Summarized information for the plans is as follows:

	<b>Pension</b>	<b>Other Postretirement Benefits</b>
Accumulated benefit obligation	<u>\$ 68,796,167</u>	<u>\$</u>
Projected benefit obligation	\$ 78,133,408	
Accumulated postretirement benefit obligation (APBO)		\$ 94,998,980
Fair value of plan assets	<u>(59,115,092)</u>	<u></u>
Unfunded status recognized	<u>\$ 19,018,316</u>	<u>\$ 94,998,980</u>

Summarized information of the plans for the year ended December 31, 2014, is as follows:

	<b>Pension</b>	<b>Other Postretirement Benefits</b>
Components of net periodic benefit cost:		
Service cost	\$ 2,671,734	\$ 3,096,984
Interest cost	3,038,028	3,610,539
Expected return on assets	(3,668,481)	
Amortization of net loss from earlier periods	946,712	104,437
Amortization of prior service cost	<u>31,964</u>	<u>(122,991)</u>
Net periodic benefit cost	<u>\$ 3,019,957</u>	<u>\$ 6,688,969</u>
Components of pension and postretirement benefit changes:		
Amortization of prior service cost (benefit)	\$ 31,964	\$ (122,991)
Amortization of net loss from earlier periods	946,712	104,437
Actuarial net loss during the year	<u>(5,161,375)</u>	<u>(6,728,500)</u>
Pension and postretirement benefit changes	<u>\$ (4,182,699)</u>	<u>\$ (6,747,054)</u>

Amounts not yet recognized as a component of periodic pension cost at December 31, 2014, are as follows:

	<b>Pension</b>	<b>Other Postretirement Benefits</b>
Prior service cost (benefit)	\$ 255,711	\$ (947,026)
Net actuarial loss	<u>21,753,015</u>	<u>25,625,727</u>
Amounts recognized as reduction in unrestricted net assets	<u>\$ 22,008,726</u>	<u>\$ 24,678,701</u>

The estimated net actuarial loss and prior service cost for the pension plan that will be amortized from unrestricted net assets and into net periodic benefit cost in 2015 are \$1,261,131 and \$31,964, respectively. The estimated net actuarial loss and prior service cost for the postretirement plan that will be amortized from unrestricted net assets and into net periodic benefit cost in 2015 will result in a cost of \$1,276,825 and gain of \$122,991, respectively.

	<b>Pension</b>	<b>Other Postretirement Benefits</b>
For the year ended December 31, 2014:		
Benefit expense (net periodic benefit cost of \$3,019,957 offset by \$49,527 reimbursed by DAVA)	\$ 2,970,430	\$ 6,688,969
Actual return on plan assets	3,101,825	
Employer contribution	2,244,317	2,375,345
Plan participants' contributions		225,129
Benefits paid	3,651,576	2,600,474
Weighted-average rate assumptions used for the December 31 valuation:		
For year-end benefit obligation:		
Discount rate	3.75%	4.00%
Rate of compensation increase	3.00%	3.50%
For annual benefit cost:		
Discount rate	4.50%	5.00%
Rate of compensation increase	3.50%	3.50%
Expected return on plan assets	6.75%	N/A

The APBO and related benefit cost are determined through the application of relevant actuarial assumptions. DAV anticipates the increase in its healthcare cost-trend rate to slow from 7.0% in 2014 to 5.0% in 2016, after which the trend rate is expected to stabilize.

The mortality assumption was updated in 2014 to the RP-2014 Employee Mortality Tables and RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Tables for males and females projected generationally with Scale MP-2014. The updated mortality table did not have a significant impact on our financial statements as our qualified plan assumes benefits will be paid in the form of lump sums which for the most part are not expected to be impacted by a change in the mortality assumption.

The DAV expects to contribute \$3.0 million to its pension plan in 2015.

The DAV's pension plan investment allocation at December 31, 2014, is as follows:

<b>Asset Category</b>	<b>Percentage of Plan Assets</b>
Equity based securities	57 %
Fixed-income securities	22
Alternative and Other	16
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>5</u>
Total	<u>100 %</u>

The primary objective of the investment policy is preservation of capital with an emphasis on long-term growth without undue exposure to risk and in recognition of the cash flow needs of the plan. The asset allocation ranges are: 38% to 65% total equity based securities (including 3% to 10% in the real estate sector), 22% to 42% total fixed-income securities and 10% to 20% alternative and other funds. Approximately 0% to 10% of the combined investments are to be in money market or other liquid funds (cash requirements).

Pension plan financial assets are recorded at fair value using the measurement techniques outlined in Note 5. The major categories of pension plan financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2014, are as follows:

Asset Category	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Money market funds	\$ 2,920,404	\$ _____	\$ 2,920,404
Corporate bonds	_____	4,931,957	4,931,957
U.S. Government agency notes	_____	2,244,046	2,244,046
U.S. Government securities	1,860,219	_____	1,860,219
Common stocks:			
International Developed	282,753		282,753
Domestic Large Cap	6,522,046		6,522,046
Domestic Small & Mid Cap	2,013,973		2,013,973
Real Estate	2,480,004	_____	2,480,004
Total common stocks	11,298,776	_____	11,298,776
Mutual funds:			
Domestic equity funds/ETFs	11,702,815		11,702,815
Domestic fixed-income funds	542,793		542,793
International equity funds	10,883,137		10,883,137
International fixed-income funds	3,486,271		3,486,271
Alternative and Other	9,244,674	_____	9,244,674
Total mutual funds	35,859,690	_____	35,859,690
Total pension plan assets	\$ 51,939,089	\$ 7,176,003	\$ 59,115,092

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

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

Fiscal Years Ending	Benefit Payments
2015	\$ 5,597,941
2016	6,114,079
2017	3,830,763
2018	4,404,535
2019	3,369,679
2020–2024	23,707,246

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

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

Fiscal Years Ending	Gross Benefit Payments	Gross Subsidy Receipts	Net Benefit Payments
2015	\$ 3,179,140	\$ (214,681)	\$ 2,964,459
2016	3,314,188	(237,948)	3,076,240
2017	3,409,522	(263,908)	3,145,614
2018	3,542,250	(294,185)	3,248,065
2019	3,664,785	(319,558)	3,345,227
2020–2024	20,862,255	(1,955,965)	18,906,290

DAV also maintains a defined contribution salary savings and investment plan for its employees. For qualified participating employees, DAV contributes a percentage of the employees' base salary. DAV's contributions in 2014 were \$2,309,716 and are included in employee benefits expense in the accompanying statement of functional expenses.

## 7. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

**Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation** — Some members of DAV's Board of Directors also serve on the Board of Directors for the DAV National Service Foundation (the Foundation). DAV also provides services to the Foundation, which puts DAV in the position to influence operating policies of the Foundation. The accompanying financial statements do not include the net assets (or changes therein) of the Foundation, which are held by the Foundation and available to DAV only through appropriation by the Foundation's Board of Directors. The Foundation is a separate entity from DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Based upon financial statements at December 31, 2014, net assets of the Foundation were \$115,838,141. During 2014, DAV personnel assisted the

Foundation on a limited basis in administering its business operations and fundraising program. For these services, DAV charged the Foundation \$109,677. DAV provides the Foundation with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge. Additionally, in 2014, DAV contributed \$64,420 to The Columbia Trust, a temporarily restricted fund established by the Foundation to provide funds for the service programs of needy DAV state departments and local chapters. In 2014, The Columbia Trust also received \$48,698 from the DAV for a bequest that was designated to assist in meeting transportation and medical needs of veterans.

In 2014, the Foundation appropriated the following in support of DAV programs and services:

- \$20,000 - National Service Office Furniture and Equipment Fund
- \$18,895 - National Service Office Copier Fund
- \$25,000 - National Service Office Reference Manuals
- \$1,100,000 - National Service Office Structured and Continuing Training Program

At December 31, 2014, the Foundation owed \$604,182 to DAV, which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

**Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust** — Some members of DAV’s Board of Directors also serve on the Board of Directors for Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust (the Trust). DAV also provides services to the Trust, which puts DAV in the position to influence operating policies of the Trust. The accompanying financial statements do not include the net assets (or changes therein) of the Trust, which are held by the Trust and available to DAV only through grants approved by the Trust’s Board of Directors. The Trust is a separate entity from DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Based upon financial statements at December 31, 2014, net assets of the Trust were \$20,054,500. DAV personnel assist the Trust on a limited basis in administering its business operations, fundraising, and grant programs. For these personnel services, DAV charged the Trust \$137,107. DAV provides the Trust with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge.

In 2014, the Trust appropriated the following in support of DAV programs and services:

- \$83,233 - National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic
- \$250,000 - Mobile Service Office Program
- \$45,000 - Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program
- \$200,000 - National Transportation Network
- \$1,400,000 - DAV Employment Initiative
- \$59,426 - DAV Women Veterans Transition Report
- \$100,000 - DAV “Just B Kids” Scholarship
- \$12,900 - Assistance to disabled veterans and their families

At December 31, 2014, the Trust owed \$163,916 to DAV, which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

**Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary** — DAV provides services to the DAVA, which puts DAV in the position to influence operating policies of DAVA. The accompanying financial statements do not include the net assets (or changes therein) of DAVA, which are held by DAVA. DAVA is a separate entity from DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Based upon financial statements at December 31, 2014, net assets of DAVA were \$7,375,079. DAVA occupies space in the DAV National Headquarters’ building and also uses certain office equipment owned by DAV. No fees are charged for such usage. The

value of these contributed facilities is estimated to be \$11,100 in 2014. Certain costs are paid by DAV on behalf of DAVA. Such costs are reimbursed by DAVA. In addition, DAV deposits contributions on behalf of DAVA and subsequently remits them to DAVA. At December 31, 2014, DAVA owed approximately \$58,575, for such costs, which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

**Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation** —During 2014, DAV and DVLMF voided the agreement for DAV to purchase remaining commemorative coin inventory from DVLMF. In December 2014, DVLMF repurchased DAV's initial purchase of 5,000 coins at a cost of \$100,000.

## 8. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No events have occurred after December 31, 2014 but before April 3, 2015, the date the financials were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

\* \* \* \* \*

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you, Garry, for your service and that informative report. You have heard the motion. May I have a second to that motion?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 2.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 2.

MR. THOMAS A. DEMPSTER: Tenth District, Chapter 114, Thomas A. Dempster, would like to second the motion.

COMMANDER HOPE: I have a motion and a second. All those in favor signify by saying aye; all those opposed. So ordered. I would now like to call on Chairman Bradley Barton for the report of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRADLEY S. BARTON: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: Are you enjoying Denver?

(Response of "Yes.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: Good. Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws was called to order on August 8th, 2015, by the Committee Advisors, Brad Barton and Ed Hartman.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee Chairman and Secretary. Brad Barton was elected as the Chairman and William Patterson was elected as Secretary. The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted.

And I now will report to you the three resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention. For the purposes of saving time I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolution.

Resolution Number 203, amend Article VIII, Section 8.4, Paragraph 2, to read as follows:

"The financial statements as required by these Bylaws must be reviewed by a certified public accountant if the gross annual income, excluding all income from the National Organization, exceeds \$300,000 from all sources."

Resolution Number 204, amend Article X, Section 10.2, Paragraph 1, to read as follows:

"The National Organization of the DAV Auxiliary and the NOTR may each make an annual report to the DAV National Convention.

"A financial report which must be reviewed by a certified public accountant shall be filed with the National Organization within 90 days after the close of the accounting year, which shall be the membership year, commencing July 1st and ending June 30th."

Resolution Number 205, delete Article XIV, Section 14.3, Paragraph 2 in its entirety and renumber Section 14.3, Paragraph 1 as Section 14.3.

Comrade Commander, this completes the first reading of the report of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws and the recommended changes to the Constitution and Bylaws.

COMMANDER HOPE: 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, thank you, Brad. We will hear the final report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee at Tuesday's business session.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: Thank you, Comrade Commander.

COMMANDER HOPE: At this time I would like to call upon Chairman Al Church for the Committee on Finance report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ALBERT CHURCH: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Finance was called to order on August 8th, 2015, by the Committee advisors Gary Lucus and Barry Jesinoski.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee Chairman and a Secretary. Al Church was elected as Chairman and Rick Patterson was elected as Secretary.

There were no resolutions submitted to the Committee and, therefore, none recommended for adoption.

The Committee then expressed its thanks to the Committee advisors Gary Lucus and Barry Jesinoski and Comptroller Anita Blum for their assistance in performing the work of this important Committee.

I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their service.

Comrade Commander this completes the report on behalf of the Finance Committee. On behalf of the Committee I move for the adoption of the report and ask that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: In accordance with Rule 9—I'm sorry. You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. GARY TURKS: Mic 4.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 4.

MR. TURKS: Greetings from the great state of Colorado, representing New Mexico, Wyoming and Utah, Chaplain and Senior Vice Gary Turks, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you. In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish read? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; all opposed. So ordered.

Next I would like to call upon Chairman Robert Cudworth for the report on the Committee on Legislation and Veterans' Rights.

LEGISLATION AND VETERANS' RIGHTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ROBERT CUDWORTH: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Legislation and Veterans' Rights was called to order on August 8th, 2015, by the Committee Advisors Joy Ilem and Shurhonda Love.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee Chairman and Secretary. I, Dr. Robert Cudworth, was elected as Chairman and Wanda Janus was elected as the Secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention. For the purposes of saving time I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolutions.

Resolution 008, oppose reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans' benefits;

009, support legislation to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of survivor benefit pay and dependency indemnity compensation;

010, support legislation to provide for service connection for disabling conditions resulting from toxic and environmental exposures;

011, support legislation to allow all veterans to recover amounts withheld as tax on disability severance pay;

012, expand POW presumptions and eligibility for dependency indemnity compensation to surviving spouses of certain POWs;

013, support legislation to provide for realistic cost-of-living allowances;

014, support legislation to exclude veterans' disability compensation from countable income for purposes for eligibility to benefits and services under other government programs;

015, oppose any proposal that would offset payments of Social Security Disability Insurance benefits or any other federal benefit by VA compensation;

016, oppose subjecting compensation to means testing;

017, oppose the permanent rounding-down of COLAs in veterans' benefits;

018, support legislation to clarify that service in the Republic of Vietnam for purposes of benefits based on exposure to herbicide, including service in the waters offshore;

019, oppose any recommendation by any commission to reduce or eliminate benefits for disabled veterans;

020, support a change of regulatory requirements for a temporary total rating;

021, support legislation to reduce the ten-year rule for dependency and indemnity compensation;

022, support legislation to provide a temporary total rating for the period that an amputee has a new prosthetic device constructed;

023, support legislation to award special monthly compensation under the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1114R1 to veterans with anatomical loss or loss of use of three extremities;

024, support interest payments for Department of Veterans Affairs retroactive awards of one year or more;

025, support legislation to provide a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to address loss of quality of life;

026, support reasonable presumptive period for undiagnosed illnesses for Gulf War veterans; excuse me;

027, support VA's new practice in evaluating disability claims for residuals of military sexual trauma;

028, support legislation that would exempt the benefits paid to wartime service-connected disabled veterans from the "pay go" provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act;

030, amend the law to provide ten-year protection for service-connected disability evaluation;

032, oppose regional dispersion of the Board of Veterans' Appeals;

033, support legislation to require the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims to decide each of an appellant's assignments of errors;

034, support legislation to cap attorneys' fees for benefits counseling and claims service before the VA;

035, extend eligibility for mortgage protection life insurance for 100-percent service-connected veterans;

036, support an increase in the Department of Veterans' Affairs burial allowance for service-connected veterans;

037, increase benefit rates for the Home-Improvement and Structural Alterations, HISA, grants;

059, support legislation to increase disability compensation;

060, support legislation to remove prohibitions against concurrent receipt of longevity retired pay and veterans' disability compensation;

065, support legislation to provide for presumptive service connection for tinnitus and hearing loss;

066, support legislation providing that survivor, that Social Security Benefit payments not be withheld from VA disability compensation payments;

081, oppose all attempts to change the basis of the Department of Veterans Affairs Ratings Schedule from the average impairments of earnings capacity standard;

083, oppose any change that would redefine service-connected disability or restrict the conditions or circumstances under which it may be established;

084, provide for compensable rating for hearing-impaired veterans required to use a hearing aid;

085, consider treatment for a presumptive service-connected condition as a claim for VA compensation;

086, compensate Persian Gulf veterans suffering from illnesses circumstantially linked to their service in the Persian Gulf War;

087, support legislation that requires VA to consider private medical evidence provided by a licensed private health care provider;

088, oppose lump-sum payments for service-connected disabilities;

089, support legislation authorizing the presumption of service connection for all radiogenic diseases;

090, oppose the imposition of time limits for filing disability compensation claims;

091, support meaningful reform in the Veterans Benefits Administration's disability claims process;

206, amend the VA's schedule for rating disabilities for mental disorders;

207, support advanced appropriations for all VA discretionary programs;

208, increase the face value of service-connected disabled veterans' insurance, RH;

209, increase the grant amount for autos or other conveyances available to certain disabled veterans;

210, amend provisions regarding eligibility for automobile adaptive equipment to include any veteran whose service-connected disability inhibits his or her ability to safely operate a motor vehicle;

211, provide an open period to apply for service-disabled veterans insurance, RH;

212, support legislation to reduce premiums for service-disabled veterans' insurance to be more consistent with life expectancy;

213, support legislation to provide for waiver of premiums for supplemental service disabled veterans' insurance, RH;

214, support meaningful accountability measures but with due process for employees of the VA.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Legislation and Veterans' Rights. (Applause) On behalf of the Committee I move the adoption of these resolutions and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

(The above referenced resolutions follow:)

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 008  
OPPOSE REDUCTION, TAXATION OR  
ELIMINATION OF VETERANS' BENEFITS**

WHEREAS, veterans' benefits are earned benefits paid to veterans and their families for their service to the Nation; and

WHEREAS, veterans' benefits are part of a covenant between our Nation and its defenders; and

WHEREAS, certain government leaders have continued to attack veterans' benefits in an attempt to tax those benefits, reduce them, or eliminate them completely; and

WHEREAS, these attacks recur with regularity and serious intent; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, vigorously opposes reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans' benefits.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 009**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION**  
**AGAINST CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN**  
**PAYMENTS AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION**

WHEREAS, the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments are payments of an insurance annuity for which the retired military member pays premiums for this coverage; and

WHEREAS, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is paid to the surviving spouse of a service member, retiree or veteran who dies of a service-connected condition; and

WHEREAS, these two programs are unrelated to each other; and

WHEREAS, under current law SBP payments are reduced, by the amount of DIC received; and

WHEREAS, this offset is extremely unfair to the approximately 54,000 spouses whose service members faithfully paid premiums in anticipation of a fair annuity based on premium payment; and

WHEREAS, there should not be a statute of limitation to apply for SBP as the current six-year statute of limitation has severe and adverse consequences on survivors; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to repeal the offset between SBP annuity payments and DIC Compensation Payments; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the six-year statute of limitation should be waived if the offset between DIC and SBP is removed.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 010**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR SERVICE**  
**CONNECTION FOR DISABLING CONDITIONS RESULTING**  
**FROM TOXIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES**

WHEREAS, veterans of all military conflicts from the World Wars to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been exposed to toxic and environmental exposures such as mustard gas, herbicides, cold weather, chemical, biological agents, harmful levels of radiation, and other combat operation exposures; and

WHEREAS, veterans may not know for years or decades about the toxic or environmental conditions they were exposed to during military service; and

WHEREAS, returning from war, veterans subsequently suffer from disabling conditions that are not immediately identified as a result of such exposures; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense (DoD) has not always been willing to publicly share information regarding exposures during military service with other government departments or agencies or with the individuals involved; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by the National Institutes of Health, DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and other federal agencies have focused on relationships between toxic and environmental exposures and health outcomes of veterans and pending claims; and

WHEREAS, such research is necessary to ensure veterans receive high-quality health services and benefits they are entitled due to diseases or injuries resulting from deployment exposures; and

WHEREAS, in studies mandated by Congress, the National Academy of Sciences continues to review and evaluate scientific literature to determine whether a link exists between exposure and certain physical disorders; and

WHEREAS, VA and DoD must collaborate and share necessary deployment, health, and exposure data to better address the health conditions experienced by disabled veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, vigorously supports the VA's expeditious handling of veterans' claims and the payment of fair and just compensation for all conditions associated with the veteran's service and related exposure to toxic and environmental hazards.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 011**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ALLOW ALL VETERANS TO RECOVER**  
**AMOUNTS WITHHELD AS TAX ON DISABILITY SEVERANCE PAY**

WHEREAS, money received as a result of personal injury or disability is not taxable; and

WHEREAS, disability severance pay is paid to a military member as a result of injury or disease suffered during military service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has, and continues to, tax military disability severance pay as regular income; and

WHEREAS, a United States District Court has held that military disability severance pay is nontaxable income; and

WHEREAS, the IRS has acquiesced in the District Court holding; and

WHEREAS, the three-year statute of limitations prevents veterans who have been discharged for more than three years from recovering the nontaxable money withheld by the IRS; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, 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. 012**  
**EXPAND PRISONER-OF-WAR PRESUMPTIONS AND ELIGIBILITY**  
**FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR**  
**SURVIVING SPOUSES OF CERTAIN FORMER PRISONERS-OF-WAR**

WHEREAS, former prisoners-of-war (POWs) suffered cruel and inhumane treatment, together with nutritional deprivation at the hands of their captors, which resulted in longterm adverse health effects; and

WHEREAS, POWs were subjected to numerous and varying forms of abuse dependent upon the place, time, and circumstance of their captivity by the enemy; and

WHEREAS, for this reason, former POWs suffer from a wide range of physical and psychological maladies; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation which would add those medical conditions which are characteristically associated with or can be reasonably attributed to the POW experience as presumptive disorders for former POWs; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges passage of legislation that would expand eligibility for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation to surviving spouses of certain former POWs, who died prior to September 30, 1999, and who were rated totally disabled at the time of death for a service-connected disability for a period of not less than one year.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 013**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR**  
**REALISTIC COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCES**

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor provides statistical information and analysis that impacts the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for disabled veterans, military retirees, and Social Security recipients; and

WHEREAS, the calculations regarding COLAs are the domain of the Social Security Administration, using a formula that has been directly linked to the Consumer Price Index since 1975, prescribed by law when calculating any COLA increase; and

WHEREAS, in general, a COLA is equal to the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPIW) from the third quarter of one year to the third quarter of the next, and if there is no increase, there is no COLA; and

WHEREAS, the formula that derives the level of increase is tied to the United States economy on a very broad basis; stagnant economic activity does not mean disabled veterans' cost of living is flat; in fact, as they age and suffer from associated illnesses of aging, their costs increase; and

WHEREAS, the COLA formula has been adjusted to remove items such as groceries and fuel from such calculations; and

WHEREAS, it is unfair that disabled veterans are denied necessary increases in disability payments due to a formula that actually has little to do with the costs they bear; and

WHEREAS, there have been recent attempts to adjust the COLA downward in various methods such as "Chained COLA;" and

WHEREAS, disabled veterans' disability compensation has not kept pace with the rest of the economy, even in years when there were COLA payments, disability benefits lagged; and

WHEREAS, many disabled veterans and their survivors are on fixed incomes and rely on COLAs to meet their current living expenses; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to provide for a COLA formula that represents a realistic cost-of-living allowance for our nation's disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 014**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO EXCLUDE VETERANS'**  
**DISABILITY COMPENSATION FROM COUNTABLE INCOME**  
**FOR PURPOSES OF ELIGIBILITY TO BENEFITS AND**  
**SERVICES UNDER OTHER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, by virtue of their service and sacrifices, disabled veterans deserve special benefits that are separate and in addition to benefits the government provides to other citizens; and

WHEREAS, compensation for the effects of service-connected disabilities is counted as income in determinations of eligibility for other government benefits and programs, such as low-income housing through the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, the value of compensation is negated and its purposes are defeated when a veteran's receipt of compensation is used to reduce or deny entitlement to government benefits or services available to other citizens; and

WHEREAS, when a veteran's compensation is offset against other entitlements, it is in effect deducted from the programs generally available to other citizens, and the veteran really receives nothing additional for his or her disability and is thus not compensated; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, seeks legislation to exclude veterans' disability compensation from countable income for purposes of entitlement to benefits or services under other government programs.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 015**  
**OPPOSE ANY PROPOSAL THAT WOULD OFFSET PAYMENTS OF SOCIAL**  
**SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS OR ANY OTHER FEDERAL**  
**BENEFIT BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMPENSATION**

WHEREAS, consideration has been given to proposing an offset of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits by payments of any other federal benefit; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of such a measure would reduce the overall income provided to those service-connected veterans who have a compensable disability and who also suffer a permanent and total disability for purposes of SSDI from the Social Security Administration; and

WHEREAS, such an offset would work a grave and undue hardship on all totally disabled service-connected veterans and their families by drastically reducing their total income; and

WHEREAS, benefits received from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or under military retirement pay and other Federal programs have differing eligibility criteria as compared with the earned payments of SSDI benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, 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. 016**  
**OPPOSE SUBJECTING COMPENSATION TO MEANS TESTING**

WHEREAS, the citizens of our Nation have heretofore honorably recognized their indebtedness to those who sacrificed in the service of their country by providing compensation as restitution for the personal injuries or diseases suffered in such service; and

WHEREAS, a disabled veteran is rightfully entitled to restitution for the effects of service-connected disability during its continuation, without regard to good fortune or income of the veteran or spouse from sources wholly independent of the government's obligations to the veteran; and

WHEREAS, it is unfair for the government to seek to disclaim its obligation to disabled veterans or their survivors merely because of the receipt of other, unrelated income; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the special status of disability and dependency and indemnity compensation, efforts have been made to reduce or eliminate them where the veteran or spouse or survivor has other income; and

WHEREAS, degrading compensation by providing it to the extent of the veteran's or survivor's economic needs rather than as a measure of restitution equal to personal losses, thereby disassociating compensation from that which merits it and associating it with factors which govern purely gratuitous and welfare benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, opposes any scheme to means test disability and death compensation.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 017**  
**OPPOSE THE PERMANENT ROUNDING DOWN OF**  
**COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS IN VETERANS' BENEFITS**

WHEREAS, to maintain the worth of veterans' benefits, they must be adjusted to keep pace with the rise in the cost of living; and

WHEREAS, permanently rounding down the adjusted rates to the next lower dollar amount will erode the value of these benefits over time and thus not keep pace with the rise in the cost of living; and

WHEREAS, permanently rounding down veterans' cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) unfairly targets veterans for convenient cost savings for the Government; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, opposes permanent rounding down of COLAs for veterans' benefits.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 018**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO CLARIFY THAT SERVICE IN THE REPUBLIC**  
**OF VIETNAM FOR PURPOSES OF BENEFITS BASED ON EXPOSURE**  
**TO HERBICIDES INCLUDES SERVICE IN THE WATERS OFFSHORE**

WHEREAS, over the decade from 1961 to 1971, our military forces sprayed approximately 21 million gallons of herbicide agents in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, these herbicide agents, the most common of which was designated "Agent Orange," contained the contaminant dioxin, one of the most toxic substances known to humankind; and

WHEREAS, the dispersion and deposition of, and human exposure to, dioxins were not limited to areas directly sprayed, inasmuch as it is acknowledged that the chemical was carried away from the areas of application by canals, rivers, and streams, and that airborne particulates were carried by wind drift; and

WHEREAS, Congress has therefore provided that, for purposes of establishing or presuming service connection for a disability or death as related to herbicide exposure, a veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, "served in the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, shall be presumed to have been exposed during such service to [a] herbicide agent...unless there is affirmative evidence to establish that the veteran was not exposed to any such agent" during that service; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has arbitrarily interpreted "served in the Republic of Vietnam" to mean only service on land areas of Vietnam and not waters offshore within its national boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the exclusion of territorial seas or waters from the term "Republic of Vietnam" is contrary to the plain and unqualified language of the law and illogical insofar as its premise is that herbicides could be carried away from the area of application across any expanse of land but not equal or lesser expanses of water; and

WHEREAS, various illnesses have been linked to and are presumed due to exposure to these herbicide agents; and

WHEREAS, veterans who served on ships no more distant from the spraying of these herbicides than many who served on land are arbitrarily and unjustly denied benefits of the presumption of exposure and thereby the presumption of service connection for their herbicide-related disabilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to expressly provide that the phrase "served in the Republic of Vietnam" includes service in the waters offshore.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 019**  
**OPPOSE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS BY ANY COMMISSION TO**  
**REDUCE OR ELIMINATE BENEFITS FOR DISABLED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, American citizens owe their freedoms and way of life to disabled veterans who made extraordinary personal sacrifices and who suffer lifelong disabilities as a consequence; and  
WHEREAS, those who serve in our Armed Forces stand ready to endure any hardships and expose themselves to any hazards on behalf of their country and our citizens, and  
WHEREAS, our government did not hesitate in asking them to give life or limb if necessary, and  
WHEREAS, our elected officials surely should not renege on our reciprocal obligation when our disabled veterans ask for so comparatively little in return; and  
WHEREAS, we, as a nation, have no more important indebtedness nor greater moral obligation than the indebtedness and obligation we have to disabled veterans; and  
WHEREAS, some elected officials nonetheless prefer to denigrate the suffering of disabled veterans, conveniently ignore this debt, and shirk this national responsibility; and  
WHEREAS, any shameful effort on the part of legislators to find ways to avoid compensating disabled veterans, especially in time of war, is unprecedented; and  
WHEREAS, our government continues to establish commissions to review veterans benefits and entitlements in an effort to balance the budget; and  
WHEREAS, honorable and great nations of conscience do not abandon their wounded warriors; NOW  
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, reminds our elected officials of our undebatable responsibility to fairly and fully compensate veterans for all the effects of disabilities incurred or aggravated in the line of duty as provided in the equitable standards of current law and regulations; AND  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV vigorously opposes any recommendations made for the purpose of reducing, adding limitations on, or eliminating benefits for service-connected disabled veterans or their families.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 020**  
**SUPPORT A CHANGE IN REGULATORY**  
**REQUIREMENTS FOR A TEMPORARY TOTAL RATING**

WHEREAS, with advances in modern medicine and increasing emphasis on more efficient use of health care resources, health care providers are being encouraged to utilize suitable alternatives to inpatient care; and  
WHEREAS, as a consequence, veterans are often treated through home health services or convalesce at home rather than in the hospital; and  
WHEREAS, convalescent ratings are currently only authorized where inpatient or outpatient treatment resulted in surgery or immobilization of a major joint by cast; and  
WHEREAS, there are instances where the veteran's treatment did not involve surgery or casting of a major joint, but the veteran has undergone healing, convalescence, or a therapeutic course in the home, with a duration of one month or more; and  
WHEREAS, exacerbation of a service-connected disability sometimes makes work activities contraindicated for periods of one month or more; and  
WHEREAS, in such instances, the therapeutic course, convalescence, or restriction from work would occur in the home in lieu of hospitalization for one month or more; NOW  
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports a change in section 4.30, title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide for a temporary total rating if treatment or exacerbation of a service-connected disability results in a condition of temporary total incapacity for employment or temporary unavailability for employment by reason of home health care or ambulatory care, bed rest or confinement to the home, or contraindication of work activities for one month or more.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 021**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REDUCE THE 10-YEAR RULE**  
**FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION**

WHEREAS, section 1318 (b) (1), title 38, United States Code, provides Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits for survivors of certain veterans rated totally disabled for 10 or more years; and

WHEREAS, the financial status of the surviving spouse is compromised due to the care required by the totally disabled veteran and provided by the surviving spouse; and

WHEREAS, the surviving spouse, acting as caregiver for the veteran, must in many cases limit, or give up, or put careers on hold; and

WHEREAS, it is inherently unfair that the surviving spouse should have this additional burden placed on him or her for 10 years or more before he or she can qualify for DIC when married veterans die; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to reduce this 10-year rule for DIC qualification to a more reasonable period of time.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 022**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A TEMPORARY**  
**TOTAL RATING FOR THE PERIOD THAT AN AMPUTEE**  
**HAS A NEW PROSTHETIC DEVICE CONSTRUCTED**

WHEREAS, it takes four to six weeks to manufacture a prosthetic device; and

WHEREAS, many employers will not accept an amputee back on the job without his or her artificial limb; and

WHEREAS, the veteran who does not have an artificial limb is incapacitated and unable to perform gainful employment; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Schedule for Rating Disabilities does not contain any provision to provide this temporary total rating; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to amend the 1945 VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities to provide a temporary total rating for the period involving the replacement of a prosthetic device.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 023**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO AWARD SPECIAL MONTHLY**  
**COMPENSATION TO VETERANS WITH ANATOMICAL**  
**LOSS OR LOSS OF USE OF THREE EXTREMITIES**

WHEREAS, veterans with anatomical loss or loss of use, or a combination of anatomical loss and loss of use, of three extremities are significantly impaired in their ability to perform personal functions; and

WHEREAS, veterans with loss or loss of use of three extremities require the assistance of others for the ability to dress and undress themselves, or to keep themselves ordinarily clean and presentable, or to perform frequent adjustment of special prosthetic or orthopedic appliances, or to attend to the wants of nature, or to protect themselves from hazards or dangers incident to their daily environment; and

WHEREAS, these factors are considered basic criteria for determining the need for regular aid and attendance by the Department of Veterans Affairs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to award special monthly compensation under the provisions of section 1114(r)(1), title 38, United States Code, to veterans with anatomical loss or loss of use of three extremities.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 024**  
**SUPPORT INTEREST PAYMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
**AFFAIRS RETROACTIVE AWARDS OF ONE YEAR OR MORE**

WHEREAS, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claimants are often denied timely receipt of their rightfully earned benefits due to prolonged bureaucratic delay in the VA adjudication process and/or through clear and unmistakable error on the part of VA Rating Board authorities; and

WHEREAS, under current law and regulation, VA claimants who incur indebtednesses to the United States government, in addition to the principal amount of such indebtednesses, are assessed and must pay interest charges; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Congress enacted the Prompt Payment Act, Public Law 97177, to require federal agencies to pay their bills to outside vendors on a timely basis or pay interest penalties to the outside vendors when payments are made late; and

WHEREAS, VA claimants who are denied timely receipt of their rightfully earned benefits do not receive interest payments from the government and therefore incur a loss of investment income, which could have been received had they received their earned benefits in a timely fashion; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, seeks the enactment of legislation that would require the VA to pay interest on all retroactive benefit awards in excess of one year.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 025**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A REALISTIC INCREASE**  
**IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMPENSATION**  
**RATES TO ADDRESS LOSS OF QUALITY OF LIFE**

WHEREAS, the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission (the Commission) was established by Public Law 108136, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2004 to address several measures, one of which was loss of quality of life; and

WHEREAS, current law requires that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Rating Schedule compensate service-disabled veterans for average impairment of earning capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Commission concluded early in its deliberations that VA disability compensation should recompense veterans not only for average impairments of earning capacity, but also for their inability to participate in usual life activities and for the impact of their disabilities on quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine reached the same conclusion; moreover, it made extensive recommendations on steps to develop and implement a methodology to evaluate the impact of disabilities on veterans' quality of life and to provide appropriate compensation; and

WHEREAS, the Commission concluded that the VA Rating Schedule should be revised to include compensation for the impact of service-connected disabilities on quality of life; and

WHEREAS, for some veterans, quality of life is addressed in a limited fashion by special monthly compensation for loss of limbs or loss of use of limbs; and

WHEREAS, the Commission urged Congress to consider increases in some special monthly compensation awards to address the profound impact of certain disabilities on quality of life and to assess whether other ancillary benefits might be appropriate; and

WHEREAS, while a recommended systematic methodology is being developed for evaluating and compensating for the impact of disability on quality of life, the Commission recommended that an immediate interim increase of up to 25 percent of compensation be enacted; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports the enactment of legislation to provide a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to address loss of quality of life.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 026**  
**SUPPORT REASONABLE PRESUMPTIVE PERIOD FOR**  
**UNDIAGNOSED ILLNESSES FOR GULF WAR VETERANS**

WHEREAS, thousands of Gulf War veterans still suffer from chronic unexplained physical symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the numerous symptoms experienced by sick Gulf War veterans are not well understood and the causes of such symptoms remain elusive and answers could likely remain evasive for some time; and

WHEREAS, there currently is little significant research on long-term health effects of many of the agents Gulf War veterans were potentially exposed to during the Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, additional research into the longterm health effects of exposures is needed, a fact confirmed in a September 2000 report by the Institute of Medicine on the health effects of exposures during the Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, the presumptive period for undiagnosed illnesses was extended until September 30, 2011; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges that legislation be enacted to extend the presumptive period for service connection for ill-defined and undiagnosed illnesses to a reasonable period.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 027**  
**ESTABLISH SERVICE CONNECTION FOR**  
**RESIDUALS OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA**

WHEREAS, DAV maintains a longstanding resolution from our membership that advocates an open process to govern establishment of service connection for diseases and injuries incurred in or aggravated during service in the United States Armed Forces;

WHEREAS, establishing a causal relationship between certain injuries and later disability can be daunting due to lack of records or human factors that obscure or prevent documentation or even basic investigation of such incidents after they occur;

WHEREAS, military sexual trauma is evermore recognized as a hazard of service for one percent of men serving and 20 percent of women serving in the armed forces and later represents a heavy burden of psychological and mental health care for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA);

WHEREAS, an absence of documentation of military sexual trauma in the personnel or military unit records of injured individuals prevents or obstructs adjudication of claims for disabilities of this deserving group injured during their service, and may interrupt or prevent their care by VA once they become veterans;

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense (DoD) has established an office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPRO) to establish department-wide policies and procedures for the handling of sexual assault and injury cases for active military service members and members of reserve and Guard units, including documentation, records retention and protection of the privacy of the individuals involved in such cases;

WHEREAS, both DoD and VA have agreed on some procedures that would govern documentation sufficient to justify service connection of sexual assault and other military sexual trauma;

WHEREAS, the VA has issued a regulation (section 3.304(f)(5), title 38, Code of Federal Regulations) that provides for a liberalization of requirements for establishment of service connection due to personal assault, including military sexual trauma, even when documentation of an "actual stressor" is not found, but when evidence in other records exists of a "marker" indicating that a stressor may have in fact occurred; and

WHEREAS, VA has trained adjudication personnel, especially its rating staffs in VA regional offices, in better evaluating disability claims for military sexual assaults, and has emphasized these particular claims must be made subject to special attention in consonance with the new regulation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports VA's new practices in evaluating disability claims associated with military sexual trauma and urges VA to conduct rigorous oversight of adjudication personnel and review of data to ensure the present policy is being faithfully followed and standardized in all VA regional offices; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to reopen and reevaluate claims for conditions associated with military sexual assault that were denied under previous rating criteria that required significant evidentiary documentation to establish nexus, since nexus is no longer a prerequisite to positive adjudication of these cases.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 028**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD EXEMPT THE BENEFITS PAID**  
**TO WARTIME SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS FROM THE**  
**"PAY-GO/CUT-GO" PROVISIONS OF THE BUDGET ENFORCEMENT ACT**

WHEREAS, wartime disabled veterans have earned the benefits and services they, their dependents and survivors receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a result of the injuries sustained during their period of wartime service; and

WHEREAS, the benefits and services received by wartime disabled veterans as a result of their service-connected disabilities is an extension of the costs of war; and

WHEREAS, this country has a moral obligation to continue to care for these citizen-soldiers who have risen in defense and support of the ideals of this great nation and who have returned to civilian life with service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the benefits and services provided to America's veterans, dependents and survivors have not caused this nation's deficit problems; and

WHEREAS, the so-called "pay-go/cut-go" provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act require any new benefits or services to be paid out of existing benefits or programs, in effect, requiring one group

of disabled veterans to give up a benefit or service so that another worthy group of wartime disabled veterans can receive benefits or services to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, veterans suffering from ailments associated with their service in the military are compensated from funds generated by cutting the benefits of other service-connected veterans and their survivors; and

WHEREAS, the benefits and services provided to wartime disabled veterans are unique and not a "welfare benefit;" NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to exempt VA benefits and services provided to service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors from the "pay-go/cut-go" provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 030**  
**AMEND THE LAW TO PROVIDE A 10-YEAR PROTECTION**  
**PERIOD FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY EVALUATIONS**

WHEREAS, section 110, title 38, United States Code, now provides for the protection of all disability compensation evaluations that have been continuously in effect for 20 or more years; and

WHEREAS, permanency should be conceded for disability compensation ratings which have been in effect for 10 years without change in evaluation with no further examination scheduled; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports amendment of section 110, title 38, United States Code, to provide that disability evaluations continuously in effect at the same evaluation rate be protected after a period of 10 years.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 032**  
**OPPOSE REGIONAL DISPERSION OF THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS**

WHEREAS, veterans and other claimants for veterans' benefits may appeal erroneous decisions of the various and geographically dispersed benefit offices and medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, inaccuracy and lack of uniformity are pervasive among the claims decisions of the many VA field offices; and

WHEREAS, one board, the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) situated adjacent to VA's Central Office and policymaking center in Washington, D.C., hears all appeals; and

WHEREAS, appellants, Board members, and taxpayers derive numerous benefits from an appellate board housed in one centralized location, some of the more obvious of which are:

- availability of the collective expertise of the entire Board;
- professional interaction and association among Board members and staff;
- shared and uniform training;
- common and shared goals and responsibilities;
- economies of scale from pooled resources and the most efficient workload distribution, with the flexibility and capacity to readjust the workload as necessary between members and support staff;
- a positive environment and employee incentives for developing creative solutions and innovations to meet and overcome the challenges inherent in a system of mass adjudication of claims;
- more efficient and effective centralized case management and storage;
- more effective centralized Board administration and hands-on employee oversight; and

WHEREAS, Congress created the Board after repeated failed experiments with various configurations of regional appellate panels that were plagued by persistent inefficiencies and problems and were proven impractical and poorly suited to properly dispose of veterans' appeals; and

WHEREAS, indications are that consideration is being given within certain quarters of VA to dismember the Board and scatter its decision-makers among the VA field offices or among various regions of the nation; and

WHEREAS, such regional reorganization of the Board would be extremely unwise, wholly unwarranted, and not in the best interests of veterans or taxpayers; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, categorically opposes any decentralization of the Board.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 033**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS TO DECIDE EACH OF APPELLANT'S ASSIGNMENTS OF ERROR**

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Veterans' Judicial Review Act of 1988 (VJRA) and created the United States Court of Veterans' Appeals (currently the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims) (Court); and

WHEREAS, the VJRA granted the Court the authority to decide all relevant questions of law and to hold unlawful and set aside or reverse any finding of material fact adverse to the claimant, which is clearly erroneous; and

WHEREAS, due to long delays in claims processing at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), it can take veterans years to get their appeals before the Court; and

WHEREAS, in many appeals, the Court will ignore the appellants' legal arguments and remand an appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) based on the General Counsel's confession of error that the Board failed to provide adequate reasons or bases for its decision to deny the benefit; and

WHEREAS, a remand for reasons or bases allows the VA to reopen the evidentiary record and obtain other evidence to support the continuation of the denial; and

WHEREAS, a veteran must appeal to the Court a second time and, in some cases, a third or fourth time to obtain a decision on the merits of his or her appeal; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation that would require the Court to decide each assignment of error made by an appellant in an appeal to the Court and to reverse any such errors found; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should enact legislation providing the Court should have the authority to modify or remand any Board decision found to contain any error or errors, that the authority to modify should include the power to order an award of benefits in appropriate cases, and that an appellant should be expressly permitted to waive confessions of error made by the appellee.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 034**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO CAP ATTORNEYS' FEES FOR BENEFITS COUNSELING AND CLAIMS SERVICES BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

WHEREAS, our nation established veterans' programs to repay or reward veterans for their extraordinary service and sacrifices on behalf of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit in which special benefits are provided to especially deserving beneficiaries, our citizens intended these benefits to be dispensed through an open, helpful, and informal system in which the government is duty bound to receive every claimant as entitled and provide every reasonable assistance in developing and shepherding the claim through the entire administrative process while affording consideration of all legal avenues toward granting every benefit that can be supported in law; and

WHEREAS, the programs are also designed in a manner that ensures veterans and their families will receive the full measure of aid from disability compensation and other monetary payments without taxation and with protections that ensure they are not diverted into the pockets of others who have no entitlement to them; and

WHEREAS, Congress has set the rates of these modest benefits to be minimally adequate for their intended purposes, such as assisting disabled veterans and their families in purchasing the necessities of life or obtaining services necessary to ameliorate the effects of disability, and the amounts provided do not contemplate or allow for any reduction or diminishment in buying power such as will occur when a portion is diverted to attorneys; and

WHEREAS, acquiescence in any general situation in which obtaining veterans' benefits required hiring an attorney and surrendering a portion of disability compensation or other benefits obtained to the attorney fundamentally contradicts and undermines the spirit of the benefit programs created solely to aid and meet the special needs of disabled veterans and their dependents and survivors; and

WHEREAS, it is inappropriate for Congress to disavow the government's obligation to ensure veterans receive the benefits due them by passing them off to the legal profession where their plight might well depend on or be determined by their potential for producing attorney fees; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Congress passed legislation, Public Law 109461, the Veterans Benefits, Health Care and Information Technology Act of 2006, which allows attorneys to charge a veteran a fee for counseling and claims service following the filing of a Notice of Disagreement; and

WHEREAS, the initial intent of veterans benefits recognized that no disabled veteran should have to pay an attorney significant fees to obtain the benefits that a grateful nation provides and the veteran is rightfully due; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, seeks legislation to provide for a reasonable cap on the amount of fees an attorney can charge veterans for benefits counseling and claims services before the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 035**  
**EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERANS' MORTGAGE**  
**LIFE INSURANCE TO SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS**  
**RATED PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED**

WHEREAS, Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI) is presently available to veterans entitled to the special adapted housing award under section 2101(a), title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, service-connected veterans rated as permanently and totally disabled cannot obtain mortgage life insurance through commercial insurance companies; and

WHEREAS, their widows and dependents must bear an undue hardship upon the death of such veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VMLI program provides mortgage life insurance to severely disabled veterans and service members who have also received a Specially Adapted Housing grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend VMLI to service-connected veterans who are rated as permanently and totally disabled.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 036**  
**SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**BURIAL ALLOWANCE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, in 1973, the National Cemetery Administration established a burial allowance that provided partial reimbursement for eligible funeral and burial costs, with a payment of \$2,000 for service-connected burial allowance, \$300 for nonservice-connected burial allowance and \$300 for nonservice-connected plot allowance; and

WHEREAS, passage of Public Law 111275, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2010, resulted in an increase in both plot allowance and burial allowance from \$300 to \$700 for nonservice-connected deaths in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities, effective October 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, this same law does not increase the \$2,000 for burial and funeral expenses for service-connected deaths outside of VA facilities, nor is it indexed to the Consumer Price Index for annual adjustments; and

WHEREAS, the plot allowance introduced in 1973 was an attempt to provide a plot benefit for veterans who did not have reasonable access to a national cemetery, neither the plot allowance nor the burial allowance was intended to cover the full cost of a civilian burial in a private cemetery; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to increase the burial allowance payable at a rate equal to that of inflation since 1973 in the case of death due to service-connected disability regardless of the place where the death occurred.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 037**  
**INCREASE THE HOME IMPROVEMENT**  
**AND STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS GRANT**

WHEREAS, under section 1717, title 38, United States Code, the Home Improvement and Structural Alterations (HISA) program, veterans with service-connected disabilities or veterans with nonservice-connected disabilities may receive assistance for any home improvement necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities; and

WHEREAS, a HISA grant is available to veterans who have received a medical determination indicating that improvements and structural alterations are necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of his/her disability; and

WHEREAS, a veteran may receive both a HISA grant and either a Special Home Adaptation (SHA) grant or a Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant; and

WHEREAS, the HISA improvement benefit provides up to \$6,800 to service-connected veterans, and up to \$2,000 to nonservice-connected veterans as a result of the Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, calls for a reasonable increase to HISA benefits for veterans.

\* \* \*

### **RESOLUTION NO. 059**

#### **SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO INCREASE DISABILITY COMPENSATION**

WHEREAS, it is the historical policy of DAV that this nation's first duty to veterans is to provide for the rehabilitation of its wartime disabled; and

WHEREAS, the percentage ratings for service-connected disabilities represent, as far as can be practicably determined, the average impairment in earning capacity resulting from such disabilities in civil occupations; and

WHEREAS, compensation increases should be based primarily on the loss of earning capacity; and

WHEREAS, disabled veterans who are unable to work because of service connected disabilities should be entitled to compensation payments commensurate with the after-tax earnings of their able-bodied contemporaries; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports the enactment of legislation to provide a realistic increase in Department of Veterans Affairs compensation rates to bring the standard of living of disabled veterans in line with that which they would have enjoyed had they not suffered their service-connected disabilities.

\* \* \*

### **RESOLUTION 060**

#### **SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION AGAINST CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY RETIRED PAY AND VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION FOR ALL LONGEVITY RETIRED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, current law provides that service connected veterans rated less than 50 percent who retire from the Armed Forces on length of service do not receive disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in addition to full military retired pay; and

WHEREAS, these disabled veterans must therefore surrender retired pay in an amount equal to the disability compensation they receive; and

WHEREAS, this offset is unfair to veterans who have served faithfully in military careers inasmuch as these veterans have earned their retired pay by virtue of their long service to the Nation and wholly apart from disabilities due to military service; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to repeal the offset between military longevity retired pay and VA disability compensation.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 065**

#### **SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION FOR TINNITUS AND HEARING LOSS**

WHEREAS, veterans of the armed services who served in combat or in certain occupational specialties have a high incidence rate of hearing loss or tinnitus as a direct result of acoustic trauma; and

WHEREAS, many pre-service and discharge examinations, particularly for World War II and Korean conflict veterans, were usually accomplished with the highly inaccurate whispered voice test; and

WHEREAS, veterans, in those cases, were not afforded a comprehensive audiological examination upon entrance and discharge from military service; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the second leading disability granted service connection by the Department of Veterans Affairs was for hearing loss or tinnitus; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports entitlement to service connection on a presumptive basis for any veteran suffering from hearing loss or tinnitus, which manifests itself to a degree of 10 percent or more within a year of discharge from military service, and the evidence shows the veterans participated in combat or worked in a position or military occupational specialty likely to cause acoustic trauma.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 066**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION PROVIDING THAT SPECIAL SEPARATION**  
**BENEFITS PAYMENTS NOT BE WITHHELD FROM DEPARTMENT**  
**OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DISABILITY COMPENSATION PAYMENTS**

WHEREAS, as a result of the downsizing of our military forces, many career military personnel have left service prior to becoming eligible for longevity retirement pay; and

WHEREAS, these individuals are entitled to separation pay; and

WHEREAS, many of these individuals also become eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation; and

WHEREAS, VA General Counsel, in an opinion rendered on June 22, 1992, held that any monies received as a result of the Special Separation Benefit (SSB) must be recouped from any VA disability compensation payment; and

WHEREAS, SSB payments are in no way related to a disability; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to clarify that SSB payments are not disability payments and therefore should not be recouped from VA disability compensation payments.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 081**  
**OPPOSE ALL ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE THE BASIS OF THE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RATING SCHEDULE FROM**  
**THE “AVERAGE IMPAIRMENTS OF EARNINGS CAPACITY” STANDARD**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) that was adopted in 1945 requires that, “... ratings shall be based, as far as practicable, upon the average impairments of earning capacity” as stated in title 38, United States Code, section 1155; and

WHEREAS, the standard of “average impairments of earning capacity” was first adopted under the War Risk Insurance Act of 1917, and except for a short-lived alteration between 1924 and 1933 attempting to reflect individual occupational factors, this philosophy has formed the basis for determining levels of veterans’ disability compensation for almost a century; and

WHEREAS, the current VASRD has been updated, revised and modified numerous times since 1945 to reflect advances in medical knowledge, diagnosis, treatment and technology for injuries, illnesses and disabilities related to military service, but the standard of “average impairments of earnings capacity” has remained unchanged due to its practicality, equity and fairness to disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, determining rating levels based on the “average impairments of earning capacity” ensures that veterans who have similar manifestations of the same disabilities are treated equally and fairly without consideration of their age, education, work experience or current work status; and

WHEREAS, by basing the VASRD on the “average impairments of earnings capacity,” rather than on individual measurements of earnings loss or functionality, disabled veterans are actually encouraged to seek vocational rehabilitation training in order to find jobs and become more productive wage earners without fear of being penalized for doing so; and

WHEREAS, VA is currently updating the entire VASRD and has committed to update each body of the section of the VASRD every five years, and throughout this process numerous proposals have been and will be considered to alter the VASRD; and

WHEREAS, any attempt to replace “average impairment of earnings capacity” with a new standard based on individual earnings loss or measurements of functionality would dramatically alter the purpose and effectiveness of the VA disability compensation program; create disincentives for veterans interested in rehabilitation and work, and lead to reductions in compensation for millions of disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS any attempt to eliminate all consideration of impairments and impacts outside of the workplace fails to properly recognize that disability affects a veteran’s entire life—including social, marital, familial, emotional and spiritual aspects—all of which have some effect on their “earnings capacity;” and

WHEREAS, any attempt to model the VA disability compensation program on the Social Security Disability Insurance or workers’ compensation programs fails to recognize that those programs have separate purposes based on injuries and illnesses incurred in the civilian workplace, that do not compare with the unique challenges faced and sacrifices made by the men and women who serve and have served in our Armed Forces; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, opposes any attempt to change or modify the VASRD, or the statute and regulations underlying it, which would change the longstanding, accepted and successful policy that ratings shall be based, as far as practicable, upon the average impairments of earning capacity.”

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 083**  
**OPPOSE ANY CHANGE THAT WOULD REDEFINE**  
**SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY OR RESTRICT THE CONDITIONS**  
**OR CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH IT MAY BE ESTABLISHED**

WHEREAS, current law authorizes service connection for disabilities incurred or aggravated during service in the United States Armed Forces in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, various proposals have been made to limit service connection to disabilities caused directly by the performance of duty; and

WHEREAS, disability incurred in the line of duty is sometimes not directly due to a job injury but may be due to less obvious factors attributable to the Armed Forces environment; and

WHEREAS, proof of a causal relationship may often be difficult or impossible notwithstanding an inability to disassociate the disability from service-related factors; and

WHEREAS, current law equitably alleviates the onerous burden of establishing performance of duty or other causal connection as a prerequisite for service connection; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, opposes changes in current law so as to redefine and restrict the conditions under which service connection may be established.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 084**  
**PROVIDE FOR A COMPENSABLE RATING FOR HEARING-IMPAIRED**  
**VETERANS REQUIRED TO USE HEARING AIDS**

WHEREAS, a significantly high number of veterans with hearing impairments have a zero percent or non-compensable rating for high frequency hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, most veterans who have such a rating with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) experience significant difficulties with such hearing loss in ordinary daily living; and

WHEREAS, the current edition of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities provides a compensable rating of 10 percent for other minor disabilities such as a partial loss of one finger, mild skin conditions, tender scars and, in some cases, for the residuals of an episiotomy scar; and

WHEREAS, the VA should recognize those veterans who are impacted by high frequency hearing loss; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports VA granting veterans with high frequency hearing loss a compensable rating (10 percent) when it has been medically determined that the veteran requires and has been issued a hearing amplification device.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 085**  
**CONSIDER TREATMENT FOR A PRESUMPTIVE**  
**SERVICE-CONNECTED CONDITION AS A CLAIM FOR**  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMPENSATION**

WHEREAS, many service members have suffered from diseases that are recognized to be presumptive; and

WHEREAS, veterans suffering from diseases which include many types of cancer, as well as diabetes and other chronic diseases may not be aware that they may be eligible for service connection, even if they are being treated in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facility; and

WHEREAS, many VA medical facilities are not currently staffed or equipped to provide appropriate counseling to veterans or their families on how to file a claim for service-connected benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges Congress to enact legislation requiring that treatment by the VA for a condition or disease recognized as presumptively service-connected will be considered to be an informal claim for service connection for compensation purposes.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 086**  
**COMPENSATE PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS**  
**SUFFERING FROM ILLNESSES CIRCUMSTANTIALLY**  
**LINKED TO THEIR SERVICE IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR**

WHEREAS, DAV has a significant concern regarding the multitude of ailments reported by a growing number of Persian Gulf War veterans who were exposed to both identified and unknown health hazards; and

WHEREAS, Persian Gulf War veterans were exposed to numerous and various environmental health hazards, including smoke from oil field fires and other petroleum agents, depleted uranium, chemical and biological elements, desert parasites, vaccines, chemoprophylactic agents, and vehicle paints; and

WHEREAS, primary investigations and multifarious studies have thus far failed to identify the source or sources of these ailments; and

WHEREAS, the scientific/medical community's inability to identify the source(s) and pathological nature of the disease has caused considerable anxiety for these veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be a commonality of ailments plaguing Persian Gulf War veterans; and

WHEREAS, these ailments have been unofficially labeled "Persian Gulf Syndrome," "Multiple Chemical Sensitivity," and "Chronic Fatigue Syndrome"; and

WHEREAS, these brave veterans suffering from these unknown ailments are often prevented from providing for their own basic needs and for the needs of their families; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, vigorously supports the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) expeditious handling of Persian Gulf War veterans' claims and the payment of fair and just compensation for those diagnosed and undiagnosed conditions associated with their service in the Persian Gulf theater or related exposure to certain chemical, biological, and environmental toxins; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we strongly urge that these Persian Gulf War veterans continue to receive priority medical treatment for those ailments that may be associated with their service in the Persian Gulf; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we vehemently urge VA, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Health and Human Services to continue to cooperate in tests and studies to unlock the mysteries surrounding the ailments suffered by Persian Gulf War veterans, including the possibility of exposure to chemical agents by United States military personnel.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 087**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT**  
**OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO CONSIDER PRIVATE MEDICAL EVIDENCE**  
**SUPPLIED BY A LICENSED PRIVATE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER**

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, section 5125, Acceptance of Reports of Private Physician Examinations, authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to accept private reports in the adjudication of claims for disability benefits; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Health Administration personnel, to include nurse practitioners and physician assistants, of similar or equal backgrounds of their private counterparts are authorized to complete such medical reports for VA adjudication purposes; and

WHEREAS, submission of such private medical records by a claimant, if otherwise adequate for rating purposes, provides claimants with an alternate means to procure evidence in support of their claim, rather than being required to attend a mandatory Compensation and Pension examination; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, seeks the enactment of legislation that would require VA to consider private medical evidence supplied by a licensed private health care provider to include, but not limited to, nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 088**

**OPPOSE LUMP-SUM PAYMENTS FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES**

WHEREAS, disability compensation is paid monthly to an eligible veteran on account of and at a rate commensurate with diminished earning capacity resulting from the effects of service-connected disease or injury; and

WHEREAS, such compensation, by design, continues to provide relief from the service-connected disability for as long as the veteran continues to suffer its effects at a compensable level; and

WHEREAS, by law, the rate of compensation is determined by the level of disability present, thereby requiring reevaluation of the disability upon a change in its degree; and

WHEREAS, various entities have suggested lump-sum payments as a way for the government to avoid the administrative costs of reevaluating service-connected disabilities and as a way to avoid future liabilities to service-connected disabled veterans when their disabilities worsen or cause secondary disabilities; and

WHEREAS, such lump-sum payments would not, on the whole, be in the best interests of disabled veterans but would be for government savings and convenience; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, opposes any change in law to provide for lump-sum payments of Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 089**

**SUPPORT LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE CONNECTION FOR ALL RADIOGENIC DISEASES**

WHEREAS, members of the United States Armed Services have participated in test detonation of nuclear devices and served in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan, following the detonation of nuclear bombs, including “cleanup” operations at test sites; and

WHEREAS, the United States government knew or should have known of the potential harm to the health and well-being of these military members; and

WHEREAS, atomic veterans served their country with honor, courage, and devotion to duty; and

WHEREAS, remedial legislation passed by Congress in 1984 has not been effective in ensuring that all atomic veterans are compensated for their radiogenic diseases; and

WHEREAS, by the Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA’s) own admission, approximately 50 claimants have obtained disability compensation or dependency and indemnity compensation pursuant to Public Law 98542, the Veterans’ Dioxin and Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act; and

WHEREAS, the government has spent tens of millions of dollars to provide dose reconstruction estimates which do not accurately reflect actual radiation dose exposure; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to provide presumptive service connection to atomic veterans for all recognized radiogenic diseases; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all veterans involved in “clean-up” operations following the detonation of nuclear devices should be considered atomic veterans for all benefits and services provided by VA.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 090**

**OPPOSE THE IMPOSITION OF TIME LIMITS FOR FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS**

WHEREAS, veterans suffer lifelong impairments from disabilities incurred in connection with military service; and

WHEREAS, compensation is a benefit available to service-connected veterans at any time they choose to claim it; and

WHEREAS, veterans who, for whatever reason, do not initially desire to claim and receive compensation should not forfeit the right to claim and receive it at some later time; and

WHEREAS, no reason other than defeating delayed claims exists for imposition of a statute of limitations on compensation claims; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans’ Claims Adjudication Commission, created by Congress to study the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims processing system, suggested a time limit for filing compensation claims as a way to reduce VA’s workload; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, opposes any change in law to limit the time for filing compensation claims.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 091**  
**SUPPORT MEANINGFUL REFORM IN THE VETERANS BENEFITS**  
**ADMINISTRATION'S DISABILITY CLAIMS PROCESS**

WHEREAS, Congress has created a system for the administration of veterans' benefits and services, and the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is responsible for processing veterans claims for these benefits and services; and

WHEREAS, the number of claims filed each year is growing, the complexity of claims filed is increasing, the backlog of claims pending is too large, and the accuracy of claims decisions remains too low; and

WHEREAS, VBA's leadership in 2010 determined that it would be necessary to completely and comprehensively rebuild and modernize its claims infrastructure and processes, and established the goal of zero claims pending more than 125 days, and all claims completed to a 98 percent degree of accuracy standard; and

WHEREAS, VBA has reached out to veterans service organizations accredited to represent veterans in the claims process for assistance in reforming its claims processing system, particularly DAV because of our experience and success in representing more than 250,000 veterans each year, and

WHEREAS, VBA has redesigned its personnel training programs, created new quality review teams, developed new employee testing regimes and continuing to review its employee performance standards and overall accountability programs; and

WHEREAS, VBA developed a new Transformation Organizational Model (TOM) that reorganized its claims processing work management system by dividing incoming claims along three tracks based on the complexity of claims; and

WHEREAS, VBA has developed and deployed to all of its regional offices a new IT system for processing claims, the Veterans Benefits Management System (VMBS), which uses electronic files, computer automation and intelligent processing technologies; and

WHEREAS, VBA has made measurable progress reducing the number claims in the "backlog", those pending more than 125 days, which dropped by more than 50% from 611,000 in March 2013 to about 265,000 in August 2014, while also increasing accuracy, which has risen from 90% in January 2013 to 96% in August 2014; and

WHEREAS, there remains much work to be completed and challenges to overcome before it is certain that VBA's current transformation efforts will be fully successful, but there is no rational alternative to supporting VBA in completing its transformation work; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, calls on Congress and VBA to support completion of the current transformation plan, continue closely monitoring and overseeing its progress, and continue to look for opportunities to refine and improve the claims processing system; AND

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation and other policies that will strengthen training, testing and quality control, as well as accountability measures to ensure that VBA leaders and employees develop a corporate culture focused on getting each claim decided right the first time; AND

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to give due deference to private medical evidence that is competent, credible, probative, and otherwise adequate for rating purposes, as well as legislation and policies that encourage the use of private medical evidence, including allowing private physicians to have access to all Disability Benefit Questionnaires (DBQs); AND

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress to faithfully implement sections 504 and 505 of Public Law 112154 in order to protect veterans' due-process rights during the claims process; AND

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress and VBA ensure that all proposals to streamline and automate the claims development and rating process fully protect veterans rights and that automated rating processes, such as simplified notification letters, provide sufficient and specific information to inform veterans and their advocates about the reasons and bases for rating decisions, AND

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress and VBA to ensure that sufficient funding is provided to complete the development and implementation of the VBMS, as well as the digital conversion of paper claims files.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 206**  
**AMEND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SCHEDULE**  
**FOR RATING DISABILITIES FOR MENTAL DISORDERS**

WHEREAS, under title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, section 4.130, the criteria for evaluating mental disorders is very ambiguous; and

WHEREAS, schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, delirium, dementia, and amnesic and other cognitive disorders, anxiety disorders, dissociative disorders, somatoform disorders, mood disorders, and chronic adjustment disorders, are all evaluated using the same general rating formula for mental disorders; and

WHEREAS, the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders specifically lists different symptoms for post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia, and other psychiatric disorders; and

WHEREAS, one veteran service-connected for schizophrenia and another veteran service-connected for another psychiatric disorder should not be evaluated using the same general formula; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports amendment of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, section 4.130 to formulate different criteria to evaluate the various mental disorders under the appropriate psychiatric disorder.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 207**  
**SUPPORT ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR ALL DEPARTMENT**  
**OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES**

WHEREAS, DAV believes that wounded, injured and ill veterans, through their extraordinary sacrifices and service, earned the right to health care, benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, this nation's first concern should be to fulfill its obligation to those who served in the military services in defense of this country; and

WHEREAS, DAV worked for more than two decades to reform the budget process in order to assure sufficient, timely, and predictable funding for VA health care programs; and

WHEREAS, DAV developed and supported new legislation to assure sufficient, timely and predictable funding for VA health care through the technique of advance appropriations, as well as through new transparency and accountability requirements covering VA health care budget requests; and

WHEREAS, spurred by DAV, Congress enacted Public Law 11181, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009, a law that requires advance appropriations for VA's three medical care accounts that fund VA's health care programs, which account for approximately 86 percent of VA's total discretionary funding; and

WHEREAS, VA's leadership, employees, and veterans served by VA health care facilities have universally reported that advance appropriations have allowed VA to more efficiently and effectively deliver timely, quality health care to enrolled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the remaining 14 percent of VA's discretionary budget, which includes information technology (IT), medical and prosthetic research, construction and general operating expenses—primarily the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)—could benefit from the timeliness and predictability offered by advance appropriations, particularly when there are budget stalemates, continuing resolutions and sequestration; and

WHEREAS, extending advance appropriations to all of VA's remaining discretionary accounts would promote a more efficient and integrated budget and appropriations process for VA; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to authorize advance appropriations for all of VA's discretionary and mandatory budget, which would extend advance appropriations to include information technology (IT), medical and prosthetic research, major construction, minor construction, state home construction, state cemetery construction grants, general operating expenses (VBA and general administration), the national cemetery administration, the office of inspector general, disability compensation, DIC, GI Bill payments and all other mandatory benefits.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 208**  
**INCREASE THE FACE VALUE OF**  
**SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE**

WHEREAS, certain veterans are eligible for National Service Life Insurance under section 1922, title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, honorably discharged veterans released from active military duty on or after April 25, 1951, found by the Department of Veterans Affairs to be suffering from a disability or disabilities for which a compensable evaluation would be payable, shall, upon application, be granted insurance by the United States Government under section 1922(a), title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, this insurance is nonparticipating with no dividends payable; and

WHEREAS, many of these veterans are uninsurable by private insurance companies as a result of their service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, inflation has rapidly increased and diminished the value of the insurance since the maximum was set at \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, section 401 of Public Law 111275, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2010, increases Supplemental Service Disabled Veterans Insurance (SDVI) for totally disabled veterans from \$20,000 to \$30,000, effective October 1, 2011, but does not increase SDVI coverage for other service-connected disabled veterans with lower disability ratings; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports amendment of section 1922(a), title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum amount of insurance coverage available under SDVI.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 209**  
**INCREASE THE GRANT FOR AUTOMOBILES OR OTHER**  
**CONVEYANCES AVAILABLE TO CERTAIN DISABLED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a grant to assist eligible disabled veterans and service members in purchasing specially equipped automobiles or other conveyances; and

WHEREAS, when originally established, the amount of the grant was set at an amount sufficient to cover the full cost of lower-priced automobiles; and

WHEREAS, later amendments established grants in amounts representing 80 percent of the average cost of automobiles; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the automobile allowance has not been adjusted regularly concurrent with increases in the costs of automobiles, resulting in substantial erosion of the value of the benefit due to inflation; and

WHEREAS, the current grant represents about 66 percent of the total average cost of automobiles based on most current available pricing; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to increase the automobile grant to an amount representing 80 percent of the average cost of new automobiles.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 210**  
**AMEND PROVISIONS REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR AUTOMOBILE ADAPTIVE**  
**EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE ANY VETERAN WHOSE SERVICE-CONNECTED**  
**DISABILITY INHIBITS THE ABILITY TO SAFELY OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE**

WHEREAS, section 3902, title 38, United States Code, and section 17.119(a), title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, restrict the eligibility for adaptive equipment to those veterans who qualify for the automobile grant as specified in section 3901, title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, not all veterans whose service-connected disabilities prohibit the safe operation of a motor vehicle meet the requirements of section 3901, title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, these service-connected disabled veterans should be provided the adaptive equipment necessary to safely operate a motor vehicle; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports the enactment of legislation that would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing the adaptive equipment deemed necessary to any veteran whose service-connected disability interferes with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 211  
PROVIDE AN OPEN PERIOD TO APPLY FOR  
SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE**

WHEREAS, service-connected disabled veterans are entitled to apply for Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (SDVI) within two years from the date the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) grants service connection for any disability; and

WHEREAS, many eligible veterans, due to financial difficulties and problems associated with readjustment to civilian life, did not apply for this insurance within the two-year eligibility period; and

WHEREAS, many of these service-connected disabled veterans are now prepared and can afford to purchase this insurance but are not able to purchase comparable insurance coverage in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, precedent has been established to extend previously closed "eligibility periods" for certain other VA benefits and services, including insurance; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, seeks the enactment of legislation that would authorize an "open period" for eligible service-connected disabled veterans to apply for coverage under the SDVI Program.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 212  
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REDUCE PREMIUMS FOR SERVICE-DISABLED  
VETERANS' INSURANCE CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT LIFE EXPECTANCY**

WHEREAS, the United States Government provides life insurance to service members because the increased hazards of military service make them an unacceptable risk for the commercial insurance market; and

WHEREAS, coverage for service members may be continued after service under policies issued or programs overseen by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the extra-hazard costs of insuring veterans in poorer health by reason of service-connected disabilities should be borne by the government; and

WHEREAS, Congress created the Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (SDVI) program in 1951 by Public Law 8223, the Insurance Act of 1951, to provide life insurance to service-connected disabled veterans at standard rates; and

WHEREAS, under Public Law 8223, SDVI premiums are based on rates a healthy individual would have been charged when the program was established in 1951, in accordance with 1941 mortality tables as prescribed by section 1922, title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, because life expectancy has improved since the inception of the SDVI program, premiums based on the higher mortality rates of 1941 no longer fulfill congressional intent to provide life insurance to service-connected disabled veterans at standard rates; and

WHEREAS, because service-connected disabled veterans are paying premiums higher than today's standard rates, they are, in effect, subsidizing their own service-connected disabilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to amend section 1922 of title 38, United States Code, to provide that SDVI premiums will be based on current mortality tables.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 213  
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR WAIVER OF PREMIUMS  
FOR SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE**

WHEREAS, section 1922A(a), title 38, United States Code, provides for supplemental Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (SDVI) for totally disabled veterans, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000; and

WHEREAS, section 1922A(d), title 38, United States Code, provides that, "no waiver of premiums shall be made in the case of any person for supplemental insurance granted under this section;" and

WHEREAS, such prohibition of premium waiver is based on the Servicemen's Indemnity Act of 1951, which states in part, "[t]he amount of insurance placed in force hereunder...at the time of the insured's application for waiver hereunder, may not exceed \$10,000" (section 1912(d), title 38, United States Code); and

WHEREAS, such denial of waiver on supplemental Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance for totally disabled veterans constitutes an inequity based on prior established standards; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to allow for the waiver of premiums, for any and all Supplemental SDVI for totally disabled veterans that may be authorized by existing and future legislation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the criteria for total disability waiver of premiums, as mandated in section 1912 of title 38, United States Code, be maintained.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 214**  
**SUPPORT MEANINGFUL ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES, BUT WITH DUE PROCESS, FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

WHEREAS, in order to assure that veterans receive the benefits and services they have earned, every VA employee, manager and leader must faithfully fulfill their duties and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, when Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employees fail veterans due to poor performance or misconduct, these individuals must be held accountable for such failures; and

WHEREAS, accountability constitutes a range of actions, including remedial training, demotion, suspension, and when justified, termination; and

WHEREAS, VA's long-term future must foster an environment in which the best and brightest individuals choose VA employment over other federal or private employers; and

WHEREAS, poor performance and misconduct cannot be tolerated, but all VA employees must be confident that fairness and due process govern selection, promotion, demotion, sanction or termination; and

WHEREAS, without such assurances of fairness and due process in the workplace, talented individuals may not entertain working in or remaining at VA; and

WHEREAS, pending legislative proposals before Congress would heighten accountability; however, any bill enacted by Congress should include standards by which accountability can be measured while ensuring due process and fairness for VA employees subject to such standards; and

WHEREAS, civil service protections enacted decades ago came about as a consequence of cronyism, politicization and ill treatment of civil servants, including terminations for almost any reason, or no reason; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that the civil service remains free of political influence is a principle that must be protected to guarantee that VA employees are neither appointed, demoted nor terminated for political or personal reasons; and

WHEREAS, sanctions against VA employees based on performance must be made only if measurable performance standards have been clearly communicated but still violated; and

WHEREAS, VA managers must be empowered to use existing policies in a timely manner to sanction employees who fail to meet their documented performance standards; and

WHEREAS, applying sanctions exclusively to VA employees in the wake of a scandal is in contravention of civil service rules that regulate the entire federal workforce; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DAV in National Convention, assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, insists any legislation changing the existing employment protections in VA must strike a balance between holding civil servants accountable for their performance, while maintaining VA as an employer of choice for the best and brightest.

\* \* \*

COMMANDER HOPE: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 3.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 3.

MR. MILTON BATSON: California, Chapter 45, Milt Batson, Adjutant, I move that it be approved and seconded. Pardon me.

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you. In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish read? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; all opposed. So ordered.

National Adjutant Burgess, do you have any announcements?

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Thank you, Commander. I do have a few. Join us for fun night this evening at 8:00 p.m. We'll be treated to the Lieutenant Dan Band. (Applause) I hear you. This year's concert is sponsored by our good friends at TriWest who have generously donated to bring Gary and the team back to Denver to perform.

Our next business session will begin Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m. We will start off with Committee reports, including the final report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

We will hear reports on the Charitable Service Trust, the National Service Foundation, and an update on our Memorial in Washington, D.C.

On Tuesday afternoon we will hold our final business session and conclude with nominations and elections of officers.

All day tomorrow we will be hosting some very important seminars. Noteworthy among our breakouts is the Service and Legislative Seminar in which we will welcome Representative Jeff Miller who is the Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and VA Secretary Bob McDonald. You do not want to miss the opportunity to see this discussion. They will be here at 9:30 a.m.

In the afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. we will have the Women Veterans Seminar and provide some very important resources you can take back home that will equip you to continue the fight where you live.

We are giving away \$30 gift certificates redeemable through the DAV store to five delegates attending the Convention. If I call your name and you are in the hall please see Membership Director Doug Wells up here on stage as soon as we adjourn.

And those lucky winners are Denise Williams, Port Smith Federal Chapter Number 22, the Department of Virginia; (Applause) Ron Cox, San Pedro Valley Chapter Number 26, the Department of Arizona; (Applause) Robert Green, General J. Stillwell Chapter Number 85, Department of California; (Applause) Timothy Paylow, William M. Stone Chapter Number 74, Department of North Carolina; (Applause) Harry Carroll, R.L. Ferguson Chapter Number 44, Department of Texas. (Applause) You are the lucky winners of the prize.

And, lastly, the Nominating Committee will be meeting this afternoon at 1:00 p.m. in Director's Row J, so anyone intending to run for National Office who hasn't already seen the Nominating Committee be there today at 1:00 p.m., Director's Row J.

And with that, that's all I have, Commander.

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

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Ladies, gentlemen, comrades, let's pray. Heavenly Creator, by the light of your spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same spirit, help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER HOPE: The Convention stands in recess until 08:30 Tuesday morning.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:17 o'clock, a.m., on Sunday, August 9, 2015.)

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## Committee on Credentials

**Advisors: Wells, Douglas and Dobmeier, Michael**

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Boyd, David	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	27
	Leonard, Patrick	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
2	La Mora, Edward	Delegate	NEW YORK	38
	Sawin, Elizabeth	Alternate	NEW YORK	120
3	Wiggin, Davide	Delegate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5
	De Blois, Bernice	Alternate	MAINE	6
4	Opatovsky, John	Delegate	NEW JERSEY	32
	Whitfield, Mabel	Alternate	NEW JERSEY	4
5	Countryman, Raymond	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	14
	Morelli, Richard	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	11
6	Brown, Betty	Delegate	MARYLAND	4
	Madison, Cynthia	Alternate	VIRGINIA	27
7	Ayala, Thomas	Delegate	FLORIDA	1
	Coats, Doris	Alternate	FLORIDA	7
8	Baldwin, Henrietta	Delegate	TENNESSEE	70
	Johnston, Rebecca	Alternate	TENNESSEE	22
9	Pagan, Danny	Delegate	GEORGIA	90
	Smith, Jeffrey	Alternate	GEORGIA	55
10	Cutler, Jo Linda	Delegate	MICHIGAN	20
	Morey, Christopher	Alternate	MICHIGAN	14
11	Stith, Michael	Delegate	OHIO	35
	Hanneman, Dennis	Alternate	OHIO	77
12	Alexander, Tim	Delegate	ILLINOIS	90
	Dorman, Roger	Alternate	WISCONSIN	60
13	Browner, Alonzo	Delegate	INDIANA	3
	Fivecoate, Gerald	Alternate	INDIANA	28
14	Tobin, Warren	Delegate	NORTH DAKOTA	31
	Ascheman, Dean	Alternate	MINNESOTA	28
15	Ogle, William	Delegate	NEBRASKA	14
	Peterson, Robert	Alternate	IOWA	20
16	Plante, Joel	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	23
	O'Brien, Michael	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	85
17	Reed, Donald	Delegate	UTAH	6
	Weeg, Matthew	Alternate	UTAH	8
18	Ginnery, Kenneth	Delegate	ARIZONA	20
	Cellini, Michael	Alternate	ARIZONA	1
19	Reding, Francis	Delegate	WASHINGTON	6
	Bryant, Ronald	Alternate	WASHINGTON	23
20	Massey, Geri	Delegate	TEXAS	36
	Woodfork, Robert	Alternate	TEXAS	17
21	Halford, Jerletta	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	9
	Donovan, John	Alternate	ARKANSAS	10
99	Kaminsky, Paul	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

# Committee on General Resolutions and Membership

Advisors: Varela, Paul and Atizado, Adrian

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Gerety, Philip	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Sullivan, Mason	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	30
2	Morales, Paul	Delegate	NEW YORK	28
	Noble, Albert	Alternate	NEW YORK	92
3	Stover, Douglas	Alternate	MAINE	6
4	Werlich, Ronald	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	47
	Werschmann, Herman	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
5	Stopyra, Gary	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	111
	Freeman, Larry	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	78
6	Simmons, John	Delegate	VIRGINIA	22
	Daughtry, Phyllis	Alternate	MARYLAND	33
7	Rickman, Leroy	Delegate	FLORIDA	1
	D'Angelo, Lawrence	Alternate	FLORIDA	94
8	Cobb, Gary	Delegate	ALABAMA	98
	Blanchard, Shane	Alternate	LOUISIANA	21
9	Robinson, William	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	1
10	Dempster, Thomas	Delegate	MICHIGAN	114
	Stranyak, Alan	Alternate	MICHIGAN	114
11	Weeks, David	Delegate	OHIO	9
	Alexander, Phillip	Alternate	OHIO	15
12	Weber, Thomas	Delegate	WISCONSIN	17
	Peters, Edward	Alternate	ILLINOIS	34
13	Vaccari, Richard	Delegate	KENTUCKY	89
	Hall, George	Alternate	KENTUCKY	169
14	Vandrovec, Michael	Delegate	NORTH DAKOTA	1
	Muilenburg, Harold	Alternate	SOUTH DAKOTA	11
15	Carr, Ronald	Delegate	MISSOURI	11
	Belgum, Vicki	Alternate	NEBRASKA	8
16	Raba, Mariana	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	6
	Bilyeu, Bobby	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	93
17	Gonzales, Benito	Delegate	COLORADO	7
	Bilodeau, Joseph	Alternate	COLORADO	26
18	Walker, Richard	Delegate	NEVADA	12
	Hill, David	Alternate	NEVADA	13
19	Walker, Darrell	Delegate	ALASKA	2
	Gray, Oval	Alternate	WASHINGTON	29
20	Gonzalez-Belen, Victor	Delegate	TEXAS	114
	Higginbotham, Walter	Alternate	TEXAS	17
21	Vance, Craig	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	66
	Testone, Daryl	Alternate	ARKANSAS	7
99	Hogan, James	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

# Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights

Advisors: Ilem, Joy and Love, Shurhonda

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Vicini, William	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	6
	Earley, Brian	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	6
2	Gibney, William	Delegate	NEW YORK	38
	DeLeon, Elizabeth	Alternate	NEW YORK	126
3	Laverdiere, James	Delegate	MAINE	1
	Howe, Timothy	Alternate	RHODE ISLAND	9
4	Walsh, Elizabeth	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	15
	Rivard, Mark	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	17
5	Cudworth, Robert	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	1
	Homme, Franklin	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	7
6	Barkley, Kimberly	Delegate	VIRGINIA	27
	Whitfield, Mattie	Alternate	MARYLAND	33
7	Marshall, Andy	Delegate	FLORIDA	4
	Reed, Brenda	Alternate	FLORIDA	4
8	Humphries, Gerald	Delegate	MISSISSIPPI	11
	Fletcher, Clyde	Alternate	LOUISIANA	20
9	DiGloria, Richard	Delegate	GEORGIA	1
	Rustin-Jones, Linda	Alternate	GEORGIA	55
10	Dempsey, James	Delegate	MICHIGAN	13
	Reeves, Edward	Alternate	MICHIGAN	130
11	Parker, John	Delegate	OHIO	35
	Hopkins, Barry	Alternate	OHIO	40
12	Aaron, Mark	Delegate	ILLINOIS	1
	Labelle, Al	Alternate	WISCONSIN	57
13	Peek, Donald	Delegate	INDIANA	52
	Purcell, Ralph	Alternate	INDIANA	3
14	Van Emmerik, Eric	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
	Rice, Joseph	Alternate	SOUTH DAKOTA	3
15	Bergquist, Franklin	Delegate	KANSAS	4
	Iglio, Charles	Alternate	MISSOURI	11
16	Valdez, Richard	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	12
	Villanueva, Jeremy	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	20
17	Snavelly, Dale	Delegate	COLORADO	21
	Turks, Garry	Alternate	COLORADO	11
18	Dolan, Bill	Delegate	NEVADA	15
	Rondini, Joshua	Alternate	NEVADA	12
19	Janus, Wanda	Delegate	OREGON	1
	Brinson, Roy	Alternate	WASHINGTON	23
20	Squyres, Robert	Delegate	TEXAS	139
	Ray, Howard	Alternate	TEXAS	128
21	Smith, Grace	Delegate	ARKANSAS	51
	Hendrick, Gary	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	9
99	O'Connell, Dennis	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

# Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

**Advisors: Barton, Bradley and Hartman, Edward**

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Patterson, William	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	45
	Dubey, Paul	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	46
2	Conklin, Richard	Delegate	NEW YORK	120
	Montes, Diane	Alternate	NEW YORK	120
3	Fournier, Richard	Delegate	MAINE	1
	Sloan, Lisa	Alternate	VERMONT	4
4	Kopley, James	Delegate	NEW JERSEY	41
	Watts, Michael	Alternate	NEW JERSEY	5
5	Smith, Catherine	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	55
	Blow, Samuel	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	15
6	Gregory, Lisa	Delegate	VIRGINIA	7
	Cabaza, Ruben	Alternate	PUERTO RICO	11
7	Grooten, William	Delegate	FLORIDA	123
	Sanders, Sheila	Alternate	FLORIDA	7
8	Sensat, Davis	Delegate	LOUISIANA	17
	Sepulvado, Irvin	Alternate	LOUISIANA	21
9	Truscello, Marian	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	51
	Tyson, Leroy	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	20
10	Hajek, Brandi	Delegate	MICHIGAN	105
	Zielke, Jason	Alternate	MICHIGAN	102
11	Bailey, James	Delegate	OHIO	117
	Bertschy, Robert	Alternate	OHIO	47
12	Arens, Robert	Delegate	ILLINOIS	36
	Corsello, S.	Alternate	ILLINOIS	86
13	Mulcahy, Leslie	Delegate	KENTUCKY	1
	Hartman, Edward	Alternate	KENTUCKY	19
14	Grantier, Kevin	Delegate	MONTANA	3
	Kosola, Joshua	Alternate	SOUTH DAKOTA	3
15	Gile, Kenneth	Delegate	KANSAS	4
	McDonald, Paul	Alternate	MISSOURI	2
16	Wilson, Gerald	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	154
	Wendel, Thomas	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	5
17	Grieb, Andrew	Delegate	COLORADO	21
	Hogue, Richard	Alternate	COLORADO	21
18	Lanahan, Michael	Delegate	NEVADA	13
	Hansen, John	Alternate	NEVADA	1
19	Barton, Bradley	Delegate	OREGON	1
	Knapp, Charles	Alternate	IDAHO	22
20	Lombrano, John	Delegate	TEXAS	14
	Lopez, Marcos	Alternate	TEXAS	114
21	Pandos, Ronald	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	9
	Hendrick, Gary	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	9
99	Pope, Leonard	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

## Committee on Finance

Advisors: Jesinoski, Barry and Lucas, Gary

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Fitzgerald, David	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	6
	Latham, Sheretta	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	90
2	Day, Donald	Delegate	NEW YORK	28
	Rivera, Israel	Alternate	NEW YORK	118
3	Smith, David	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	3
	Burns, Gary	Alternate	MAINE	1
4	Church, Albert	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	5
	Lardizzone, Paul	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
5	Petrovich, Samuel	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	50
6	Nichols, Wiley	Delegate	D C	3
	Aberegg, Rita	Alternate	VIRGINIA	7
7	Bristol, Fred	Delegate	FLORIDA	90
	Holloway, Harold	Alternate	FLORIDA	84
8	Patterson, Richard	Delegate	ALABAMA	45
	Davis, Carroll	Alternate	MISSISSIPPI	11
9	Roberts, Jeremy	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	16
	Davis, Jim	Alternate	NORTH CAROLINA	16
10	Peddle, Todd	Delegate	MICHIGAN	129
	Tillman, Kwan	Alternate	MICHIGAN	119
11	Davis, Will	Delegate	OHIO	144
	Uetterling, David	Alternate	OHIO	36
12	Gaulke, Thomas	Delegate	WISCONSIN	51
	Dempsey, Raymond	Alternate	ILLINOIS	42
13	Sparks, Michael	Delegate	KENTUCKY	12
	Reese, Edward	Alternate	KENTUCKY	19
14	Wilson, Ritchie	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
	Parsetich, Joseph	Alternate	MONTANA	2
15	Simmons, Thomas	Delegate	IOWA	2
	Ortiz, Linda	Alternate	KANSAS	3
16	Gardner, Connie	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	85
	Bogan, James	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	85
17	Prescott, Gary	Delegate	NEW MEXICO	5
	Weber, Eugene	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	6
18	Burks, William	Delegate	ARIZONA	2
	Smith, Aunjel	Alternate	ARIZONA	20
19	Gavin, JoAnn	Delegate	WASHINGTON	5
	Middleton, Bill	Alternate	WASHINGTON	2
20	Carroll, Harry	Delegate	TEXAS	44
	Foxx, Janie	Alternate	TEXAS	128
21	Eller, Jeffery	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	7
	White, Fred	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	7

# Committee on Employment

Advisor: Samuels, Donald and Hall, Jeff

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Olson, Debora	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	85
	Zilka, Michael	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
2	Lee, Tony	Delegate	NEW YORK	126
	Bueno, Eduard	Alternate	NEW YORK	126
3	Zibrida, Michael	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	21
	Andrade, Kenneth	Alternate	RHODE ISLAND	21
4	Roberts, Christopher	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	15
	Mulligan, Gerard	Alternate	NEW JERSEY	24
5	Simpson, Walter	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	75
	McElroy, William	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	15
6	Marquez, Idalis	Delegate	PUERTO RICO	16
	Miller, Nachee	Alternate	D.C.	3
7	Anderson, Robert	Delegate	FLORIDA	4
	Cleghorn, Robert	Alternate	FLORIDA	11
8	Richmond, Charles	Delegate	ALABAMA	28
	Gary, Edward	Alternate	LOUISIANA	17
9	Brown, Clarence	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	44
	Fulmer, Boyd	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	51
10	Pruitt, Steven	Delegate	MICHIGAN	2
	McClellan, Robert	Alternate	MICHIGAN	129
11	Marcum, Kenneth	Delegate	OHIO	89
	Plahovinsak, John	Alternate	OHIO	63
12	Propst, Gerald	Delegate	ILLINOIS	47
	Schuenke, Michael	Alternate	WISCONSIN	3
13	Bunting, Randy	Delegate	KENTUCKY	89
	Hall, Jeffrey	Alternate	KENTUCKY	19
14	Parr, Helen	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
	Killinger, Becky	Alternate	MINNESOTA	39
15	Franklin, Roger	Delegate	NEBRASKA	2
	Thornburg, Audie	Alternate	IOWA	20
16	Torres, James	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	23
	Evans, Hoy	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	21
17	Schow, Terry	Delegate	UTAH	4
	Schievelbein, Michael	Alternate	COLORADO	7
18	Lemons, Richard	Delegate	ARIZONA	2
	Slade, Carey	Alternate	ARIZONA	8
19	Young, Bruce	Delegate	OREGON	1
	Kotanchick, Gregory	Alternate	WASHINGTON	23
20	Mosley, Stacy	Delegate	TEXAS	57
	Morales, Rafael	Alternate	TEXAS	5
21	Donovan, John	Delegate	ARKANSAS	10
	Edwards-Luckey, LaShaun	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	7

# Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services

Advisor: Baumann, William and Kleindienst, John

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Hoey, William	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	10
	Flynn, Edward	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
2	Robinson, Keith	Delegate	NEW YORK	15
	McGowan, Timothy	Alternate	NEW YORK	120
3	Nicodemus, Robert	Delegate	VERMONT	3
	Kanelos, George	Alternate	MAINE	19
4	Mrosz, John	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	52
	Overton, Alvin	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	19
5	Homme, Franklin	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	7
	Kauffman, Joseph	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	25
6	Eaves, Georgia	Delegate	D.C.	14
	Rosa, Rafael	Alternate	PUERTO RICO	7
7	Keckler, Mary Ann	Delegate	FLORIDA	110
	Williamson, Dan	Alternate	FLORIDA	16
8	Boulton, Jane	Delegate	TENNESSEE	28
	Waugh, Charles	Alternate	ALABAMA	66
9	Booker, Leon	Delegate	GEORGIA	1
	Jimmerson, Burl	Alternate	GEORGIA	33
10	Hughes, Albert	Delegate	MICHIGAN	1
	Lee, Rolly	Alternate	MICHIGAN	129
11	May, David	Delegate	OHIO	38
	Hutchinson, Raymond	Alternate	OHIO	63
12	Shier, Leonard	Delegate	WISCONSIN	52
	Couture, Kenneth	Alternate	ILLINOIS	42
13	Baker, Jerome	Delegate	INDIANA	3
	Johnson, Penny	Alternate	INDIANA	52
14	Vareberg, David	Delegate	NORTH DAKOTA	24
	Herrud, Matthew	Alternate	NORTH DAKOTA	1
15	Wallace, Rick	Delegate	MISSOURI	11
	Bjork, Nancy	Alternate	NEBRASKA	2
16	Johnson, Kirk	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	85
	Hendrix, Patricia	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	52
17	Francis, Cynthia	Delegate	COLORADO	11
	Sandoval, Donaciano	Alternate	COLORADO	2
18	Richardson, Joe	Delegate	NEVADA	12
	Baumann, William	Alternate	NEVADA	12
19	Cousino, Thomas	Delegate	OREGON	1
	Mims, Linda	Alternate	IDAHO	22
20	Owens, Albert	Delegate	TEXAS	5
	Archer, Tommy	Alternate	TEXAS	89
21	Griffin-Woods, Sonya	Delegate	ARKANSAS	7
	Scott, James	Alternate	ARKANSAS	46

## Committee on Nomination of National Officers

Advisor: Murphy, Gene and Marbes, Richard

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Stack, Daniel	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Bowers, Alan	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	46
2	Sioss, Donald	Delegate	NEW YORK	108
	Brittain, Howard	Alternate	NEW YORK	135
3	Jernigan, Shawn	Delegate	MAINE	6
	Reilly, Ron	Alternate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	4
4	Pescatore, Richard	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	5
	Cherepon, Michael	Alternate	NEW JERSEY	52
5	Hassingier, Jason	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	14
	Bonner, Sheamus	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	25
6	Patterson, John	Delegate	MARYLAND	36
	Cooper, Stephanie	Alternate	D.C.	3
7	Linden, Albert	Delegate	FLORIDA	90
	Wolfe, Kenneth	Alternate	FLORIDA	101
8	Wenthe, Kevin	Delegate	LOUISIANA	20
	Kalk, Edward	Alternate	LOUISIANA	20
9	Tucker, Rodney	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	39
	Keesee, Gregory	Alternate	NORTH CAROLINA	45
10	Gonzales, Beth	Delegate	MICHIGAN	102
	Bolyard, Jean	Alternate	MICHIGAN	4
11	Lenhart, Joseph	Delegate	OHIO	73
	Gerhart, Andrew	Alternate	OHIO	35
12	Reynolds, Alfred	Delegate	ILLINOIS	17
	Polk, John	Alternate	WISCONSIN	19
13	Ewing, Lee	Delegate	KENTUCKY	89
	Sanders, Terry	Alternate	INDIANA	2
14	Murphy, Eugene	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
	Litzinger, Joseph	Alternate	NORTH DAKOTA	2
15	Thornburg, David	Delegate	IOWA	20
	Brader, David	Alternate	KANSAS	5
16	Powers, Frederick	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	20
	Vandiver, Edward	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	6
17	Maughan, Frank	Delegate	UTAH	4
	Timmerman, Timothy	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	9
18	Cox, Ronald	Delegate	ARIZONA	26
	Jackson, Eric	Alternate	ARIZONA	2
19	Beale, Pamela	Delegate	ALASKA	7
	Stewart, Douglas	Alternate	IDAHO	6
20	Spence, Percy	Delegate	TEXAS	17
	Paquette, Roland	Alternate	TEXAS	20
21	Stake, Charles	Delegate	ARKANSAS	57
	Williams, Cecil	Alternate	ARKANSAS	7
99	Lester, Ronnie	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

## Columbia Trust Advisory Board

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Hogan, John	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
2	Sioss, Donald	Delegate	NEW YORK	108
	Day, Donald	Alternate	NEW YORK	28
3	Reilly, Ron	Delegate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	4
4	Kopley, James	Delegate	NEW JERSEY	41
	Church, Albert	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	5
5	Smith, Catherine	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	55
6	Marquez, Idalis	Delegate	PUERTO RICO	16
	Madison, Cynthia	Alternate	VIRGINIA	27
7	Reed, Brenda	Delegate	FLORIDA	4
8	Richmond, Charles	Delegate	ALABAMA	28
	Wenthe, Kevin	Alternate	LOUISIANA	20
9	Roberts, Jeremy	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	16
	Booker, Leon	Alternate	GEORGIA	1
10	Lamphere, John	Delegate	MICHIGAN	39
	Dempster, Thomas	Alternate	MICHIGAN	114
11	Caine, William	Delegate	OHIO	116
12	Thompson, Dennis	Delegate	ILLINOIS	103
13	Coley, William	Delegate	INDIANA	72
14	Grantier, Kevin	Delegate	MONTANA	3
	Saunders, Edward	Alternate	MONTANA	10
15	Holloway, Gregory	Delegate	NEBRASKA	7
16	Steinbaugh, Michael	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	7
17	Watson, Floyd	Delegate	WYOMING	2
18	Anton, William	Delegate	NEVADA	13
19	Lyon, Fay	Delegate	WASHINGTON	46
20	Delgado, Robert	Delegate	TEXAS	233
21	Oliver, Danny	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	88

## National Executive Committee

DISTRICT	MEMBER NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
1	Stack, Daniel	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Richards, Raymond	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	6
2	Finnerty, Robert	Delegate	NEW YORK	118
	Wisnesky, Chester	Alternate	NEW YORK	182
3	Fournier, Richard	Delegate	MAINE	1
	Nicodemus, Robert	Alternate	VERMONT	3
4	Kelly, Timothy	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	19
	Kopley, James	Alternate	NEW JERSEY	41
5	Kelly, Lawrence	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	3
	Blow, Samuel	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	15
6	Harris, Bennie	Delegate	D C	3
	Marquez, Idalis	Alternate	PUERTO RICO	16
7	Tolfa, Richard	Delegate	FLORIDA	16
	Raber, John	Alternate	FLORIDA	18
8	Wenthe, Kevin	Delegate	LOUISIANA	20
	Sensat, Davis	Alternate	LOUISIANA	17
9	Bryant, Cleveland	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	1
	Tucker, David	Alternate	GEORGIA	91
10	Lee, Rolly	Delegate	MICHIGAN	129
	Pruitt, Steven	Alternate	MICHIGAN	2
11	Bertschy, Robert	Delegate	OHIO	47
	Uetterling, David	Alternate	OHIO	36
12	Helgeson, Rodney	Delegate	WISCONSIN	27
	Weber, Thomas	Alternate	WISCONSIN	17
13	Bratcher, Thomas	Delegate	INDIANA	27
	Arambula, Carlos	Alternate	INDIANA	42
14	Parsetich, Joseph	Delegate	MONTANA	2
	Grantier, Kevin	Alternate	MONTANA	3
15	Tatham, Kimberly	Delegate	MISSOURI	51
	Shuey, James	Alternate	NEBRASKA	7
16	Contreras, Daniel	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	99
	Steinbaugh, Michael	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	7
17	Maughan, Frank	Delegate	UTAH	4
	Hogue, Richard	Alternate	COLORADO	21
18	Stewart, Johnny	Delegate	ARIZONA	2
	Treadway, Johnnie	Alternate	ARIZONA	2
19	Royse, Sarah	Delegate	OREGON	5
	Dixon, Harvey	Alternate	IDAHO	22
20	Johniken, Teresa	Delegate	TEXAS	139
	Spence, Percy	Alternate	TEXAS	17
21	Stake, Charles	Delegate	ARKANSAS	57
	Smith, Grace	Alternate	ARKANSAS	51

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
SECOND BUSINESS SESSION**

**AUGUST 11, 2015**

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The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 94th National Convention convened in the Plaza Ballroom, Concourse Level, Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, Colorado, on Tuesday morning, August 11, 2015, and was called to order at 8:33 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Ronald F. Hope

COMMANDER RONALD F. HOPE: The Convention will please come to order. As a reminder to everyone, please turn off your cellular phones and portable devices. Please join me in the Pledge of the Allegiance. One.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER HOPE: Two. Chaplain Dover.

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Let us pray. Heavenly Creator, we pray for guidance in the matters at hand and ask that you would clearly show us how to conduct our work with a spirit of joy and enthusiasm. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER HOPE: I would like to remind you that in order for a delegate to be heard at this Convention you must be recognized by the Chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. Upon being so recognized the delegate must state their name, Chapter number, and the state that they represent.

I would like to call on the Credentials Committee Chairman Warren Tobin for a report—if they will let him out. Good morning, Warren.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOBIN: Comrade Commander and delegates, the Credentials Committee met this morning in the Director's Room E at the Denver Sheraton. The roll call showed 953 delegates and 30 alternates have registered, which includes 40 Departments and 374 Chapters which are registered. There are six national officers and 12 Past National Commanders currently registered for a total of 7,488 votes.

This partial report is for informational purposes only and it reflects the registration at the close of business at 4:00 o'clock p.m. on August 10th, 2015. This completes the partial report of the Credentials Committee, Commander. Thank you.

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you, Warren. Appreciate it. This is a reminder the registration will close this morning at 10:00 a.m.

I would like to call upon the Chairman Brad Barton for a final report on the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRAD BARTON: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: Comrade Commander and delegates, I will now proceed with the second reading of the proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws, which are recommended for adoption. In the interest of time, again, I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolutions.

Resolution Number 203, amend Article VIII, Section 8.4, Paragraph 2, to read as follows:

"The Financial statements as required by these Bylaws must be reviewed by a certified public accountant if the gross annual income, excluding all income from the National Organization, exceeds \$300,000 from all sources."

Resolution Number 204, amend Article X, Section 10.2, Paragraph 1, to read as follows:

"The National Organization of the DAV Auxiliary and the NOTR may each make an annual report to the DAV National Convention. A financial report, which must be reviewed by a certified public accountant, shall be filed with the National Organization within 90 days after the close of the accounting year, which shall be the membership year commencing on July 1st and ending on June 30th."

Resolution Number 205, delete Article XIV, Section 14.3, Paragraph 2, in its entirety and renumber Section 14.3, Paragraph 1 as Section 14.3.

Comrade Commander, on behalf of the Committee I move that the Committee recommendations be accepted, that the resolutions be adopted and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you, Brad. You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 2.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 3.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 2.

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

COMMANDER HOPE: You have heard the motion. I have a second. All of those in favor signify by saying aye; all opposed. So carried. Let's give the Committee a round of thanks. (Applause)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: Thank you.

COMMANDER HOPE: Thanks, Brad. I would like to call upon Chairman Terry Schow for the report on the Committee on Employment.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TERRY SCHOW: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Employment was called to order on August 8th by the Committee chair advisors Jeff Hall and Don Samuels.

The first order of business the election of a Convention Committee Chairman and Secretary. Terry Schow as elected as Chairman and Deborah Olsen was selected as Secretary. The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted and I will report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by the National Convention Committee on Employment.

For the purpose of saving time I will read only the resolution number and the resolved portion.

Number 55, provide educational benefits for dependents of service-connected veterans rated 80 percent or more disabled; Number 56, support legislation to exclude from gross income the discharge of student loan indebtedness of a veteran rated permanently and totally disabled due to service-connected disabilities;

Number 127, protect veterans from employment discrimination while seeking health care for service-connected disabilities; Number 128, support disabled-veteran-owned businesses; Number 129, support outreach and employment of women veterans;

Number 130, support veteran preference in public employment; Number 131, eliminate the 12-year rule to request VA Voc Rehab benefits under Chapter 31, leaving the date to apply for that benefit open-ended; Number 132, provide adequate funding and permanency for veterans' employment and/or training programs;

Number 133, support legislation enhancing government-wide goal for participation by small businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans; Number 134, oppose using DVOP/LVR personnel to work with or processing public assistance programs;

Number 135 increase staffing levels at the VA Voc Rehab program and Employment Service; Number 136, monitor activities of the mandatory transition GPS program; Number 137, eliminate the delimiting date for eligible spouses and surviving spouses for benefits provided under Chapter 35, Title 38, United States Code;

Number 138, support licensure and certification of active-duty service personnel; Number 183, support legislation to provide reasonable transition period for all service-disabled veteran-owned businesses to retain their federal protected status following the death of a disabled veteran;

Number 185, support fraud prevention controls over service-connected veteran-owned small business program; transfer veterans' employment and training service program to the VA—that would be from the Department of Labor;

Number 237, eliminate annual submission of veteran employment verification questionnaire by veterans in receipt of individual unemployment; Number 238, support verification improvements for veterans' businesses within the VA.

Comrade Commander, that completes the report of the Committee on Employment. On behalf of the Committee I move the adoption of these resolutions and that the Committee be discharged with the vote of thanks of the National Convention.

(The aforementioned resolutions follow:)

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 055**  
**PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS OF SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS RATED 80 PERCENT OR MORE DISABLED**

WHEREAS, Chapter 35, Title 38, United States Code, extends educational assistance to the dependents of service-connected veterans who are evaluated as permanently and totally disabled; and

WHEREAS, there are many service-connected veterans rated 80 percent and 90 percent disabled, whose dependents cannot afford to attend an institution of higher learning or pursue a vocational endeavor because of the reduced earning ability of such veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend educational assistance under Chapter 35, Title 38, United States Code, to the dependents of veterans who have a service-connected disability rating of 80 percent or more.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 056**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO EXEMPT A VETERAN RATED AS PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED DUE TO SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES FROM FEDERAL TAXES ON FORGIVENESS OF STUDENT LOAN INDEBTEDNESS**

WHEREAS, veterans rated as permanently and totally disabled due to service-connected disabilities are entitled under existing laws to have the principal of their outstanding federally insured student loans forgiven; and

WHEREAS, these veterans are not among those exempted from paying taxes on the amount of the student loan debt that is forgiven; and

WHEREAS, these disabled veterans are placed at a significant economic disadvantage based on the limitations imposed upon them by the wounds, illnesses and injuries incurred during the performance of their military duties, placing an unreasonable burden on them and their families to pay taxes on forgiven federal loans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports the enactment of legislation that would exempt from taxes the amount forgiven for federal student loans to veterans rated as permanently and totally disabled.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 127**  
**PROTECT VETERANS FROM EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION WHEN SEEKING HEALTH CARE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED CONDITIONS**

WHEREAS, Congress, through the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), provides protection from employment discrimination for persons to perform military duty; and

WHEREAS, USERRA requires employers to release employees to perform military duty; and

WHEREAS, many of the soldiers, airmen, sailors, and Marines who perform military duty sustained service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, under USERRA, employers are required to make reasonable accommodations regarding these disabilities, however, currently employers are not specifically required by law to allow veterans with service-connected disabilities to be absent from the workplace to receive treatment for these disabilities; and

WHEREAS, necessary medical care can be provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system or a private provider for service-connected veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges Congress to extend protection under USERRA to encompass treatment of service-connected disabilities at VA health care facilities or other private health care facilities.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 128**  
**SUPPORT SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES**

WHEREAS, the program of contracts for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) on a preferential basis should be of a great assistance to SDVOSBs that hire disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, we are aware of problems involving the nonpayment of contracts; and

WHEREAS, when these SDVOSBs complain about reduced payments, the threat of rejection from future contracts, and/or the threat of being put out of business; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, seeks and strongly supports the immediate payment of all completed SDVOSB contracts that are unpaid for more than one year, the expeditious payment of all unpaid completed SDVOSB contracts, and an investigation of the inappropriate tactics used against our comrades by an independent prosecutor.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 129**  
**SUPPORT OUTREACH AND EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN VETERANS**

WHEREAS, many women who have served in the military are not aware of services available to them through State Employment Security Agencies/State Workforce Agencies and are therefore less likely to obtain employment and training assistance than their male counterparts; and

WHEREAS, over the last decade there has been a definite increase in the number of women in need of employment and training services; and

WHEREAS, because of the reduction in federal programs and the reduction of jobs for women in the private sector, the number of unemployed women veterans continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, workforce trends indicate only job-ready and highly skilled women veterans are able to find career employment; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges Congress to enact legislation to establish and fund special programs and outreach to women veterans, especially service-disabled women veterans, in need of employment assistance from the nation's basic labor exchange system and training assistance through programs operated under the Workforce Investment Act; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls for additional training to be provided to service providers to address the delivery of services to and the underrepresentation of women veterans in career employment.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 130**  
**SUPPORT VETERANS' PREFERENCE IN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

WHEREAS, DAV strongly supports federal, state, and local veterans' preference laws; and

WHEREAS, under title 5, United States Code, section 2108, qualified veterans with military service in periods of conflict receive a five-point preference in federal hiring and service-disabled veterans receive a 10-point preference; and

WHEREAS, there exist numerous special hiring authorities in federal law for veterans and service-disabled veterans, including the Veterans Recruitment Appointment Authority, Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 Hiring Authority, and the 30 Percent or More Disabled Veterans Hiring Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended, requires most federal contractors to have an "affirmative action" plan for service-disabled veterans, veterans who served during periods of conflict, and recently separated veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act was enacted to protect veterans from job discrimination and ensure their right to reemployment after an absence due to service in the uniformed services, to include protection for seniority, health insurance and retirement benefits; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies generally have not taken a proactive position on identifying patterns and practices of veterans' preference employment discrimination violations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports veterans' preference in federal, state and local employment; enforcement provisions and increased accountability for veterans' hiring compliance; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports appropriate recognition and enforcement of systemic veterans' preference discrimination; broader utilization of veterans and service-disabled veterans hiring preference; and substantive improvement of recruitment and hiring of veterans generally and service-disabled veterans specifically.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 131**  
**ELIMINATE THE 12-YEAR RULE TO REQUEST DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
**AFFAIRS VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION BENEFITS UNDER CHAPTER 31,**  
**LEAVING THE DATE TO APPLY FOR THAT BENEFIT OPEN-ENDED**

WHEREAS, DAV is dedicated to one single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity; and

WHEREAS, not all disabled veterans are aware of their possible entitlements to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Vocational Rehabilitation programs at the time they are awarded service connection for disabilities; and

WHEREAS, not all awards of service connection are rated high enough to be awarded Chapter 31 benefits; and

WHEREAS, not all disabled veterans are under the impression that they need vocational rehabilitation until later, often after the current 12-year rule excludes them from the benefit they need and would otherwise have been entitled to; and

WHEREAS, the VA puts no time limit on when a veteran may claim his or her disability, the VA also does not put a time limit on requesting another service-connected benefit; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, seeks legislation to eliminate the 12-year limitation to apply for VA vocational rehabilitation, leaving a veteran's dates of entitlement open-ended.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 132**  
**PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING AND PERMANENCY FOR**  
**VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND/OR TRAINING PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, the extended economic downturn has had a greater impact on veterans generally and service-disabled veterans specifically than many other groups; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous veterans' employment and training programs reaching out to provide critical assistance but are in need of adequate staffing and funding; and

WHEREAS, these programs include the Veterans' Employment and Training Service of the Department of Labor, National Veterans Training Institute and the Small Business Administration, Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program, Local Veterans Employment Representative program, homeless assistance programs, and others; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, seeks and supports adequate funding and permanency for all veterans employment and training programs.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 133**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION ENHANCING GOVERNMENT-WIDE**  
**GOAL FOR PARTICIPATION BY SMALL BUSINESSES OWNED**  
**AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, section 502, Public Law 10650, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999, codified "the Government-wide goal for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans shall be established at not less than 3 percent of the total value of all prime contract and subcontract awards for each fiscal year;" and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization has the Center for Veterans Enterprise, which maintains VA's database of veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs) as well as serving as an advocate for VOSBs, SDVOSBs, historically underutilized business (HUB) zone businesses, and woman-owned small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the database, [www.vetbiz.gov](http://www.vetbiz.gov) vendor information pages (VIP), lists businesses that are 51 percent or more owned by veterans and is the only one within the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the VIP was originally established to act as a single-source database of certified VOSBs and SDVOSBs to supply all federal agencies and prime contractors information to assist the federal government with achieving the not less than 3 percent goal of set-aside contracts for SDVOSBs and/or contracts being awarded to SDVOSB or VOSB concerns, as mandated in Public Law 10650; and

WHEREAS, while section 8127 (f)(4), Public Law 109461, requires verification of veteran's ownership of listed SDVOSBs and VOSBs, as well as verification of the service-disabled status of SDVOSBs, the

federal agencies tasked with ensuring set-asides and timely, comprehensive verification have failed to do so; and

WHEREAS, according to the VA Office of Inspector General report, "Audit of Veteran-Owned and Service Disabled-Owned Small Business Programs," Report Number 1002436234, dated July 25, 2011, 32 of 42 statistically selected businesses that were reviewed, 76 percent were either ineligible to participate in the programs or were ineligible for the awarded contracts; and

WHEREAS, few government agencies have met much less exceeded the set-aside program goal for disabled veteran-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, based on section 1347, Public Law 111240, the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, SDVOSBs, HUB zone businesses, woman-owned small businesses and small businesses now have the same meaning, thus providing parity to each of these businesses when competing for contracts; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, calls for all government agencies to meet the set aside goal of not less than 3 percent of the total value of all prime and subcontract awards going to businesses controlled by service-disabled veterans each fiscal year; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should enact legislation requiring the federal government make set-asides mandatory rather than goals, and should require under-performing federal agencies to make up any shortfalls in the subsequent fiscal year, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should revise the enforcement penalties for misrepresentation of a business concern as a VOSB or SDVOSB from a reasonable period of time as determined by the Secretary to a period of not less than five years, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress must ensure adequate resources are available to OSDBU to expedite verification of VIP business listing eligibility and all federal agencies to effectively monitor and hold accountable those agencies that are not meeting the set aside goal of not less than 3 percent, and require all federal agencies to list in their annual reports their prior fiscal year's actual percentage of meeting this goal, the results of which will serve as an annual report card on which agencies need the most assistance in the development and implementation of stronger contracting plans.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 134**  
**OPPOSE USING DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM**  
**SPECIALISTS AND LOCAL VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVES**  
**TO WORK WITH OR PROCESS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service administers programs to assist veterans with their employment and training needs; and

WHEREAS, Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPS) provide intensive services to disabled veterans and veterans with barriers to employment in finding work, and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) work with non-disabled veterans, informing them of employment opportunities, and perform outreach to community businesses to locate employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Law 11256, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act, state employment agencies are now directed to utilize DVOPS and LVERs to work on public assistance related programs, including food stamps, which diverts DVOPS/LVERs from their prime mission to assist veterans with their employment and training needs; and

WHEREAS, this same law directs the Secretary of Labor to conduct regular audits to ensure compliance with this provision; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges Congress to monitor DVOPS/LVERS or audit results ensuring focus on assisting veterans.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 135**  
**INCREASE STAFFING LEVELS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
**AFFAIRS-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Service is charged with preparing service-disabled veterans for suitable employment or providing independent living services to those veterans with disabilities severe enough to render them unemployable; and

WHEREAS, transition of service-disabled veterans to meaningful employment relies heavily on VA's ability to provide vocational rehabilitation and employment services in a timely and effective manner, but the demands and expectations being placed on the VR&E Service are exceeding the organization's current capacity to effectively deliver a full continuum of comprehensive programs; and

WHEREAS, the service has been experiencing a shortage of staff nationwide because of insufficient funding, which, as a result, has caused delays in providing VR&E services to service-disabled veterans, thus reducing their opportunities to achieve successful timely rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, to increase emphasis on employment, the service has begun an initiative titled "Coming Home to Work," an early outreach effort to provide VR&E services to eligible service members pending medical separation from active duty at military treatment facilities which will require additional staff to maintain efforts nationwide; and

WHEREAS, even though the focus of the VR&E program has drastically changed to career development and employment, it is not clear, despite VR&E's additional 80 employment coordinators, whether VA is able to meet the current and future demand for employment services; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the current 60 days of employment as the standard for a veteran to be considered fully employed is insufficient given that employers typically require longer probationary employment time-frames; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports a strengthening of VA's VR&E program to meet the demands of service-disabled veterans by providing increased staffing and funding, a more timely and effective transition into the workforce and providing placement follow-up with employers for at least six months.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 136**

#### **MONITOR ACTIVITIES OF THE MANDATORY TRANSITION GPS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, current law authorizes comprehensive transition assistance benefits and services for separating service members and their spouses, and required that the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP), now known as the Transition GPS program, be established and maintained; and

WHEREAS, the transition from military service to civilian life is very difficult for many veterans who must overcome obstacles to successful employment; and

WHEREAS, the transition program, now Transition GPS program, was created to help our separating service members successfully transition to the civilian workforce, start a business, or pursue training or higher education and is now mandatory for active duty personnel, except under certain circumstances as specified in Public Law 11256, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act; and

WHEREAS, participation by DAV and other veterans service organizations in the Transition GPS program is essential to service members to gain a full understanding of entitlements and free assistance and representation available upon discharge from military service; and

WHEREAS, the Transition GPS program expands the previous TAP and DTAP workshops to five to seven days (or longer in some instances) aimed to strengthen, standardize, and expand counseling and guidance for service members as they are separating from military service while transforming the military's approach to education, training, and credentialing for service members, and

WHEREAS, the Transition GPS program, and the encompassed TAP and DTAP workshops, is essential to easing some of the problems associated with transition, as is periodic review of training methodology and the collection and analysis of course participant critiques to ensure the program is fulfilling its intended objective, which are also mandated in Public Law 11256; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges Congress to monitor the review of Transition GPS program, its workshops, training methodology, and delivery of services; the collection and analysis of course critiques; and to ensure the inclusion of DAV and other veteran service organizations in workshop, in order to confirm the program is meeting its objective and follow-up with participants to determine if they have found gainful employment.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 137**  
**ELIMINATE THE DELIMITING DATE FOR ELIGIBLE**  
**SPOUSES AND SURVIVING SPOUSES FOR BENEFITS PROVIDED**  
**UNDER CHAPTER 35, TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE**

WHEREAS, dependents and survivors eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefits under Chapter 35, Title 38, United States Code, have ten years in which to apply for and complete a program of education; and

WHEREAS, this ten-year period begins either from the date a veteran is evaluated by the VA as permanently and totally disabled from service-connected disabilities or 10 years from the date of such veteran's death due to service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, in many instances, because of family obligations or the need to provide care to the veteran, spouses or surviving spouses may not have had an opportunity to apply for these benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, seeks the enactment of legislation which would eliminate the delimiting date for spouses and surviving spouses for purposes of benefits provided under Chapter 35, Title 38, United States Code.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 138**  
**SUPPORT LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION**  
**OF ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE PERSONNEL**

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense (DoD) establishes, measures, and evaluates performance standards for every occupation within the Armed Forces, providing some of the best vocational training in the nation to its military personnel; and

WHEREAS, that training is not recognized as fulfilling the training or educational certification and licensure requirements of applicable civilian equivalent occupations by each of the states of the union; and

WHEREAS, many former military personnel, certified as proficient in their military occupational career, are not certified or licensed to perform a comparable job in the civilian workforce once they leave the military; and

WHEREAS, there are many occupational career fields in the Armed Forces that could translate to a civilian occupation if DoD, in collaboration with states, unions and certifying/licensing entities would expand its training curriculum to meet the various certification and licensure requirements of applicable civilian equivalent occupations or forge some other path to doing so; and

WHEREAS, once DoD expanded its training to meet the requirements of civilian equivalent career paths, service members could take certification or licensure equivalency examinations to gain journeyman status on a par with the military occupation level of proficiency for the state in which they plan to reside; and

WHEREAS, the state in which the military member plans to reside could then confer the appropriate journeyman equivalent status upon them; and

WHEREAS, as military members continue in the service, additional training or education could be counted as continuing training or education credits thereby allowing them to retain certification and/or licensure status; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 11256, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act, mandates the Department of Labor's (DoL) Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training to carry out a demonstration project on credentialing to facilitate the seamless transition of members of the Armed Forces to civilian employment by selecting up to five military occupational specialties with a skill or set of skills that is required for civilian employment in an industry with high career demand; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports the elimination of employment barriers that impede the transfer of military job skills to the civilian labor market; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges Congress to engage in a national dialogue, working closely with the Administration generally, and DoD, Department of Veterans Affairs and DoL specifically, as well as state governments, employers, trade unions, and licensure and credentialing entities to establish a clear process so military training meets civilian certification and licensure requirements for the states in which they choose to live once they leave the military.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 183**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR A REASONABLE**  
**TRANSITION PERIOD FOR ALL SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-**  
**OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES TO RETAIN THEIR FEDERAL PROTECTED**  
**STATUS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF THE DISABLED VETERAN**

WHEREAS, section 308, Public Law 108183, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 established a procurement program for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB); and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13360, Contracting with Service-Disabled Veterans' Businesses, directs all Federal agencies to provide opportunities for SDVOSBs to increase their federal contracting and subcontracting opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 109461, the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 established a "Veterans First Contracting Program" specifically for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to increase business opportunities with the VA for SDVOSBs; and

WHEREAS, SDVOSBs and other small businesses are the focus of Public Law 111240, the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (SBJA 2010), which provides enhanced opportunities for SDVOSBs to compete for Federal project and subcontracting opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the SDVOSB small business category has encouraged many service-disabled veterans to take the personal risk of establishing small businesses with the support of their families, their own personal financial resources, the VA and, in some cases, commercial institutions; and

WHEREAS, these SDVOSBs have created new job opportunities for American citizens and, in many cases, have hired other service-disabled veterans and veterans during very challenging economic times; and

WHEREAS, by passing the SBJA 2010, the federal government acknowledges that it is essential to create and grow small businesses in order to create new jobs and help the country recover from a most severe recession and provide for future job growth; and

WHEREAS, the SDVOSB category requires the service-disabled veteran to own at least 51 percent of the stock in the business and remain active in the day-to-day operations of the business in order for the business to maintain its SDVOSB status; and

WHEREAS, the enabling legislation for the SDVOSB program does not currently include a provision dealing with the treatment of the business after the death of the veteran owner; and

WHEREAS, since loss of the company's SDVOSB status would put the service-disabled veteran's investment, family heirs, and employees at severe risk due to either downsizing or closing the business due to loss of federal procurement opportunities and thus, laying off the workers; and

WHEREAS, section 8127 (h)(2)(C), Public Law 109461, (specifically for the VA only) allows for a 10-year transition period to a surviving spouse of a 100-percent service-disabled veteran or a veteran who dies as a result of a service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, allowing the surviving spouses or heirs of service-disabled veterans to have a reasonable transition period for the SDVOSB program would help to maintain the jobs created by the SDVOSBs for service-disabled veterans, veterans and other employees and will not unduly put these individuals at increased financial risk and hardship due to likely job loss or downsizing of the business; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports the enactment of legislation that will provide for a reasonable transition period for all SDVOSBs, not covered by Public Law 109461, to retain their SDVOSB status with the federal government following the death of the service-disabled veteran via a surviving spouse, children, or heirs and thus, allowing the business to restructure over time without necessarily downsizing, laying off workers, or closing down.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 185**  
**SUPPORT FRAUD PREVENTION CONTROLS OVER SERVICE**  
**DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Program (SDVOSB), designed to steer \$4 billion in government contracts to businesses owned by service-disabled veterans, has allowed over \$90 million to be fraudulently awarded to ineligible companies; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Administration failed to properly check applicants before awarding contracts and failed to take action on service-disabled veterans' complaints of abuse; and

WHEREAS, testimony presented by the United States Government Accountability Office identified millions of dollars of SDVOSB contracts awarded to ineligible firms; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, seeks and strongly supports the investigation, prevention, and monitoring controls and to ensure that fraud is aggressively prosecuted or companies are suspended, debarred, or otherwise held accountable.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 236**  
**TRANSFER THE VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**  
**SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

WHEREAS, veterans' educational benefits are administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), not the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, veterans' health services are administered by VA, not the Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, veterans' housing programs are administered by the VA, not the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor's (DOL's) Veterans Employment and Training Service is the only non-VA federal agency administering a major veterans' program; and

WHEREAS, as veterans' programs have become more complex over the years, the dispersed nature of these programs has resulted in a decreased ability of senior management to monitor the delivery of each veterans' employment and training program; and

WHEREAS, when the VA was created, the initial reason for doing so was to avoid duplication, fragmentation or delay in the various services provided to veterans; and

WHEREAS, in order to anticipate veterans' longterm needs, not only for health care and disability compensation, but also for employment, requires a new approach; and

WHEREAS, establishing a fourth administration within VA dedicated to creating economic opportunities for veterans would increase the visibility and accountability of all veterans employment-related programs; and

WHEREAS, this new centralized veterans economic opportunity administration should be administered through a new position of Under Secretary for said organization; and

WHEREAS, such a move would allow the Under Secretary for Benefits to focus specifically on the delivery of disability compensation and pension benefits to disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, recommends that Congress transfer the entire staff and funding of Veterans Employment and Training Service from the DOL to the VA and that it should be appropriately funded and administered by an Under Secretary for said organization.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 237**  
**ELIMINATE ANNUAL SUBMISSION OF EMPLOYMENT**  
**VERIFICATION QUESTIONNAIRE BY VETERANS IN RECEIPT**  
**OF INDIVIDUAL UNEMPLOYABILITY BENEFITS**

WHEREAS, veterans receiving individual unemployability (IU) must complete the required VAF 2141401 (employment verification questionnaire) fully and accurately on an annual basis, and return the form to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) office within 60 days; and

WHEREAS, the veteran is required to turn in the VAF 2141401 annually for up to 20 years; and

WHEREAS, if veterans do not return the form within 60 days, their benefits are reduced; and

WHEREAS, it would provide a great justice to the disabled veterans of this nation who are currently in receipt of IU to not have the burden of submitting to the VA a VAF 2141401 on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, a majority of such veterans are incapacitated in some way; and

WHEREAS, this impedes such veterans from filing paperwork appropriately as the veteran's age and disabilities progress through the years; and

WHEREAS, the VA, as well as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) are better equipped to communicate employment verification of veterans via agency to agency as opposed to veteran to VA; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges VA to amend its policy on employment questionnaire submission so that veterans in receipt of IU benefits are relieved of this burden.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 238**  
**SUPPORT VERIFICATION IMPROVEMENTS FOR VETERANS'**  
**BUSINESSES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

WHEREAS, the historical high unemployment rate of returning veterans and the current state of the economy present a career challenge for former military personnel, resulting in high levels of unemployment; and

WHEREAS, the military is downsizing, which means that thousands of former military personnel who have honorably served their country could be unemployed when they leave the military; and

WHEREAS, small-business-development assistance to veterans who have honorably served this country is a veterans' benefit that dates back to the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized under the Veterans First program to enter into contracts first with Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) and then with Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSBs); and

WHEREAS, Congress has found that VA has entered into contracts pursuant to the Veterans First program with companies that were not legitimate SDVOSBs or VOSBs; and

WHEREAS, VA has implemented a formal verification process that is overly burdensome; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, recommends VA simplify its verification process for SDVOSBs and VOSBs interested in participating in the Department's Veterans First Contracting Program.

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COMMANDER HOPE: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. BATSON: Mic 2.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 2.

MR. BATSON: Milt Batson, California, Chapter 45, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER HOPE: I have a motion and a second. In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions that you wish read? Hearing none, all of those in favor signify by saying aye; all opposed. So ordered. Thank you, Terry.

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT CHAIRMAN SCHOW: Thank you.

COMMANDER HOPE: Let's give them a round of thanks, also. (Applause) I would now like to call upon Chairman Kirk Johnson for the report on the Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services.

HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KIRK JOHNSON: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services was called to order on August 8th, 2015, by the Committee Advisors William Baumann and John Kleindienst.

The first order of business was the election of a Committee Chairman and a Secretary. I, Kirk Johnson, was elected as Chairman and Thomas Cousino was elected as Secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by the National Convention. For the purpose of saving time, I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolution.

Number 46, support legislation to require the President, Vice President and members of Congress to receive health care exclusively from the VA; (Applause) 49, support dental care for all enrolled veterans within the VA health care system; (Applause)

50, support congressional funding for recreation of a VA Rehabilitative Special Event Office;

100, support enhancement of medical services through modernization of VA health care infrastructure;

101, support state veteran home program;

102, support legislation to extend eligibility of a qualifying veteran adult child for CHAMP-VA;

103, support program improvements and enhanced resources for VA mental health program;

104, support enhanced medical services and benefits for women veterans; (Applause)

105, oppose privatization of VA health care services and programs;

106, support legislation to provide comprehensive support services for caregivers for severely wounded, injured and ill veterans from all eras; (Applause)

107, ensure timely access to quality VA health care and medical services; (Applause)

108, adequately fund and sustain a successful readjustment counseling service of the VA and its highly effective vet center program;

110, oppose mean testing service-connected veterans for VA health care;

111, seeking a VA-funded comprehensive research study into birth defects and other conditions of children of male Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange; (Applause)

112, improve the care and benefits for veterans exposed to military toxic and environmental hazards;

113, provide easy and equitable access to VA transportation benefits and services;

114, support legislation to eliminate or reduce VA and DoD health care co-payments costs to service-connected disabled veterans;

115, support legislation to establish a comprehensive program for traumatic brain injury rehabilitation;

116, support humane consistent pain management programs in veterans health care system;

117, support enhanced treatment for military sexual trauma; (Applause)

118, support sustained sufficient funding to improve services for homeless veterans;

119, support programs to provide psychological support and mental health counseling services to family members of veterans suffering from post-deployment mental health challenges or other service-connected conditions; (Applause)

120, oppose third-party payments for service-connected disabilities;

121, enhance long-term services and supports to service-connected disabled veterans;

122, support legislation to authorize scholarships for new mental health practitioners in exchange for agreement to serve veterans in VA facilities;

123, support repeal of beneficiary travel pay deductible for service-connected disabled veterans and increase and sustain beneficiary travel reimbursement rates;

124, support full funding and resources for poly-trauma units at VA medical centers;

125, improve reimbursement policies for non-VA emergency health care services for enrolled veterans;

126, support the provision of comprehensive VA health care services to enrolled veterans;

148, reduce processing time for volunteer drivers at all VA medical centers; (Applause)

172, support sufficient funding for VA prosthetics and accessory aid service and timely delivery of prosthetic items;

190, beneficiary travel benefits for urgent care;

217, improve VA purchase care program;

218, apply Consistent Coordinating Care Policy at VA for traveling veterans;

219, support top priority access for service-connected veterans within the VA health care system;

220, ensure that all personnel involved with the assessment and training of blind and visually-impaired veterans with electronic equipment pursue training;

221, support consistent, reasonable access for service guide dogs in VA facilities;

222, support a VA medical and prosthetic research program;

223, support the rights and benefits earned by Native Americans and Alaska native veterans;

224, urge Congress and the Administration must assure full implementation of legislation to guarantee sufficient, timely and predictable funding for VA health care programs;

225, oppose recommendation that eligible military retired veterans be prohibited from receiving health care at both DoD and VA facilities;

226, support sufficient resources for VA to improve health care for veterans living in rural and remote areas;

227, enhance CHAMP-VA services;

228, support legislation to improve VA programs designed to prevent and treat substance-use disorder in veterans;

229, require a veteran attending a VA physician to provide a medical opinion with regard to a claim for VA disability claim compensation benefits when requested; (Applause)

230, support consistent, reasonable access to power-driven mobility devices;

231, reduce VA medication co-payment equal to or less than the lowest charged by private sector commercial outlets;

232, support new paradigms for reform of veterans' health care;

233, encourage the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit candidate for George H. Seal Memorial Award programs;

234, encourage the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit candidate for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship program;

235, support new models of health care within the VA for veterans with dementia;

241, extend appreciation to the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System for the success of the 94th National Convention. (Applause)

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services. On the behalf of the Committee I move the adoption of these resolutions and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

(The above-mentioned resolutions follow:)

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**RESOLUTION NO. 046**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO RECEIVE HEALTH CARE EXCLUSIVELY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

WHEREAS, even though veterans' health care is funded through an advance appropriation, it is still at the discretion of Congress to provide the level of funding necessary for the veterans' health care system; and

WHEREAS, the President and many members of Congress insist that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system is adequately funded; and

WHEREAS, VA is recognized as the best health care system in the United States, and for providing high quality health care services; and

WHEREAS, by using the VA health care system, the President, Vice President, and members of Congress would be in a better position to understand the resource needs of VA to enable it to provide timely quality health care to our nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, similar to the members of the military, the President, Vice President, and most Members of Congress are required to spend a significant amount of time away from their homes, families, and friends while Congress is in session; and

WHEREAS, because of the patriotism, devotion, and sacrifices of our President, Vice President, and Members of Congress, ours is the most free nation on earth, where our citizens enjoy unequalled rights, privileges, and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the President, Vice President, and Members of Congress should therefore be granted the privilege of using the VA health care system for their medical needs; and

WHEREAS, if the President, Vice President, or member of Congress is a veteran, he or she would be classified into the proper priority group for purpose of receipt of VA medical care; and

WHEREAS, if the President, Vice President, or member of Congress is not a veteran, he or she would be classified as a non service-connected veteran in either Priority Group 7 or 8, depending on their income; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to require the President, Vice President, and Members of Congress to enroll for VA medical care services and receive health care exclusively from the VA health care system.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 049**  
**SUPPORT DENTAL CARE FOR ALL ENROLLED VETERANS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, DAV recognizes that oral health is integral to the general health and well-being of a patient, and is part of comprehensive health care; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system is mandated under section 1712, title 38, United States Code, to provide outpatient dental services to veterans rated 100-percent service connected, to veterans who were held prisoner of war, or to those who have sustained dental trauma in performance of military service; and

WHEREAS, irrespective of service-connected disability, title 38, United States Code, section 1701(9) defines "preventive health services" as a broad collection of VA health services that improve, protect and sustain the general health and well-being of veterans enrolled in VA health care, to include "such other healthcare services as the Secretary may determine to be necessary to provide effective and economical preventive health care;" and

WHEREAS, according to the 2000 report by the Surgeon General of the United States, Oral Health in America, individuals who are medically compromised or who have disabilities are at greater risk for oral diseases, and, in turn, oral diseases further jeopardize their health, and that oral diseases are progressive and cumulative and become more complex over time, and can affect economic productivity and compromise the ability to work, and often significantly diminish the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, VA maintains oral and dental programs within its health care system; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outpatient dental care to all enrolled veterans.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 050**  
**SUPPORT CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING FOR**  
**THE CREATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
**AFFAIRS REHABILITATIVE SPECIAL EVENTS OFFICE**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and several Congressionally chartered veterans service organizations cosponsor national rehabilitative special event programs for veterans receiving health care from VA medical facilities; and

WHEREAS, the VA currently has a program within the Office of Public Affairs tasked with oversight of the national rehabilitative special events; and

WHEREAS, these rehabilitative programs, which include the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, National Veterans Wheelchair Games, National Veterans Golden Age Games, National Creative Arts Festival, and the National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic focus on rehabilitation of many severely disabled veterans and, as such, these events should be the responsibility of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), not the Office of Public Affairs; and

WHEREAS, while these programs showcase the preventive and therapeutic values of sports, fitness, and recreation, which are key factors in VA's extensive rehabilitation programs, they are also extremely beneficial to veterans, helping many to overcome or mitigate the physical and emotional impact of severe disabilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to create an office within the VHA to oversee these rehabilitative special events and to provide a separate appropriation in the VA budget for the national rehabilitative special events so VA can continue to contribute its fair share of the funding; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that responsibility for rehabilitative special event programs should be transferred from the Office of Public Affairs to the VHA.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 100**  
**SUPPORT ENHANCEMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICES**  
**THROUGH MODERNIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
**AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE INFRASTRUCTURE**

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the largest integrated health care system in the United States, with over 1,400 sites of care, including comprehensive medical centers, community-based outpatient clinics, nursing homes, readjustment counseling "Vet Centers," residential rehabilitation treatment programs, and other facilities for the delivery of health care; and

WHEREAS, the majority of VA's capital infrastructure was designed and built under an outmoded concept of health care delivery founded on centralized hospital inpatient episodes of care; and

WHEREAS, VA needs to modernize its health care system and programs to meet veterans' current and future health care needs while providing optimal efficiency and enhanced access to the system of care; and

WHEREAS, VA has internally identified needs for up to \$69 billion in capital facilities improvements and new construction through its Strategic Capital Infrastructure Program; and

WHEREAS, when enacted the fiscal year 2014 VA Major and Minor Construction Appropriations Act would provide \$1.5 billion, equal to the Administration's request; and

WHEREAS, funding levels of this magnitude will prevent VA from modernizing its facilities for decades, despite well-recognized needs in VA's ten-year capital plan; and

WHEREAS, as of 2014, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have produced over one million injured and ill war veterans who have enrolled in VA health care and who will need a variety of comprehensive VA health care services for decades, alongside the existing enrolled veteran population of over 8 million individuals from earlier service periods; and

WHEREAS, given VA's expected continuing costs for new major medical facility construction, consolidation and modernization, VA may revise its construction policy to further emphasize primary and specialty outpatient services, with complex and intensive inpatient services to be provided through affiliated arrangements with non-VA institutions and other private partners; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of leased VA community-based outpatient clinics are in jeopardy due to a change in Congressional budget rules that clouds the future of this cost-effective approach to veterans health care, and in fact may deny that care; and

WHEREAS, the VA's primary mission is to meet the needs of ill and disabled veterans through complex inpatient and rehabilitative hospital care, outpatient primary and specialty care, therapeutic residential care, and long-term care, in government facilities operated by VA for the exclusive benefit of veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges VA to continue its efforts to request adequate funding in future budgets to ensure at minimum that VA fulfills the intent of its strategic capital planning initiative; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should carefully monitor any intended VA changes in infrastructure that could jeopardize VA's ability to meet veterans' needs for primary and specialized VA medical care and rehabilitative services, or be the cause of diminution of VA's established graduate medical and other health professions education and biomedical research programs, consequential to deployment of any new facilities model of health care delivery; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges Congress to continue to provide appropriated funding sufficient to fulfill the needs for infrastructure identified through the strategic capital planning process.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 101 SUPPORT STATE VETERANS HOME PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, State Veterans Homes were founded for Union soldiers and sailors following the American Civil War, and have ably served veterans for nearly 150 years; and

WHEREAS, under title 38, United States Code, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized to make aid payments to States that maintain State Veterans Homes, and to make grants to states for their construction and major improvements; and

WHEREAS, there are over 140 State Veterans Homes, all of whom are member institutions of the National Association of State Veterans Homes, in all states and in Puerto Rico, that provide hospital, skilled nursing, rehabilitation, long-term care, dementia and Alzheimer's care, domiciliary care, respite care, end-of-life care, and adult day health care daily to almost 30,000 veterans and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, authorizes VA to make per diem payments to the states for veterans residing in State Veterans Homes, and the State Veterans Home program is recognized as the lowest cost among all institutional nursing care alternatives used by VA; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, authorizes VA to pay a per diem payment up to 50 percent of the national average cost of care in State Veterans Homes; and

WHEREAS, VA is also authorized to enter into provider agreements with State Veterans Homes to pay the full cost of care provided to veterans with 70 percent or higher service-connected disabilities or who require nursing home care for service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, under the State Extended Care Facilities Grant Program the federal government provides grants to cover up to 65 percent of the cost to construct, expand, rehabilitate or repair a State Home, with states required to cover a minimum of 35 percent of the cost of projects in matching funding; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the growing long-term health care needs of elder veterans, the State Veterans Home program will increasingly serve a vital purpose and will continue to be a major partner with VA in meeting the health care needs of aging veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports an adequate VA per diem payment to State Homes of not more than 50 percent of the national average cost of providing care in a State Veterans Home, as authorized by law; AND

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports sufficient funding for the State Home Construction Grant Program; AND

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to provide states greater flexibility in providing long term supports and services to veterans in State Veterans Homes; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the President and Congress to pledge their full support to the State Veterans Home program because that program is the most cost-effective institutional nursing care alternative available to VA for sick and disabled veterans with long-term care needs.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 102**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO EXTEND ELIGIBILITY OF A QUALIFYING**  
**VETERAN'S ADULT CHILD FOR THE CIVILIAN HEALTH AND MEDICAL**  
**PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

WHEREAS, dependent children of certain veterans are provided medical care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMP-VA) program; and

WHEREAS, a child of a veteran is eligible for CHAMP-VA if the veteran is rated permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability, was rated permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected condition at the time of death, died of a service-connected disability, or died on active duty, and the dependent is ineligible for Department of Defense TRICARE benefits, and

WHEREAS, the eligibility of a dependent child for CHAMP-VA ends at the age of 18, unless that dependent is enrolled in an accredited school as a full-time student until the age of 23, or marries, or is a stepchild who no longer lives in the household of the CHAMP-VA sponsor; and

WHEREAS, current law requires private health plans and insurers to offer coverage to adult children of beneficiaries to age 26 regardless of the child's financial dependency, marital status, enrollment in school, residency or other factors; and

WHEREAS, children of severely disabled veterans and survivors of veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice should not be penalized or denied the same rights and privileges as other citizens of a grateful nation enjoy; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to extend the eligibility of a qualifying veteran's child for CHAMP-VA coverage to age 26 under the same conditions of covered adult children in private health plans.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 103**  
**SUPPORT PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT AND ENHANCED RESOURCES**  
**FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, current research findings indicate that war veterans from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND) are at higher risk for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other post-deployment mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reports that veterans of these wars have sought care for a wide range of medical and psychological conditions, including mental health conditions, such as adjustment disorder, anxiety, depression, PTSD, and the effects of substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, as of December 31, 2014, VA reported that of the 1,906,754 separated OEF/OIF/OND veterans, 1,158,359 have obtained VA health care since fiscal year 2002, a total of 662,722 unique patients have received a diagnosis of a mental disorder and 364,894 of the enrolled OEF/OIF/OND veterans were diagnosed with PTSD (not including PTSD data from VA's Vet Centers, those not enrolled in VA health care, or those only diagnosed with an adjustment reaction); and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year (FY) 2014, more than 1.5 million veterans received specialized mental health care from the VA, a number that has steadily risen from over 900,000 in FY 2006; and

WHEREAS, VA provides 49,315 outpatient mental health appointments a day, and since FY 2009 VA outpatient mental health visits have increased from 14 million a year to more than 18 million in FY 2013; and

WHEREAS, since 2012, VA has added 2,444 mental health full-time equivalent employees and hired over 900 peer specialists and apprentices bringing the number of VHA's total Mental Health full-time equivalent employees to 21,158, providing direct inpatient and outpatient mental health care; and

WHEREAS, VA has improved access to mental health services at its 820 community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs), but such services still are not readily available at all sites; and

WHEREAS, we remain concerned about the capacity in specialized PTSD programs and the availability of VA substance-use disorder programs of all kinds, including inpatient detoxification and longterm residential treatment beds; and

WHEREAS, although additional funding has been dedicated to enhancing and improving capacity in these programs, VA mental health providers continue to express concerns about sustained resources to support, and consequent rationed access to, these specialized services; and

WHEREAS, VA has established 67 new Vet Centers since 2008 to meet increasing demand for readjustment counseling services; however, we are concerned that VA staffing should also be increased in existing centers to ensure all veterans—including previous generations of war veterans—who need help at VA Vet Centers can gain ready access to readjustment services; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense (DoD) and VA share a unique obligation to meet the health care, including mental health care and rehabilitation needs, of veterans who are suffering from readjustment difficulties as a result of wartime service; and

WHEREAS, suicide is a concern in the military services and veteran population, but especially among wartime service members and veterans, with an average of 22 veterans a day committing suicide; and

WHEREAS, DoD and VA are responsible for screening and evaluating all service members returning from deployments and ensuring they understand what services are available for post-deployment readjustment; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National convention in Denver, Colorado August 8–11, 2015, supports program improvements, data collection and reporting on suicide rates among service members and veterans, improved outreach through general media for stigma reduction and suicide prevention; sufficient staffing to meet demand for mental health services; and enhanced resources for VA mental health programs, including Vet Centers, to achieve readjustment of new war veterans and continued effective mental health care for all enrolled veterans needing such services.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 104**  
**SUPPORT ENHANCED MEDICAL SERVICES**  
**AND BENEFITS FOR WOMEN VETERANS**

WHEREAS, there are over 2 million women veterans comprising 9 percent of all veterans nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the number of women veterans using Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care has doubled in the last decade, with women accounting for more than 400,000 users of VA health care services in fiscal year (FY) 2014; and

WHEREAS, with over 50 percent of women veterans of conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan having used VA services at least once and over 78 percent of the new women veteran users of VA care being under the age of 40 and thus of childbearing age, their needs represent challenges to the current model and delivery of VA health care, which has traditionally focused on men; and

WHEREAS, the VA 2008 Report of the VA Under Secretary for Health Workgroup on Provision of Primary Care to Women Veterans identified a number of critical issues related to the delivery of care for women veterans in the VA health care system including the systemic fragmentation of primary care services; too few proficient, knowledgeable providers with expertise in women's health and a number of identified outpatient quality disparities for women veterans; and

WHEREAS, DAV commissioned a report published in 2014 which confirmed that despite a government that provides a generous array of benefits to assist veterans with transition and readjustment following military service, serious gaps are evident for women in every aspect of existing federal programs; and

WHEREAS, several Government Accountability Office reports and VA's own task force on women veterans have confirmed that many deficiencies in the VA health care system still exist for women veterans including the inability to fully ensure privacy and a safe comfortable environment for women veterans at all VA facilities and have suggested VA revise key policies and improve oversight; and

WHEREAS, women veterans have been shown to have more complex health needs in some cases than men, with many reporting that certain services are difficult to obtain or health care personnel do not fully understand or seem unprepared to deal with women's unique health care needs; and

WHEREAS, significant numbers of women veterans, including those returning from military deployments, are the primary caregivers or sole caregivers of dependent children, which can limit their ability to access services in inpatient, intensive outpatient, or residential settings that have traditionally been available to address post-deployment mental health readjustment needs; and

WHEREAS, increasing numbers of women are serving in combat theaters and seeking VA health care services following military service; therefore, VA must be prepared to anticipate the specialized needs of women veterans who were catastrophically wounded, suffering amputations, blindness, spinal cord injury, post-traumatic stress or traumatic brain injury, or who were sexually assaulted; and

WHEREAS, although it is anticipated that many of the medical problems for men and women veterans returning from combat operations will be similar, VA must address the specific health issues and barriers to care that pose special challenges for women; and

WHEREAS; an alarming number of women report military sexual trauma and need specialized mental health services from VA; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado August 8–11, 2015, seeks to ensure the provision of health care services and specialized programs, inclusive of gender-specific services, by VA to eligible women veterans are provided to the same degree and extent that services are provided to eligible male veterans, inclusive of counseling and/or psychological services incident to combat exposure or sexual trauma; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge VA to strictly adhere to stated policies regarding privacy and safety issues relating to the treatment of women veterans and to proactively conduct research and health studies as appropriate, periodically review, adjust and improve its women’s health programs, and seek innovative methods to address barriers to care, thereby better ensuring women veterans receive the quality treatment and specialized services they so rightly deserve.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 105**  
**OPPOSE PRIVATIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
**AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) health care system has vastly improved and expanded over the past 20 years into an integrated environment that supports learning, discovery and continuous improvement; and

WHEREAS, the VA health care system provides a full continuum of comprehensive health care to all veterans enrolled in the VA healthcare system including extensive preventive programs, comprehensive primary, acute and rehabilitative care, including pharmaceutical, mental health and readjustment counseling services, to over nine million veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA facilities are affiliated with 152 medical schools for physician education, and in 40 other health professions represented through affiliations agreements with more than 1,800 colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, through these relationships, in excess of 60,000 medical students and residents—about 70 percent of all physicians in the United States—more than 20,000 nurses and over 30,000 in other health fields train in the VA healthcare system annually; and

WHEREAS, VA’s biomedical research and development programs have established new treatments peculiar to the needs of disabled veterans, including a vast array of prosthetic and orthotic and other assistive devices, and elevate the standard of care for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, through existing law, VA conducts a major, national fee-basis and contract care program when circumstances or geography prevent sick and disabled veterans from gaining direct access to VA health care facilities; and

WHEREAS, without a single guaranteed funding mechanism separate from providing adequate funding for VA to directly provide needed care, significant privatization of VA health care programs or facilities would diminish the VA health care system and erode the significant gains VA has achieved, and could endanger first-priority care to service-connected veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA and its infrastructure and employees represent a commitment by the United States to care for veterans injured by war, and this commitment should never be diluted or abandoned; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, opposes any effort or means by which VA health care services or programs would be contracted out, privatized, or vouchered out through the issuance of individual credit cards, through local, regional or national contracting, or via individual or group vouchers for health care provided by others at VA expense; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress to resist and disapprove any legislative proposals that would have the effect of privatizing VA health care and diminish the VA health care system, and to use its oversight and legislative powers to assure DAV that such efforts will not be supported.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 106**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE**  
**SERVICES FOR CAREGIVERS OF SEVERELY WOUNDED,**  
**INJURED AND ILL VETERANS FROM ALL ERAS**

WHEREAS, severely disabled veterans present great challenges to the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), for acute, rehabilitative and long term care health needs; and

WHEREAS, immediate family members and dependents are involved in the care and rehabilitation of severely injured veterans, but these caregivers received little to no relief; and

WHEREAS, families or other individuals caring for severely wounded, injured and ill veterans shoulder a great and lifelong burden as home and institutional caregivers and attendants, often giving up or severely restricting their employment, future financial security, education and social interactions, and suffering severe financial and personal penalties as a consequence in order to care for a severely ill loved one; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of such caregivers, the burden of direct care would fall on DoD and VA facilities or other institutions, at significantly higher financial cost and a reduced quality of life for these veterans; and

WHEREAS, the United States government owes its highest obligation to those who are put in harm's way at the call of the nation, and become wounded, injured and ill as a consequence of that service; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 111163 requires VA to establish two distinct and unequal caregiver assistance programs where eligibility is based primarily on when the veteran was injured rather than the needs of the veteran and caregiver; and

WHEREAS, in equity and fairness, caregivers of severely injured veterans should be afforded generous relief, assistance, and care for the duration of the lives of veterans injured or made ill by military service to our nation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, call on Congress to ensure VA has the resources needed to provide comprehensive supports and services to caregivers of all veterans severely injured, wounded or ill from military service; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation that would expand access to comprehensive caregiver support services, including but not limited to financial support, health and homemaker services, respite, education and training and other necessary relief to caregivers of veterans from all eras of military service.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 107**  
**ENSURE TIMELY ACCESS TO QUALITY DEPARTMENT OF**  
**VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, wounded and ill veterans' demands for care at many Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities have overwhelmed VA's current capacity; and

WHEREAS, given VA's limited resources, in some cases, VA is forced to ration care leaving many of its over 6 million veteran patients waiting long periods and driving farther for primary, specialty, and dental care appointments; and

WHEREAS, VA should identify and immediately correct the underlying problems to properly manage its health care capacity and identify additional resources needed to ensure timely access to primary, specialty, and dental care for veterans in VA facilities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, short-term solutions, such as staff reassignments, redirection of patients to alternative sites of VA care, and restrictions of individual practitioners' available time with each patient while adding additional appointments to their daily schedules, can provide some immediate relief, but are only temporary solutions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges the VA to request and for Congress to provide necessary authorities, sufficient resources, and staff to reduce waiting times so wounded, ill and injured veterans can realize timely access to all medically necessary services from the VA health care system.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 108**  
**ADEQUATELY FUND AND SUSTAIN THE SUCCESSFUL READJUSTMENT**  
**COUNSELING SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
**AFFAIRS AND ITS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE VET CENTER PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, in 1979, Congress authorized the establishment of the Readjustment Counseling Service, an independent counseling activity within the then-veterans Administration's Department of Medicine and Surgery; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the Veterans Administration opened the first "Vet Center" to provide readjustment services and psychological counseling to Vietnam combat veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other conditions related to combat exposure and their experiences in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the Vet Centers, now today numbering about 300 locations nationwide, have proven to be a most useful and effective tool to assist veterans suffering from psychological problems primarily associated with combat exposure and the psychological effects on individual veterans engaged in such military activities, as well as their immediate family members; and

WHEREAS, the Vet Center program has been most successful counseling veterans from all prior conflicts needing such readjustment services, including World War II, the Korean War, the War in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, and now veterans of combat service in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Vet Centers lead all Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) mental health programs in conducting veteran-to-veteran peer counseling services, wherein veterans who have themselves experienced post-deployment mental health issues related to their military experience are trained to provide counseling to those still suffering ill effects; and

WHEREAS, the Readjustment Counseling Service and its Vet Centers provide a cost-effective and highly beneficial service to veterans of all eras, as well as to their families when counseling family members is beneficial to the recovery of the veteran; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, commends the work of the Readjustment Counseling Service and of its Vet Centers of the VA, and encourages the Vet Centers to maintain their level of excellence in caring for combat veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the President, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Congress of the United States, to ensure sufficient, timely and predictable funding for the Readjustment Counseling Service, to enable its Vet Centers to continue expanding and extending their rehabilitative and readjustment services, including in more rural communities, to veterans of past, present and future military service, and to their family members when necessary to aid in the recovery of veterans suffering the latent effects of combat exposure.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 110**  
**OPPOSE MEANS TESTING SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS**  
**FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE**

WHEREAS, Public Law 104262 requires 0-percent service-connected disabled veterans to be means tested in order to receive treatment in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facility; and

WHEREAS, countless thousands of veterans have relied on care from VA medical facilities for decades and now face the possibility of losing access to VA medical care because of income levels, consequently causing them undue financial hardship, pain and suffering; and

WHEREAS, these zero percent service-connected disabled veterans have been relegated to the lowest eligibility categories for care and, in some cases, below non-service-connected veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports the exclusion of service-connected disabled veterans from the requirements of means testing for treatment or service received at VA medical facilities and the inclusion of 0-percent service-connected disabled veterans in Priority Group 3.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 111**  
**URGE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO SUPPORT**  
**COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH ON HEALTH EFFECTS OF CHILDREN**  
**OF MALE VIETNAM VETERANS EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE**

WHEREAS, research studies reviewed by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) have not shown that there are increased rates of birth defects among children of male Vietnam veterans, except for spina bifida,

where it found a “limited/suggested” association between paternal exposure to the herbicides used in Vietnam or to dioxin, and a higher risk of spina bifida among their children; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of evidence that exposure to herbicide and its contaminants can induce epigenetic changes that passes from parent to offspring in animal models; and

WHEREAS, the IOM has found that the available epidemiologic studies are of insufficient quality, consistency, or statistical power to permit a conclusion regarding the presence or absence of an association with birth defects (other than spina bifida) as well as childhood cancer (including acute myeloid leukemia) in offspring of exposed people; and

WHEREAS, to resolve questions regarding paternally transmitted effects to their offspring, the IOM continues to recommend that laboratory research be conducted to characterize herbicide’s and its contaminants’ potential for inducing epigenetic modifications, studies on paternal exposure in the absence of maternal exposure, and reviewing systematically defined clinical health conditions that are manifested later in the offspring’s lives and other high quality research; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct comprehensive research, including those recommended by the IOM, to determine the level of association between herbicide exposure and birth defects and other conditions of children of male Vietnam veterans.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 112**  
**IMPROVE THE CARE AND BENEFITS FOR VETERANS**  
**EXPOSED TO MILITARY TOXIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS**

WHEREAS, veterans of all military conflicts from the World Wars to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been exposed to environmental hazards and man-made toxins, including cold and other adverse weather conditions, mustard gas, herbicides, pesticides, chemical, biological and radiological agents, “burn pits,” and other combat and military occupational exposures; and

WHEREAS, returning from war, some veterans subsequently suffer disabling conditions and symptoms of illnesses that may be difficult to medically diagnose and not be immediately identified as consequential to such dangerous exposures; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by the National Institutes of Health, the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA), and other federal departments and agencies, have focused on associations linking toxic and environmental exposures with subsequent health status of veterans (and in the case of Vietnam veterans, some of their children); and

WHEREAS, sustained funding for such research is necessary to ensure veterans receive high-quality health care services and adequate compensatory benefits to which they are entitled due to diseases or injuries incurred from hazardous military exposures; and

WHEREAS, in studies mandated by Congress in public law, the National Academy of Sciences continues to review and evaluate scientific literature to determine whether associations exist that connect a variety of military exposures and certain physical disorders within populations of veterans; and

WHEREAS, effective evidence-based medicine to treat individual patients with acute or chronic diseases must rely on scientifically valid biomedical research and peer-reviewed literature; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges Congress to actively oversee its established mechanism of delegation to the National Academy of Sciences and VA to determine validations of, and develop equitable compensation policy for, environmentally exposed veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges Congress to provide adequate funding for research to identify all disabling conditions and effective screening and treatment for such disabilities that may have been caused by exposure to environmental hazards and man-made toxins while individuals served in the armed forces of the United States; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges greater collaboration between DoD and VA to share necessary deployment, health and exposure data from military operations and deployments, in order to timely and adequately address the subsequent health concerns of disabled veterans, whatever the causes of those disabilities; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV intends to closely monitor programs of care within the Veterans Health Administration to ensure veterans disabled by exposure to environmental hazards and man-made toxins receive effective high quality health care, and that the biomedical research and development programs of the Department are fully addressing their needs.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 113**  
**PROVIDE EASY AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO DEPARTMENT OF**  
**VETERANS AFFAIRS TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS AND SERVICES**

WHEREAS, because of service-connected disabilities, many disabled veterans face mobility challenges when attempting to access Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care benefits and services; and

WHEREAS, VA is currently authorized to transport any person for any purposes to any location in connection with vocational rehabilitation, counseling, and for the purpose of VA examination, treatment, or care; however, transportation programs offered through VA do not meet all the transportation needs of service-connected disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VA Veteran Transportation Program has three components to accomplish its mission to improve the quality of life for veterans by increasing access to health care through integrated and cost-effective transportation solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Transportation Service (VTS) is intended to provide veterans with convenient and timely access to transportation services and to overcome barriers to receiving VA health care and services, and in particular to increase transportation options for veterans who need specialized forms of transportation to VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, wide variations in the eligibility for VTS transportation across the VA health care system is not consistent with overcoming barriers to receiving health care provided or purchased by VA to service-connected veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VA Beneficiary Travel program is not available to all service-connected disabled veterans with mobility challenges and confusion among local VA facilities due to vague policies for using special-mode transportation, such as a wheelchair van, is reflected in lower-than-expected utilization; and

WHEREAS, the VA Highly Rural Transportation Grant program provides grants to assist only veterans in highly rural areas through innovative transportation services to travel to VA medical centers and to otherwise assist in providing transportation services in connection with the provision of VA medical care to these veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA lacks a consistent and comprehensive transportation policy for all service-connected disabled veterans across all established VA transportation and travel programs, benefits and services; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges the VA to operate an effective and efficient transportation program for all service-connected veterans and to simplify access to transportation benefits and services to receive timely and high quality VA health care, benefits and services.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 114**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE DEPARTMENT**  
**OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HEALTH CARE**  
**CO-PAYMENT COSTS TO SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, through service to their nation in which they made extraordinary sacrifices and contributions, veterans have earned the right to certain benefits in return; and

WHEREAS, because of the patriotism, devotion, and sacrifices of our veterans, ours is the most free nation on earth where our citizens enjoy unequalled rights, privileges, and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, as the beneficiaries of veterans' service and sacrifice, the citizens of our grateful nation want our government to fully honor our moral obligation to care for veterans and generously provide them benefits and health care entirely without charge; and

WHEREAS, premiums, health care cost-sharing, and deductibles are a feature of health care systems in which some costs are shared by the insured and the insurer in a contractual relationship between the patient and the for-profit company, or of health care through other government programs in which the beneficiary has not earned any right to have the costs of health care benefits fully borne by taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, in the seminal RAND Health Insurance Experiment, which gave rise to the use and increase of cost-sharing, other important findings included that cost sharing reduced the use of both effective and ineffective care where the amounts of reductions for each were equal for hospitalizations and drug use, and cost-sharing did not alter the quality of care patients received; and

WHEREAS, subsequent research continues to question the adverse effects of cost sharing on health outcomes particularly for patients with chronic disabilities; and

WHEREAS, asking veterans to pay for part of the benefits a grateful nation provides for them is fundamentally contrary to the spirit and principles underlying the provision of benefits to veterans; and  
WHEREAS, co-payments were initially imposed upon veterans using the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system under urgent circumstances and as a temporary necessity to contribute to reduction of the federal budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, cost sharing is considered as a means of generating revenues in the Department of Defense (DoD) and VA health care systems; and

WHEREAS, Congress has forgotten or abandoned the traditional benevolent philosophy of providing free benefits to veterans as repayment for the unusual rigors, risks, and personal deprivation they underwent for the good of our country; and

WHEREAS, based on practices in the private sector, the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs and Defense in the recent past, moved to dramatically impose fees and increase premiums and co-payments, as if operating a commercial enterprise; and

WHEREAS, as a continuing cost of national defense and as our nation's foremost moral obligation, benefits for service-connected disabled veterans must remain a first priority of our government; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, calls for legislation to eliminate or reduce VA and DoD health care out-of-pocket costs for service-connected disabled veterans.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 115 SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY REHABILITATION**

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injury (TBI) has been called the signature wound of veterans serving in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF); and

WHEREAS, blast injuries from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that shake or compress the brain within the skull often cause devastating and permanent damage to brain tissue; and

WHEREAS, veterans with severe TBI and poly-trauma will require extensive rehabilitation and lifelong personal and clinical support, including neurological, medical and psychiatric services, and physical, psychosocial, occupational, and vocational therapies, and

WHEREAS, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a care management team for every severely ill or injured OEF/OIF veteran, which consists of, at a minimum, a program manager, a clinical case manager, and a transition patient advocate in order to facilitate a comprehensive care plan for the veteran and their family during the initial care and longterm rehabilitation of these patients; and

WHEREAS, we remain concerned about capacity and whether VA has the resources and staff necessary to provide intensive rehabilitation services, treat the chronic physical, emotional and behavioral problems that would be benefitted by long-term therapeutic residential facilities, and to fully support families and caregivers of these seriously brain-injured veterans; and

WHEREAS, TBI can also be caused without any apparent physical injuries when a veteran is in the vicinity of an IED detonation; and

WHEREAS, veterans suffering from the milder form of TBI may experience a variety of symptoms including headaches, irritability, sleep disorders, memory problems and depression; and

WHEREAS, emerging literature strongly suggests that even mild TBI may have longterm mental health and medical consequences, and that symptoms are often comorbid with post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and post-traumatic visual syndrome that can further confound diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, generations of veterans from earlier wars and conflicts may have suffered TBI but this injury went unrecognized, or was treated as mental illness; and

WHEREAS, milder forms of TBI may not be detected immediately, and the Department of Defense (DoD) and VA have not developed systemic and proven methodologies to identify, treat, document and monitor individuals who sustain mild-to-moderate TBI, in particular those with the mild version; and

WHEREAS, a 2008 RAND Corporation study recommended "a substantial, coordinated, and strategic research effort," to close the significant existing gaps in knowledge in understanding the prevalence, prognosis, effective treatment, and costs of addressing needs of veterans with traumatic brain injury; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the VA's Office of Research and Development held a state-of-the-art meeting/ summit of leaders in the field of TBI for the purposes of highlighting advances that have been achieved

over the past seven years and to discuss future research and clinical directions to improve the health of veterans suffering from TBI; and

WHEREAS, veterans with TBI and polytrauma benefit from the joint Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, a collaboration that provides clinical care, education and research for active duty personnel and veterans with TBI; and

WHEREAS, more than half of military service members seriously injured in Iraq and Afghanistan and admitted to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center suffer from TBI; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation that would require VA and DoD to coordinate efforts to address mild and moderate TBI and concussive injuries and establish a comprehensive rehabilitation program, including establishment of therapeutic residential facilities, and deployment of standardized protocols utilizing appropriately formed clinical assessment techniques to recognize and treat neurological and behavioral consequences of all levels of TBI and all generations of veterans who suffer the lingering effects from earlier injuries; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges that any TBI studies or research undertaken by VA and DoD for the current generation of TBI-injured veterans include older veterans of past military conflicts who may have suffered similar injuries that went undetected, undiagnosed, and untreated.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 116 SUPPORT HUMANE, CONSISTENT PAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS IN THE VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, pain is one of the most prevalent reasons individuals, including wounded, injured and ill veterans, seek health care; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of veterans suffer from traumatic amputations and other severe injuries incurred during military service, while others suffer from a host of painful organic diseases and disabling conditions; and

WHEREAS, chronic pain is closely linked with depression and other mental health challenges, including suicidal ideation; and

WHEREAS, over a decade ago, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) established a new national health policy adding pain as the “fifth vital sign” in patients, along with blood pressure, temperature, pulse and respiration; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2001, VA established and formalized a National Pain Management program for the purpose of promoting greater public awareness, training and educating health professional students, VA providers and their staffs, and veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, millions of veterans enrolled in VA health care have been aided by VA’s efforts to better manage pain, while reducing the use of opioids and other drugs in the treatment of chronic pain; and

WHEREAS, VA’s pain management program has been emulated in other public and private health care settings nationwide; and

WHEREAS, VA has adopted a patient-centered and holistic approach to delivering health care, in order to maintain and improve the health and quality of life of veterans; and

WHEREAS, in some VA locations, patients with chronic pain who have been prescribed pain medication over long periods have been denied further access to prescriptions for pain; and

WHEREAS, VA facilities and all prescribers are subject to the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, as amended; and

WHEREAS, due to the effects of the Controlled Substances Act, as amended, some veterans have had their pain medication prescriptions managed in such a way that creates great anxiety and sometimes produces ill effects of withdrawal because of the Act’s 30day limit on Schedule II drug prescriptions, and VA prescribing policies and practices that may fail to resupply them on a timely basis; and

WHEREAS, pain management programs should be concerned uppermost about both patient safety and humane treatment to reduce pain and its underlying causes, with or without narcotics; and

WHEREAS, without appropriate psychological counseling and transition to suitable alternatives to controlled substances, including Schedule II controlled medications, veterans can suffer physical and mental anguish needlessly and thereby are not receiving patient-centered, holistic care; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges VA to redouble its efforts to conduct a uniform national pain management program, to ensure that veterans with chronic pain who have used prescribed pain medications over long histories are managed in a patient-centered environment, with balanced regard for both patient

safety and humane alternatives to the use of controlled substances, and while under VA care receive their prescribed medications in a timely fashion; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV encourages VA at all levels to monitor local pain management efforts and resolve any conflicts between the effects of the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 and VA prescribing policies and procedures, to ensure they are compliant with VA's national pain management policy and guidelines, and consistent with the intent of this resolution.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 117**

#### **SUPPORT ENHANCED TREATMENT FOR MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA**

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Department of Defense Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPRO) annual report on sexual assault in the military included 6,131 reports of sexual assault across the military services, an 11-percent increase from the 5,061 reports in FY 2013; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 RAND Military Workplace Study, with results in the SAPRO Report, estimates that 18,900 service members experience sexual assaults each year in the military services; and

WHEREAS, the continued prevalence of sexual assault in the military is alarming and often results in lingering physical, emotional or chronic psychological symptoms in assault survivors; and

WHEREAS, more than 25 percent of women and over 1 percent of men enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system report they had experienced military sexual trauma (MST); and

WHEREAS, in FY 2014 over 76 percent of women veterans in VA who screened positive for MST received outpatient care for either a mental or physical health condition related to MST; and

WHEREAS, the VA provides specialized residential and outpatient counseling programs and evidence-based treatments for MST survivors; and

WHEREAS, based on VA clinical determinations, some veterans are referred to VA medical facilities other than their local facilities or closest Veterans Integrated Service Network to receive the specialized care they need; and

WHEREAS, VA's current policy in beneficiary travel permits reimbursement to a veteran only from a veteran's home of record to the nearest VA facility by road mileage, whether or not that facility possesses the expertise needed for a particular type of care, including inpatient and residential treatment for MST-related needs; and

WHEREAS, if a VA clinician determines an MST survivor needs specialized care from a VA MST inpatient facility, VA's beneficiary travel policy may serve to obstruct access to that resource, or force an MST survivor to self-pay all travel costs in order to gain access to these specialized services; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based treatment practices known to successfully treat veterans with MST-related mental health conditions are available but not systemically used by all providers treating these patients; and

WHEREAS, although VA offers MST-related training, and has produced clinical practice guidelines and formulated evidence-based treatments, VA does not mandate that its mental health providers who treat MST survivors complete specialized training or undergo a certification process to ensure they are qualified to treat such patients; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, calls on VA to ensure all MST survivors gain open access to the specialized treatment programs and services they need to fully recover from sexual trauma that occurred in military service; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to change beneficiary travel policies to meet the specialized clinical needs of veterans receiving MST-related treatment; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to continually improve its MST treatment programs, ensure dissemination of MST evidence-based clinical practice guidelines throughout the VA health care system, and develop a formal mandatory certification process for mental health providers who treat MST survivors.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 118**

#### **SUPPORT SUSTAINED SUFFICIENT FUNDING TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS**

WHEREAS, compared to nonveterans, veterans are at higher risk of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, many veterans experience post-deployment readjustment conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance-use disorders acquired during or worsened by their

military service, or traumatic brain injuries that may make their participation in the workforce difficult or impossible, making them more prone to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) serves less than half of the homeless veteran population, making the over 2,100 community-based homeless programs necessary to fill the gaps as they collaborate with federal, state, and local government agencies; and

WHEREAS, other federal, state, and local public agencies—notably housing agencies and health departments—need to improve coordination with VA to address affordable housing, healthcare, and supportive services needs of these vulnerable veterans; and

WHEREAS, with greater numbers of women serving in military deployments, and with women veterans being more likely to have experienced sexual assault than women in the general population, and who are more likely than male veterans to be single parents, new and more comprehensive housing and child care services are needed; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2013 VA provided specialized services to nearly 260,000 who were homeless or at-risk of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, however, a recent audit conducted by the VA Inspector General found that 25 percent of veterans who called the VA for help with housing were unable to reach counselors; and

WHEREAS, in the next 10 years, it is projected that significant increases in services over current levels will be needed to serve aging Vietnam veterans, women veterans, and combat veterans of the military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, a wide variety of public and private programs are in place to assist veterans in preventing or overcoming chronic homelessness, but these programs are often underfunded; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Opening Doors, Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness was launched after the VA Secretary's November 2009 plan to end homelessness in five years was announced, which began a campaign to end homelessness among veterans through enhanced collaboration with other federal, state, faith-based, veterans service organization and community partners; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges Congress to sustain sufficient funding to continue to support VA's initiative to eliminate homelessness among veterans and strengthen the capacity of the VA Homeless Veterans program to include: increasing its mental health and substance-use disorder programs' capacity, providing vision and dental care services to homeless veterans as required by law, incorporating child care for veterans in homeless programs where possible, and improving its outreach efforts to help ensure homeless veterans gain access to VA's specialized health and benefits programs; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge Congress to continue to authorize and appropriate funds for competitive grants to community-based and public organizations including the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide health and supportive services to homeless veterans placed in permanent housing.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 119**  
**SUPPORT PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND**  
**MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING SERVICES TO FAMILY MEMBERS**  
**OF VETERANS SUFFERING FROM POST-DEPLOYMENT MENTAL HEALTH**  
**CHALLENGES OR OTHER SERVICE-CONNECTED CONDITIONS**

WHEREAS, veterans exposed to combat and other hardship deployments are known to be at risk for development of post-deployment mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and other serious mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, left untreated or inadequately treated, a veteran suffering the chronic effects of PTSD, depression or other mental illnesses, may suffer marriage and relationship breakdown, underemployment or loss of employment, financial hardship, social alienation, and even homelessness, or involvement with the justice system; and

WHEREAS, a combat-exposed veteran who is not appropriately counseled for the psychological effects of PTSD or depression stands at greater risk of emotional and mental decompensation, whose consequences often fall directly on family members and dependents of such veteran; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) embraces recovery from mental illness as its guiding principle in all VA mental health programs, and involvement of family members and dependents is often vital to a veteran's eventual recovery from mental illness; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, subsection 1712A(b)2 authorizes the VA Readjustment Counseling Service, through its Vet Center program, to provide psychological counseling and other

necessary mental health services to family members of war veterans under care in such Vet Centers, irrespective of service connected disability status; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted section 301 of Public Law 110387 for the express purpose of authorizing marriage and family counseling in VA facilities to address the needs of veterans' families, including spouses and other dependent family members of veterans who are experiencing mental health challenges with attendant marital or family difficulties; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted sections 101103 of Public Law 111163 for the purpose of authorizing a wide array of support, care and counseling services for personal caregivers of severely injured or ill veterans from all eras of military service; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, section 1782 authorizes a program of counseling, training, and mental health services, including psychological support, for immediate family members of disabled veterans who need care for service connected disabilities; who have service connected disabilities rated at 50 percent or more disabling; who were discharged or retired from the armed forces for injuries or illnesses incurred in line of duty; who are World War I or Mexican Border Period veterans; who were awarded the Purple Heart; who are former prisoners of war; who were exposed to radiation or toxic substances; or, who are unable to defray the expenses of their care; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, section 1781, authorizes a program of health care, including certain mental health services, for immediate family members and dependents of a veteran who is totally and permanently disabled from service connected disabilities, or who died from disabilities incurred during military service; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, calls on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish appropriate and effective programs to ensure that veterans who are enrolled in VA health care not only receive adequate care for their wounds and illnesses, including mental health-related illnesses, and, when appropriate, family members—whether family caregivers, spouses or other family dependents, receive necessary counseling, including psychological counseling, training and other mental health services authorized by law to aid in the recovery of veterans.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 120  
OPPOSE RECOVERY OF THIRD-PARTY PAYMENTS  
FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES**

WHEREAS, the primary mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is to provide high-quality medical care to veterans eligible by reason of their service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, VA is authorized to recover or collect the cost of care from a third-party health insurer when insured veterans receive health care from VA for nonservice-connected conditions; and

WHEREAS, the collection of payments from a third party for the treatment of veterans' service-connected disabilities would abrogate VA's and the Federal Government's responsibility to provide such care and may result in increased premium payments by veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, opposes any legislation that would require VA to recover third-party payments for the care and treatment of a veteran's service-connected disabilities.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 121  
ENHANCE LONGTERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS  
TO SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, historically the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) occupied a leadership position in fostering many longterm services and supports (LTSS) programs now routinely available in the private sector, founded the medical specialty of geriatrics in conjunction with affiliated schools of medicine, and led the nation in biomedical research on aging, gero-psychiatry and chronic illnesses prevalent in the elderly veteran population; and

WHEREAS, today tens of thousands of service-connected veterans depend on the VA to meet their health care needs in post-acute and LTSS settings; and

WHEREAS, there is also a subset of service-connected veterans with chronic and terminal illnesses who need LTSS and will need institutional placements; and

WHEREAS, the number of veterans seeking LTSS has increased annually and VA estimates this trend to continue into the future; and

WHEREAS, as our nation's veteran population ages, VA will face an ever-increasing demand for LTSS of all kinds; and

WHEREAS, in 1996 the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act, Public Law 104262, reformed eligibility for VA health care toward a more holistic approach in providing service-connected disabled veterans a lifetime of care, but did not appreciably alter veterans' eligibility for VA institutional LTSS; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, Public Law 106117, significantly enhanced VA's non-institutional LTSS and required such services be provided to any veteran for a service-connected disability and to any veteran who is service connected 50 percent or greater disabling, yet VA is only required to provide institutional LTSS to any veteran for a service-connected disability and to any veteran who is service connected 70 percent or greater; and

WHEREAS, unresolved LTSS policy issues within Congress, the VA leadership, and the Office of Management and Budget leave VA facilities to determine locally their own mix of institutional and non-institutional approaches in providing LTSS, thereby relegating LTSS to a "second tier" of health care service and expectations within the VA system; and

WHEREAS, the success of non-institutional and home-based LTSS is critically dependent on the ability of veterans' caregivers, whether they be family or friends, to assist in their care; and

WHEREAS, VA home and community-based programs, are not uniformly available in all VA health care facilities; and

WHEREAS, the present state of VA's LTSS program is now lagging behind its rich history as an early leader in caring for aging veterans, and is in danger of falling behind non-VA health care systems; and

WHEREAS, VA has not optimized its relationship with State Veterans Homes to ensure veterans in need of institutional and alternative forms of LTSS may avail themselves of state home facilities to consider all options for their provision; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to expand the comprehensive program of LTSS for service-connected disabled veterans irrespective of their disability ratings, and urges VA, in conjunction with key stakeholders, including other federal agencies and the states, to develop a strategic LTSS plan to invigorate and re-engineer VA-operated, purchased, and subsidized LTSS.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 122**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NEW**  
**MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS IN EXCHANGE FOR COMMITMENTS**  
**TO SERVE VETERANS IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, the nation faces a looming shortage of practitioners in mental health, including physicians, nurse practitioners, psychologists, social workers, mental health therapists and other counselors; and

WHEREAS, the needs of the newest generation of war veterans suffering the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health challenges, combined with the continuing mental health needs of older generations of veterans, may overwhelm the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) capacity to properly treat them with qualified providers so that they can recover from these illnesses; and

WHEREAS, after serving our nation, veterans should not see their health care needs neglected by the VA because VA lacks the capacity to serve them; and

WHEREAS, recent public laws have authorized VA to expand the types and numbers of mental health and other services VA must make available to veterans, their caregivers, dependents and survivors; and

WHEREAS, an existing scholarship program under chapter 76, title 38, United States Code, targeted to physicians, nurses and a variety of other health professions, has been highly successful in recruiting new practitioners to VA careers, and has expanded and improved care to wounded, injured and ill veterans; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of VA community-based outpatient clinics and Readjustment Counseling Service Vet Centers do not directly participate in the existing scholarship program as an aid to their local recruitment and employment efforts; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation or administrative policy changes in the existing scholarship program to make its benefits available more broadly within both the Community-Based Outpatient Clinics and Readjustment Counseling Service Vet Centers of the Department so that these facilities will be able to adequately meet the needs of veterans of all generations who need mental health services and psychological counseling to aid in their recoveries.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 123**  
**SUPPORT REPEAL OF BENEFICIARY TRAVEL ALLOWANCE DEDUCTIBLE**  
**FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS AND INCREASE AND**  
**SUSTAIN BENEFICIARY TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT RATES**

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized under section 111 (g)(1) of title 38, United States Code, to reimburse transportation expenses for certain service-connected veterans for VA examination, medical treatment, or care; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 110387 required VA to permanently reduce to \$3.00 the applicable deductible, but service-connected disabled veterans are still subject to the deduction from the amount otherwise payable for each one-way trip unless the Secretary determines in an individual case that such deductible would cause severe financial hardship; and

WHEREAS, veterans currently receive a flat rate of 41.5 cents per mile for all transportation effective November 17, 2008; and

WHEREAS, service-connected disabled veterans eligible for beneficiary transportation reimbursements should not be required to help defray the cost of travel, in the form of a deductible, to and from a VA medical facility for medical examination, or health care treatment; and

WHEREAS, it is grossly unfair for the VA Secretary to impose the deductible upon service-connected disabled veterans seeking treatment for a service-connected condition and service-connected veterans rated 30 percent or more when traveling in connection with any disability; and

WHEREAS, adequate travel expense reimbursement is directly tied to access to care for many veterans, and is not a luxury; and

WHEREAS, VA, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, the Secretary of Transportation, the Comptroller of the United States, and representatives of veterans service organizations, is required to conduct periodic investigations on the actual cost of travel incurred by veterans traveling to and from VA facilities for covered purposes; and

WHEREAS, after analyzing and adopting the findings of an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) report on operating costs for a privately owned automobile, the General Services Administration (GSA) determined that the per-mile operating costs for the official use of a privately owned vehicle by a federal employee is 55 cents per mile; and

WHEREAS, VA continues to maintain that increasing veterans' beneficiary travel reimbursement rate to a rate more comparable to the GSA approved rate would result in a reduction of funds available for direct medical care to our nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA should not need to choose between providing direct medical care services to sick and disabled veterans or providing adequate beneficiary travel payments so that veterans can gain access to their medical appointments for treatment; and

WHEREAS, when rates do not cover the cost of travel, veterans without resources are likely to delay health care access until their needs may become critical, resulting in higher health care costs and poorer health outcomes; NOW

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to repeal the Secretary's authority to impose a deductible for service-connected disabled veterans from the amount payable for beneficiary travel pay for medical examination, treatment, or care; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to adopt the IRS mileage reimbursement rate to protect against erosion of the value of the benefit due to inflation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to make provision in its budget for the cost of increasing veterans' beneficiary travel reimbursement rates to a more reasonable amount so that it can make the needed adjustment without the reduction in funds for direct medical care to sick and disabled veterans.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 124**  
**SUPPORT FULL FUNDING AND RESOURCES FOR POLYTRAUMA**  
**UNITS AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Poly-trauma System of Care (PSC) is the largest integrated system of care dedicated to the medical and rehabilitation needs of veterans and service members with combat and non-combat related traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and poly-trauma; and

WHEREAS, catastrophically injured veterans are treated at five Poly-trauma Rehabilitation Centers (PRCs) located in Tampa, Richmond, Minneapolis, San Antonio and Palo Alto, for intensive care and longterm restoration and rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, 86 Poly-trauma Support Clinic Teams located in VA medical centers across the country provide specialized outpatient care in coordination with their PNS and offer continued medical and rehabilitation care and support closer to your home community for veterans who have experienced a mild-moderate TBI or poly-trauma injury; and

WHEREAS, 23 specialized rehabilitation programs offering continued medical care and rehabilitation, designated as poly-trauma network sites (PNS) in each VISN, are located in Boston, San Juan, Syracuse, Bronx, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Augusta, Lexington, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Hines, St. Louis, Houston, Dallas, Tucson, Denver, Seattle, and West Los Angeles, as well as being co-located within the PRCs in Richmond, Tampa, Minneapolis, Palo Alto, and San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, veterans spend long periods at PRCs recovering from their injuries and receiving patient-centered care in these specialized poly-trauma centers and poly-trauma network sites; and

WHEREAS, this specialized care is extraordinarily expensive and complex, often addressing complications from multiple amputations, TBI, burns, multiple shell fragment wounds, and other catastrophic injuries; and

WHEREAS, since VA's current nursing home capacity is primarily designed to serve elderly veterans, VA must make every effort to create an age-appropriate environment for younger veterans that recognizes their different psychosocial needs; and

WHEREAS, having the support of their families and friends is an integral part of these veterans' treatment and recovery process; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, calls on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to request and allocate sufficient resources for poly-trauma centers and poly-trauma network sites to ensure these centers include adequate space and other services for veterans' rehabilitation, social, and recreational needs and dedicated space, including therapeutic residential facilities, for disabled veterans and family members who must often stay for extended periods to assist in veterans' recovery and rehabilitation.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 125**  
**IMPROVE REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES FOR**  
**NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMERGENCY**  
**HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR ENROLLED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans (VA) provides enrolled veterans a uniform benefits package that emphasizes preventive and primary care, and provides a comprehensive health care benefit plan including hospital, outpatient and long term care; and

WHEREAS, a health care benefits plan is incomplete without coverage for emergency care; and

WHEREAS, VA payment or reimbursement of emergency care for veterans is convoluted and overtly burdensome resulting in frequently delays and denials in paying or reimbursing of emergency care; and

WHEREAS, veterans fear of incurring enormous financial costs from VA denying payment or reimbursement of emergency care causes many to avoid or otherwise delay seeking or contacting emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, laws were passed over the years to address barriers to emergency care and payment or reimbursement for such care for disabled veterans due to VA's narrow interpretation of the existing authority for emergency care; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to include emergency care as part of VA's medical benefits package; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges the VA to provide for a more liberal interpretation of the law for reimbursement of veterans who have received emergency care at non-VA facilities.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 126**  
**SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE DEPARTMENT OF**  
**VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO ENROLLED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, it is the policy of DAV that veterans should be afforded quality and timely health care services by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) because of their honorable service to our nation; and

WHEREAS, it is the conviction of DAV that quality health care for veterans is achieved when health care providers are given the freedom and resources to provide the most effective and evidence-based care available; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration plays a critical role in the delivery of health care services to our nation's sick and disabled veterans, is the largest direct federal provider of health care services, the largest clinical training ground for the health professions, and a leader in medical research; and

WHEREAS, although the veterans health care system is provided advance appropriations for medical care, it is still at the discretion of Congress to provide a sufficient level of funding; and

WHEREAS, in the past, because of restricted appropriations levels, VA has been forced at times to restrict, ration and deny access to health care implicitly promised in connection with veterans' military service; and

WHEREAS, the VA health care system must be provided sufficient funding to ensure, at a minimum, the following standards are met:

- Promote and ensure health care quality and value, and protect veterans' safety in the health care system;
- Guarantee access to a full continuum of care, from preventive through hospice services, including alternative and complementary care such as yoga, massage, acupuncture, chiropractic and other nontraditional therapies;
- Receive adequate funding through appropriations for care of all enrolled veterans;
- Fairly and equitably distribute resources to treat the greatest number of veterans requiring health care;
- Furnish quality primary care and gender-specific services necessary to meet the needs of a growing population of women veterans;
- Provide all supplies, prosthetic devices, and medications, including over-the-counter medication necessary for the proper treatment of service-connected disabled veterans;
- Preserve VA's mission and role as a provider of specialized services in areas such as blindness, burns, amputation, traumatic brain injury, spinal-cord injury and dysfunction, mental illness, and longterm care;
- Maintain the integrity of an independent VA health care delivery system as representing the primary responsible entity for the delivery of health care services to enrolled veterans;
- Modernize its human resources management system to enable VA to compete for, recruit and retain the types and quality of VA employees needed to provide comprehensive health care services to sick and disabled veterans; and
- Maintain a strong and veteran-focused research program; and
- Establish and sustain effective telemedicine programs as an aid to access to VA health care, particularly for rural and remote populations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation that embodies the concepts and principles enumerated above and establishes certainty to clearly defined VA health care services for enrolled veterans.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 148**  
**ENCOURAGE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**TO PROCESS VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS IN A TIMELY MANNER**

WHEREAS, many DAV members want to join the ranks of volunteers who serve disabled veterans in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities and in local communities associated with the VA and

WHEREAS, these volunteers must undergo an arduous clearance process and background check that can require months of delay, as well as complete a lengthy application to volunteer and thus lose their services and the opportunity for voluntary activities to aid veterans; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the VA Voluntary Service program manager to ensure that volunteer applications are processed in an expeditious manner, because volunteers perform a valuable service to veterans in facilities and save taxpayers millions of dollars; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, strongly encourages each Voluntary Service program manager at every VA medical facility to expedite the process to ensure volunteers are able to serve disabled veterans in VA medical facilities and in their communities.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 172**  
**SUPPORT SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR DEPARTMENT**  
**OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROSTHETICS AND SENSORY AIDS**  
**SERVICE AND TIMELY DELIVERY OF PROSTHETIC ITEMS**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has operated a nationwide prosthetics and sensory aids program, organized as Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service (PSAS), for more than a half century; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of veterans need VA's life-changing PSAS care and services, and obtain a variety of items including prosthetic limbs, custom wheelchairs, orthotic items, eyeglasses, hearing aids, a variety of implantable surgical devices and supplies—a need that continues to rise due to the aging of the veteran population and grievous injuries in war veterans, past and present; and

WHEREAS, VA provides care to over 40,000 veterans with limb loss, and as of February 2015, the total number of major amputations due to war-related injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan is 1,660; and

WHEREAS, in many cases prosthetic items are a truly individualized extension of the body and can impact all aspects of veterans' lives; and

WHEREAS, VA must maintain flexibility in ordering and delivering a variety of state-of-the-art prosthetic aids to meet the unique needs of wounded, ill and injured veterans; and

WHEREAS, PSAS is in the midst of a reformation and reorganization of its procurement policies, procedures and administrative processes, intended to improve its purchasing power and leverage its position in the prosthetic, orthotic and medical device marketplace; and

WHEREAS, changes in procurement practices have in some cases negatively affected the timely delivery of prosthetic, orthotic and other items to many veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA should work to reduce bureaucratic policies and develop a streamlined, faster and more simplified process for procuring prosthetic items and develop systems that eliminate communication barriers between PSAS and the Office of Acquisition and Logistics, and;

WHEREAS, throughout the process VA should ensure there are appropriately trained prosthetic representatives and rehabilitation specialists are available to maintain VA's strong connection between veterans and clinical components of prosthetic care and services; and

WHEREAS, VA must rededicate itself to becoming a leader in prosthetic care by providing cutting-edge services and items to help injured, ill and wounded veterans fully regain mobility and achieve maximum independence in their activities of daily living, and in sports activities such as running, cycling, skiing, rock climbing and other physical exercises if they so choose, NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, seeks to ensure PSAS is provided sufficient funding from Congress and the Administration enabling the program to deliver high-quality prosthetic items to all enrolled veterans needing such items and the specialized corresponding care and support; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED DAV urges VA to fulfill its goal of maximum recovery and independent living for our highest priority veterans, to adopt procurement policies and other practices that accelerate the timely delivery of, and responsive maintenance and repair of, all prosthetic items and that take fully and fairly into account the unique needs of severely injured and wounded veterans.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 190**  
**PROVIDE BENEFICIARY TRAVEL BENEFITS FOR UNSCHEDULED ACUTE**  
**AND URGENT CARE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

WHEREAS, a cornerstone of patient-centered care is having excellent access to appropriate clinical care using appropriate modes of health care delivery at the time patients want and need the care; and

WHEREAS, VA Beneficiary Travel provides payment of travel expenses within the United States under title 38, United States Code, section 111 to help veterans and other persons obtain care and services from VA; and

WHEREAS, it is VA policy to pay travel expenses only for one-way travel to veterans who receive VA care without a scheduled appointment; and

WHEREAS, the nature of acute medical or psychiatric illness or minor injuries for which there is a pressing need for treatment to prevent deterioration of the condition or impairing possible recovery is generally unscheduled and episodic; and

WHEREAS, VA policy also subscribes to the principle that access to appropriate primary and urgent care must be unrestricted and to ensure sufficient capacity to accommodate unscheduled “walk-in” patients; and

WHEREAS, VA Beneficiary Travel for unscheduled visits runs counter to the stated purpose of such benefit, which is to “help ensure that beneficiary travel is covered only when necessary for the provision of care or services”; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado August 8–11, 2015, urges Congress and the VA change current Beneficiary Travel policy to pay round-trip travel expenses to veterans who receive VA care without a scheduled appointment.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 217**  
**IMPROVE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
**AFFAIRS PURCHASED CARE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, current law authorizes Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities to purchase non-VA care by medical specialists only when VA facilities are incapable of providing necessary care to veterans, when VA facilities are geographically inaccessible to veterans, and in certain emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, non-VA purchased care includes non-VA Emergency Care, Fee Basis, Contract Care, the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMP-VA) and sharing agreements with the Department of Defense and medical affiliates; and

WHEREAS, over 75 percent of disabled veterans enrolled in the VA health care system plan to receive at least some of their care from a non-VA health care provider; and

WHEREAS, some veterans who seek reimbursement from VA are paying for part of their care because VA will at times approve only a portion of the costs of private medical services or inpatient hospital days of care; and

WHEREAS, VA's antiquated and cumbersome information technology infrastructure used to manage the authorization, claims processing, and reimbursement for services acquired in the non-VA purchased care program is a disincentive for private providers to care for service-connected disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, some service-connected veterans in the fee program are unable to receive needed treatment from a private provider due to the amount payable and delayed payment by VA; and

WHEREAS, VA does not currently assign a care or case manager to assist disabled veterans to access and coordinate non-VA care when they are authorized to receive such care; and

WHEREAS, in general, the quality of care from private providers and a veteran's continuity of care are not monitored, and the care received does not become part of a veteran's electronic health record; and

WHEREAS, in general, VA does not track purchased private care for eligible veterans, such as related costs, health outcomes, or veteran satisfaction levels; and

WHEREAS, the complex legislative authority, decentralized structure, and the inadequate funding to local VA facilities for non-VA purchased care continue to erode the effectiveness of this necessary healthcare benefit; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges Congress and the Administration to conduct strong oversight of the non-VA purchased care program to ensure service-connected disabled veterans are not encumbered in receiving non-VA care at VA's expense; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to establish a non-VA purchased care coordination program that complements the capabilities and capacities of each VA medical facility and includes care and case management, non-VA quality of care and patient safety standards equal to or better than VA, timely claims processing, adequate reimbursement rates, health records management and centralized appointment scheduling.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 218**  
**APPLY A CONSISTENT COORDINATED CARE POLICY IN THE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR TRAVELING VETERANS**

WHEREAS, many service-connected disabled veterans temporarily split their principal residence between two locations; and

WHEREAS, coordination and continuity of care are core features of high quality primary care and has been shown to have significant benefits, including lower rates of hospitalization and lower mortality; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration policy defining how patients are assigned to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) primary care providers states that, in general, each veteran receiving VA primary care must be assigned a single primary care provider within the VA health care system; and

WHEREAS, under this policy, veterans who spend a significant part of the year living between two regions and who have complex health care needs requiring close ongoing care management may have primary care providers assigned at more than one facility; and

WHEREAS, some service-connected veterans who would otherwise be eligible for a second VA primary care provider are being denied this critical service; and

WHEREAS, many service-connected veterans are unaware of this policy and are not being educated by their VA provider that they can be evaluated to determine eligibility for a second VA primary care provider to better coordinate execution of the veteran's health care plan between two VA facilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges the VA to consistently apply the established Primary Care Standards nationwide, educate veterans who live in multiple regions about this policy and add VA rated service-connected disabilities as one of the critical factors used in determining the need of a dual primary care provider.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 219**  
**SUPPORT TOP PRIORITY ACCESS FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS**  
**WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has issued national directives and policies to affirm its commitment to providing top priority access to hospital care and medical services to veterans with service-connected disabilities, regardless of the percentage assigned to the service-connected disability rating, in absence of compelling medical reasons to the contrary; and

WHEREAS, many VA facilities are struggling to fulfill this mandate because of budget pressures, insufficient local resources and saturation of available capacity because of increasing patient workloads; and

WHEREAS, DAV continues to receive complaints from service-connected veterans who are being denied priority access to VA health care services, or report their access to care is being delayed; and

WHEREAS, due to inadequate resources, VHA at times has been forced to establish waiting lists and implement other types of health care rationing, absent compelling medical reasons; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports strict enforcement by the VHA, including VHA network and medical center directors, of governing policies providing service-connected veterans priority access to care, unless compelling medical reasons affecting other veterans prevent such priority from being extended to them.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 220**  
**REQUIRE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING OF**  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STAFF WHO**  
**WORK TO REHABILITATE BLINDED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration has established training and assessment protocols for blind and visually impaired veterans and provides them assistive technology training; and

WHEREAS, the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) does not possess a specialty or certification for technology; and

WHEREAS, staff and supervisors within Blind Rehabilitation Service acknowledge that they are unprepared and unable to remain abreast of evolutionary advances in assistive technology for the blind; and

WHEREAS, enhancements of electronic assistive devices are continuously introduced; and

WHEREAS, blind and visually impaired veterans utilize assistive technology to accomplish tasks in manual skills, living skills, orientation mobility, computing, and basic quality-of-life needs; and

WHEREAS, any individual within Blind Rehabilitation Service that either provides training or assesses visually impaired veterans must be knowledgeable on the capabilities of such devices; and

WHEREAS, presently Blind Rehabilitation Service, ACVREP, and social workers follow no national standard for minimum technical knowledge; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges that the VA Blind Rehabilitation Service ensure that all personnel involved

with the assessment and training of blind and visually impaired veterans receive regular training in the form of continuing education credits, or achieve independent certification on technological solutions and adaptive aides.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 221**  
**SUPPORT CONSISTENT REASONABLE ACCESS FOR SERVICE AND**  
**GUIDE DOGS IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, trained guide dogs and other trained service dogs can have a significant role in maintaining functionality and promoting maximal independence of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, some veterans with disabilities such as blindness, deafness, mental illness, and epilepsy and other seizure disorders are specifically aided by service and guide animals employed for these purposes by persons with such disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) approves guide and service dogs to veterans enrolled in VA health care when therapeutically indicated; and

WHEREAS, the VA has published guidance requiring each VA health care facility to maintain a policy on the admission of guide and service animals to VA premises; and

WHEREAS, each VA medical facility is expected to maintain reasonable policies on the control and admittance of such animals that accompany veterans on their medical visits to VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, VA is engaged in formal research efforts to determine the efficacy of the use of service dogs in nontraditional applications, such as acting as companions to the mentally ill; and

WHEREAS, veterans have reported that certain VA facilities do not permit service and guide dogs to accompany them into facilities, including primary care or mental health clinic appointments, while other facilities permit them into certain designated areas; and

WHEREAS, VA is experimenting with dog training programs led by veterans for veterans, to determine if the training of service dogs itself is a therapeutic method to reduce symptoms in veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges that VA carry out its policies to permit reasonable access to VA facilities by service and guide dogs to veterans consistently throughout the system; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to complete its plan to conduct thoroughgoing research and expansion of ongoing model programs to determine the most efficacious use of guide and service dogs in defined populations, in particular veterans with mental health conditions, and to broadly publish the results of that research; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should enact legislation setting forth VA standards for admission to VA properties and management of service and guide animals that are equivalent to rules applicable to every other private and public structure in the United States as dictated by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 222**  
**SUPPORT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, to restore the wounds and injuries, to maintain the health of veterans of prior conflicts, and to develop new treatments for veterans wounded and injured in today's and future conflicts, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical and Prosthetic Research program provides a vital service and investment for veterans; and

WHEREAS, funded VA researchers are studying injuries and illnesses emanating from war, such as traumatic brain injury, burns, paralysis and amputations, and illnesses and diseases that disproportionately appear in the wartime veteran population, such as toxic environmental exposures, numerous organic illnesses, and post-traumatic stress disorder and other associated mental health sequelae of war; and

WHEREAS, VA researchers have been recognized by multiple awards of Nobel Prizes, Lasker Awards (the "American Nobel Prize"), and many other public and private emblems of achievement, for elevating the standards of health care not only for wounded and injured veterans but for people all around the world, including publication of tens of thousands of research developments in peer-reviewed medical literature; and

WHEREAS, VA researchers contribute directly to the health of veterans by serving as clinical providers in VA health care facilities, and carry out important faculty and attending duties to sustain VA's affiliations with the nation's schools of health professions, thereby elevating the standards of health care for all; and

WHEREAS, VA research is conducted only after rigorous scientific peer review, supervised by institutional review boards, and only in conformance with the Common Rule and other ethical and humanitarian constraints to ensure informed consent and safety of all research volunteers, and the efficacy of approved research projects; and

WHEREAS, VA's clinician-scientists in VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, who constitute the world's foremost scientists working in this field, invent and adapt specialized prosthetic, orthotic and other appliances, supports and treatments, using numerous groundbreaking technologies, to improve the lives of countless numbers of severely disabled veterans, including many members of DAV; and

WHEREAS, the annual VA Medical and Prosthetic Research appropriation constitutes less than one tenth of one percent of VA's health care budget, but research funding has been subjected to proposed reductions, and its annual appropriation fails even to account for uncontrollable research inflation; and

WHEREAS, an independent report to VA and Congress has identified almost \$800 million in repairs, restorations and replacements that are needed for VA's research laboratories, some of which involve life and safety risks for VA employees and veteran volunteers, but neither VA nor Congress has provided designated funding to address these needs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, strongly supports VA's Medical and Prosthetic Research program as a vital investment in the future affecting wounded, injured and ill veterans, and urges VA and Congress to adequately fund this program (including its infrastructure deficits) so that it may continue its remarkable traditions in helping veterans recover and rehabilitate, to improve the quality of their lives.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 223**  
**SUPPORT THE RIGHTS AND BENEFITS EARNED BY**  
**NATIVE AMERICAN AND ALASKA NATIVE VETERANS**

WHEREAS, per capita, a higher percentage of Native Americans have served in the armed forces than any other ethnic group, and many return to their reservations upon discharge from the military; and

WHEREAS, the reserved lands of the Indian Nations often can be hundreds of miles from VA facilities, where poverty, lack of transportation, and poor roads put great hardships on Native American veterans who need and have earned Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and other benefits; and

WHEREAS, in evaluating the needs of Native American and Alaska Native veterans, especially those living on reservation lands, the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations has reported among the most pressing needs to be the great travel distances for them to access VA health care services, a high percentage of homelessness, and a lack of local employment opportunity; and

WHEREAS, many Native American veterans who have completed military deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan and who may be challenged by readjustment and mental health disorders are not afforded responsive medical attention due to insufficient mental health service availability on reservations; and

WHEREAS, many VA clinical care providers lack knowledge and understanding of the Native American and Alaska Native cultures, including their traditions and methods of dealing with illness and disability, causing additional barriers to care for Native American and Alaska Native veterans; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 and renewed in 2010, VA executed with the Indian Health Service (IHS) of the Department of Health and Human Services, a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate and provide health care services, including mental health services, to Native American and Alaska Native veterans; and

WHEREAS, nearly a decade after the original agreement was approved in 2003, the VA and IHS have not comprehensively implemented the Memorandum of Understanding; and

WHEREAS, due to lack of implementation, tribal governments do not have broad knowledge of the existence of, or commitments in, the Memorandum of Understanding, and therefore have not generally disseminated relevant information to Native American and Alaska Native veterans about their VA and IHS rights and benefits under the agreement; NOW;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure the Memorandum of Understanding between the VA and the IHS is fully implemented, and that direct providers of services, as well as their leaderships in both agencies,

be held accountable to faithfully carry out the agreement so that Native American and Alaska Native veterans, especially those living on reservation lands, can receive the full benefits and services they have earned and deserve.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 224**  
**URGE CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO ASSURE**  
**FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATION TO GUARANTEE**  
**SUFFICIENT, TIMELY AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING FOR**  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, DAV believes that wounded, injured and ill veterans, through their extraordinary sacrifices and service, earned the right to health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, VA health care programs provide essential services for over six million veterans annually, including more than 2 million service-connected disabled veterans who rely on VA as their primary health care provider; and

WHEREAS, demand for VA health care services has grown dramatically, with enrollment rising from 2.7 million to more than 9 million veterans over the past 16 years, thereby requiring greater VA resources to meet this demand; and

WHEREAS, DAV worked for more than two decades to reform the budget process in order to assure sufficient, timely, and predictable funding for VA health care programs; and

WHEREAS, DAV developed and supported new legislation to assure sufficient, timely and predictable funding for VA health care through the technique of advance appropriations, as well as through new transparency and accountability requirements covering VA health care budget requests; and

WHEREAS, spurred by DAV, Congress enacted Public Law 11181, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009, a law that requires advance appropriations for VA's three medical care accounts that fund VA's health care programs; and

WHEREAS, VA's leadership, employees, and veterans served by VA health care facilities have universally reported that advance appropriations have allowed VA to more efficiently and effectively deliver timely, quality health care to enrolled veterans; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 11181 required GAO to study and report to Congress and the public on VA's budget submissions in fiscal years 2011, 2012 and 2013, including an evaluation of VA's budget estimates compared to the forecasts made by VA's internal actuarial model; and

WHEREAS, GAO reported significant findings of unjustified, questionable changes VA made during the internal budget development process, limitations of budget justifications, and questionable reliability of proposed savings estimates; and

WHEREAS, DAV as well as the Congressional sponsors of the advance appropriations concept anticipated that full implementation of Public Law 11181 would require continued oversight from Congress, as well as by the interested veterans service organizations, including DAV; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, continues to call on Congress and VA to fully and faithfully implement Public Law 11181, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009, to assure sufficient, timely and predictable funding for veterans health care; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to permanently extend the GAO study and reporting requirements that were included in the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 225**  
**OPPOSE RECOMMENDATION THAT MILITARY RETIRED**  
**VETERANS BE PROHIBITED FROM RECEIVING HEALTH CARE**  
**FROM BOTH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEPARTMENT**  
**OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, military retired veterans were promised and earned lifetime health care through the Department of Defense (DoD) for completion of the required period of military service; and

WHEREAS, as veterans, they are separately entitled to the same health care provided to eligible veterans generally through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, one of the two health care systems may offer advantages that the other does not offer; and

WHEREAS, a veteran's use of this dual entitlement to receive the best services of both systems does not constitute unnecessary duplicate use of health care services or duplication of costs to the Government; and

WHEREAS, entitlement to care under one system is not itself justification to end separate entitlement to care through the other system; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of their service and sacrifices, veterans have earned special benefits that are separate and in addition to benefits the government provides to other citizens; and

WHEREAS, enrollment in VA or DoD health care, especially in the case of service-connected disabled veterans, should never become a bar or obstacle to the receipt of benefits from either of these health care systems; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, opposes any action to restrict health care eligibility for military retired veterans in either the DoD or the VA health care systems.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 226**  
**SUPPORT SUFFICIENT RESOURCES FOR THE DEPARTMENT**  
**OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES**  
**FOR VETERANS LIVING IN RURAL OR REMOTE AREAS**

WHEREAS, 44 percent of today's active duty military service members and tomorrow's veteran population list rural communities as their homes of record; and

WHEREAS, approximately 40 percent of veterans enrolled for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care are classified by VA as veterans living in rural or highly rural areas; and

WHEREAS, after serving our nation, veterans should not have their health care needs neglected by the VA because they choose to live in rural and remote areas far from major VA health care facilities; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 109461 authorized VA to establish the Veterans Health Administration Office of Rural Health to promulgate policies, best practices and innovations to improve services to veterans who reside in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, both houses of Congress on numerous occasions have attempted with legislation to address unmet health care needs of veterans who make their homes in rural and remote areas; and

WHEREAS, beginning in fiscal year 2009, Congress has provided VA \$250 million annually in funding to support enhancements to rural health care; and

WHEREAS, VA has funded over 500 projects and programs, authorized new mobile rural clinics in Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs), appointed "Rural Health Consultants" in each of VA's 21 VISNs, and is conducting regularly scheduled meetings of VA's Rural Veterans Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, VA receives no congressional appropriations dedicated to support establishment of rural community-based outpatient clinics but must manage those additional expenses from within available medical services appropriations provided by Congress; and

WHEREAS, VA has established and is operating over 800 community-based outpatient clinics, of which nearly half are located in areas considered by VA to be rural or highly rural; and

WHEREAS, VA must ensure the numbers of its Readjustment Counseling Service Vet Centers in rural and highly rural areas are sufficient to meet the demands for counseling of rural veterans in need of psychological readjustment after serving in combat deployments; and

WHEREAS, VA cannot cost-effectively justify establishing additional remote facilities in areas with sparse veteran populations given current circumstances, and therefore should be empowered by Congress to award grants from designated rural appropriations to selected providers in those circumstances where providing direct VA care is impracticable; and

WHEREAS, historically, VA has had difficulty securing sufficient funding through the Congressional discretionary budget and appropriations process to ensure basic and adequate access for the care of sick and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, Congress has enacted Public Law 11181, the purpose of which is to secure advance appropriations for the delivery of VA health care services, including services in rural areas; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, fully supports the right of rural veterans to be served by VA, including through rural health grants in certain circumstances, but insists that funding for additional rural care and outreach

be sustained and not be the cause of reductions in highly specialized VA medical programs needed for the care of sick and disabled service-connected veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV insists that if Congress intends to continue to provide enhanced VA health care access to rural veterans, Congress must include appropriations for that specific purpose in advance appropriations acts.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 227**  
**ENHANCE THE CIVILIAN HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROGRAM**  
**OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), known as CHAMP-VA, is a health benefits program in which the VA shares the cost of certain health services with eligible beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, eligible beneficiaries include: the spouse or child of a veteran who VA rated 100-percent permanently and totally disabled for a service connected disability; the surviving spouse or child of a veteran who died from a VA-rated service-connected disability, or who, at the time of death, was rated 100-percent permanently and totally disabled; or the surviving spouse or child of a military service member who died on active duty, and the primary caregiver of a veteran seriously injured during military service on or after September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, VA medical centers are authorized to provide services to CHAMP-VA beneficiaries under the CHAMP-VA In House Treatment Initiative (CITI) program at no cost to the beneficiary but are provided at the discretion of the VA Medical Center director and available only on a space-available basis, after the needs of veterans are met; and

WHEREAS, if the local VA medical facility does not participate in the CITI program, the beneficiary must seek care in the private sector and the CHAMP-VA beneficiary is responsible for an annual \$50 deductible for medical services rendered and 25 percent of reasonable and customary charges for patient care and pharmaceuticals, up to \$3,000 each year; and

WHEREAS, beneficiaries who are chronically ill can incur out-of-pocket medical care costs up to \$3,000 per year and such costs can cause undue financial burden on a severely disabled veteran and family members; and

WHEREAS, numerous health care services such as dental care, institutional and home-based longterm care, and vision are not routinely covered under CHAMP-VA; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to make the CHAMP-VA program more comprehensive, including dental and vision care, institutional and home-based longterm care, and eliminate the co-payments beneficiaries are required to pay out of pocket and lower the out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries who do not live near a VA medical facility that participates in the CHAMP-VA CITI health care program; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports the CITI program and urges VA Medical Center directors to make that program available to CHAMP-VA beneficiaries when resources are available.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 228**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE DEPARTMENT**  
**OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO PREVENT**  
**AND TREAT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS IN VETERANS**

WHEREAS, the misuse and abuse of alcohol and other addictive substances is a major health problem for many Americans, including veterans; and

WHEREAS, substance use disorders result in significant health and social deterioration and financial costs to veterans, their families and the nation; and

WHEREAS, data from a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national study showed that 40 percent of VA outpatients reported hazardous use of alcohol, and 22 percent reported full alcohol abuse, but only 31 percent of the respondents reported being counseled about alcohol use; and

WHEREAS, substance use disorders are associated with family instability, decreased worker productivity, and declining health status; and

WHEREAS, veterans of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND) are at risk for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and a wide array of other medical and psychological conditions, which may be associated with veterans' increased use of substances; and

WHEREAS, a study of VA health care users shows that more than 11 percent of OEF/OIF/OND veterans have been diagnosed with an alcohol use disorder, a drug use disorder, or both, and VA data show that almost 22 percent of OEF/OIF/OND veterans with PTSD also have a substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, VA offers few integrated treatment programs that would work to address both the substance use disorder and co-occurring PTSD, depression, anxiety or other medical or mental health conditions which may cause or exacerbate veterans' inappropriate use of substances; and

WHEREAS, in some locations, VA lacks timely access to a complete continuum of available services that ranges from detoxification to rehabilitation in order to effectively treat substance use disorders; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports program improvement and enhanced resources for VA substance use disorder programs to achieve a full spectrum of evidence-based accessible and available treatment, including effective integrated treatment programs for veterans with comorbid mental health and substance use disorder conditions, regardless of their place of residence.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 229**  
**REQUIRE A VETERAN'S ATTENDING DEPARTMENT OF**  
**VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) PHYSICIAN TO PROVIDE A MEDICAL OPINION**  
**WITH REGARD TO A CLAIM FOR VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION**

WHEREAS, section 5103A of title 38, United States Code, requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assist a veteran by providing a medical examination and opinion when necessary to make a decision on a claim for disability benefits; and

WHEREAS, section 17.38 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, requires Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care providers, under specified circumstances, to provide statements and medical opinions on conditions, employability and degree of disability; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook 1605.1 provides that veterans may request written statements from VHA health care providers regarding their medical conditions, and medical opinions for submission in support of their claims for VA benefits; and

WHEREAS, according to this Handbook, when a VA health care provider is the individual's attending physician, but chooses not to provide an opinion or statement, such physician must refer the veteran's request to another health care provider to obtain the opinion or statement; and

WHEREAS, VHA Directive 2008071 reversed and vacated the Handbook policy; and

WHEREAS, this directive only requires a statement of current medical status and holds that any request from a veteran for a medical statement in support of a claim for VA benefits be referred to the Veterans Benefits Administration; and

WHEREAS, Disability Benefit Questionnaires (DBQs) are designed for easy use and provide a format for documenting medical evidence that aids Veterans Benefits Administration rating specialists in making decisions on claims; and

WHEREAS, VA works to become a provider of choice for enrolled veterans through a comprehensive medical benefits package; and

WHEREAS, through education, training, and experience, VA physicians gain special insight into the veterans' experience and specialized knowledge of the diseases and disabilities common to military service; and

WHEREAS, when VA physicians refuse to provide statements or opinions for veteran patients, those denials are inconsistent with the goal of the VHA to provide comprehensive care and place a serious burden on veterans who may not be able to afford a private medical opinion; and

WHEREAS, while VHA Directive 2013002 permits VHA clinicians to complete DBQs on behalf of veterans, the Directive also refers to VHA Directive 2008071, and thus may defeat the purpose of using DBQs for opinions within VA; and

WHEREAS, given these conflicting policies, VA lacks a consistent approach to providing supportive opinions to aid veterans in presenting their disability claims; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges VA to develop and implement a consistent policy requiring VA health care practitioners to provide medical statements or opinions when requested by veterans in conjunction with claims for VA benefits.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 230**  
**SUPPORT CONSISTENT REASONABLE ACCESS**  
**FOR POWER-DRIVEN MOBILITY DEVICES**

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of disabled veterans face daily challenges with mobility as a result of their military service; and

WHEREAS, individuals with mobility, circulatory, respiratory, or neurological disabilities use many kinds of devices for mobility; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of power-driven mobility devices that assist individuals with mobility and the individual's access to public places is covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as amended in 2010; and

WHEREAS, said regulations allowing access with wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices are not widely known and can present difficulties for individuals seeking access to public areas; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policy is not clear on whether or not it permits power-driven mobility devices in its facilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges that VA carry out its policies to permit reasonable access to VA facilities by veterans using a power-driven mobility device consistently throughout the system.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 231**  
**REDUCE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICATION**  
**CO-PAYMENTS EQUAL TO, OR LESS THAN, THE LOWEST CHARGED**  
**BY PRIVATE SECTOR COMMERCIAL OUTLETS**

WHEREAS, DAV has approved a longstanding resolution opposing co-payments for medical care and prescription medications for military retirees and veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has periodically increased medication co-payments, from the original charge of \$2.00, up to \$9.00 per 30-day supply of each prescribed medication for some enrolled veterans; and

WHEREAS, Congress has not agreed to eliminate co-payments for VA health care services and medications, despite the origin of the requirement that was justified as a "temporary" measure to reduce the federal deficit; and

WHEREAS, numerous private sector commercial pharmaceutical outlets make medications available for much lower co-payments than VA charges veterans in VA care, in some cases as little as half of VA's current charges; and

WHEREAS, in many instances VA clinicians prescribe over-the-counter medications to veterans that would cost far less if purchased in a commercial pharmaceutical outlet (but also including VA's own Veterans Canteen Service (VCS)) than charges in co-payments for the same medications; and

WHEREAS, VA medication co-payments cause an undue financial hardship for many sick and disabled veterans who need relief due to their high health care costs and fixed incomes; and

WHEREAS, although DAV adamantly opposes health care and medication co-payments for military retirees and veterans, DAV believes VA should not charge veterans required co-payments that exceed co-payments charged by large commercial pharmaceutical sources, and should not charge co-payments that exceed the full retail prices of prescribed over-the-counter medications that are sold in the VCS; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation that will reduce the amount of medication co-payments paid by veterans to be equal to, or less than, the lowest price co-payments charged by private sector commercial outlets to veterans and nonveterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in the case of over-the-counter medications, Congress should prohibit VA from charging medication co-payments that exceed the retail cost of these drugs sold in VCS retail stores.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 232**  
**SUPPORT A NEW PARADIGM FOR REFORM OF VETERANS HEALTH CARE**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system was established to provide for the unique needs of disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Congress authorized VA to provide a full continuum of care to all enrolled veterans, including disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VA health care system has experienced an unprecedented period of upheaval and criticism from a variety of sources because of documented failures that delayed access to care and harmed veterans; and

WHEREAS, the members of DAV and two million other disabled veterans rely heavily on the specialized health care resources provided by VA to them as partial compensation and to support recovery from wounds, injuries and illnesses incurred in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, VA must implement a longterm strategy to rebuild, modernize, maintain and expand facilities and provide staff resources for the care and treatment of disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA must restructure all its community care programs into a flexible and responsive extended care network; and

WHEREAS, VA must realign and expand health care services to meet the diverse needs of future veterans, including those who reside in rural and remote regions far from VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, VA must reform management of health care by increasing efficiency, transparency and accountability to become more veteran-centric and responsive as an organization; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DAV in National Convention, assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, believes the nation should continue to honor the service and sacrifices of our nation’s disabled veterans by creating and sustaining a modern, high-quality, accessible and accountable VA health care system; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that anything less than a fully funded and reformed VA health care system ignores our national obligation, and leaves veterans to fend for themselves in a private sector health care system that is ill prepared to care for them; AND.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress and the Administration to provide a flow of resources and vigilant oversight to enable VA to achieve excellence in health care for all veterans who rely on VA for these vital services.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 233**

#### **ENCOURAGE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO SUBMIT CANDIDATES FOR THE GEORGE H. SEAL MEMORIAL AWARD PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, DAV created the George H. Seal Memorial Award Program as a means to recruit, retain and recognize volunteers who serve disabled veterans in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities and the local community; and

WHEREAS, the George H. Seal Memorial Award annually recognizes the remarkable efforts of an outstanding member of DAV and DAV Auxiliary (DAVA) who willingly donate their time and energy to disabled veterans in VA Voluntary Service programs; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of each calendar year, DAV solicits every VA Voluntary Service Program Manager to nominate one deserving member of DAV and DAVA from their facility in order to be considered for the George H. Seal Memorial Award, with little response; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, strongly encourages each Voluntary Service Program Manager at every VA medical facility to submit the name of a deserving member of DAV and DAVA to be considered for this prestigious award in appreciation of their dedication and service to America’s veterans through their voluntary service efforts.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 234**

#### **ENCOURAGE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO SUBMIT CANDIDATES FOR THE JESSE BROWN MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, DAV created the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program as a means to recruit young volunteers and to recognize the efforts of America’s young volunteers who serve disabled veterans in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities and the local community; and

WHEREAS, the scholarship program will award a total of \$75,000 in 2014 to eight deserving youth volunteers in the form of a first-place \$20,000 scholarship; a second-place \$15,000 scholarship; a \$10,000 third-place scholarship, two \$7,500 fourth-place scholarships and three \$5,000 scholarships; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of each calendar year, DAV solicits every VA Voluntary Service Program Manager to nominate one deserving youth volunteer from their facility in order to be considered for one of the scholarships, but with little response; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, strongly encourages each Voluntary Service program manager at every VA medical facility to submit the name of a deserving youth volunteer to be considered for one of the scholarships in appreciation of their dedication to serving America's veterans through their voluntary service efforts.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 235**  
**SUPPORT NEW MODELS OF CARE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT**  
**OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR VETERANS WITH DEMENTIA**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) faces a large and growing number of veterans with dementia, including Alzheimer's Disease and other organic disease of the brain, in more than 550,000 veterans, including over 300,000 enrolled in VA health care; and

WHEREAS, dementia is a chronic and incurable condition, costing VA three times more than the average patient; and

WHEREAS, dementia impairs key executive functions, such as memory and cognition, including language, insight, judgment, ability to plan, and diminishes the ability for self-care, triggers behavioral and psychological problems, and creates a heavy burden on caregivers; and

WHEREAS, dementia is difficult to diagnose and is often missed by clinicians, creating gaps in care; and

WHEREAS, several studies have raised concern that both traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder may be linked to an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, VA's failure to provide necessary supports to family caregivers of dementia patients damages their psychosocial well-being; and

WHEREAS, through demonstration projects, VA has developed effective new models of dementia care that are capable of providing integrated care across health care settings, but these projects may be phased out due to lack of VA leadership and resources; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2014, urges VA to increase support and resources for effective initiatives to improve dementia care for veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to implement in VA facilities nationwide its best models of integrated dementia care based on proven demonstration projects, to ensure patient-centered, high-quality and cost-effective care is provided to the growing number of veterans suffering from dementia.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 241**  
**EXTEND APPRECIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
**AFFAIRS EASTERN COLORADO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR**  
**THE SUCCESS OF THE 94TH DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION**

WHEREAS, the cooperation and professionalism extended by Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical personnel to the delegates and guests of the 94th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary was laudable; and

WHEREAS, many of the delegates to our National Convention were in need of immediate medical treatment and required the assistance of prosthetic equipment to attend the National Convention; and

WHEREAS, in response to these requests, the health care officials from the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System, staffed and maintained a high-quality outpatient clinic and prosthetic service within the Denver Sheraton; and

WHEREAS, the medical care and prosthetic services rendered to the delegates to this 94th National Convention were extended in a highly compassionate and professional manner; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System for the professional and skillful medical care delivered to the delegates to this 94th National Convention and for contributing to the overall success of this Convention.

\* \* \*

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you, Kirk. You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. LOZANO: Mic 3.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 3.

MR. LOZANO: Manny Lozano, Chapter 28, Department of Georgia, seconds.

COMMANDER HOPE: We have a motion and a second. In accordance with Rule 9 now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish to be read? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Let's give the Committee a round of thanks. (Applause)

I would like to call upon Chairman Michael Vandrovec for the report on the Committee of General Resolutions and Membership.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL VANDROVEC: Comrade Commander, delegates, the National Convention Committee on General Resolutions was called to order on August 8th, 2015, by the Committee Advisors Paul Varela and Adrian Atizado.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention chairperson and secretary. I, Michael Vandrovec, was elected chairman. And Richard Walker was elected secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the general resolutions submitted. And I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention. For the purpose of saving time, I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolution.

The first resolution, Number 39, extend military commissary and exchange privileges in space-available aircraft to 30 percent or higher service-connected disabled veterans separated from service prior to October 1949;

Resolution 40, seek the immediate release of Americans who may still be held captive following World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and return the remains of any Americans who have died there during these wars; (Applause)

Resolution 41, oppose any authorized use of members of armed forces for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent;

42, encourage all disabled veterans to become registered voters and to vote; (Applause)

Resolution Number 43, condemn public desecration of the flag of the United States; (Applause)

Resolution Number 44, support construction of a courthouse for the United States Court of Appeals on Veterans Claims;

Resolution Number 93, support adequate funding for all VA programs; (Applause)

Resolution Number 94, extend space-available air travel aboard military aircraft to all veterans entitled to receive compensation at the 100-percent rate; (Applause)

Number 97, support and establish nationwide veterans' treatment courts for justice-involved veterans; (Applause)

Resolution 166, support for the defense of POW and MIA Accounting Agency;

Resolution 215, support former POW slave labor claims against Japanese firms; (Applause)

Resolution 216, support move to renew prisoner of war/missing in action discussions;

Resolution Number 238, appreciation to all responsible for the success of the 94th National Convention;

Resolution Number 239, appreciation to Denver Sheraton for the success of the 94th National Convention;

Resolution Number 240, appreciation to National Commander Ron Hope;

Resolution Number 95, extend commissary and exchange privileges to service-connected disabled veterans and dependents. (Applause)

According to tradition, I will read Resolution Number 240, appreciation to Commander, National Commander Ronald Hope, in its entirety: Appreciation to National Commander Ronald F. Hope

"WHEREAS, DAV National Commander Ronald F. Hope of Clemmons, North Carolina, served honorably in the United States Army during combat in the Vietnam War; and

"WHEREAS, a member of Bravo Company, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion, First Air Cavalry Division, Commander Hope was wounded on July 15th, 1969, when his helicopter was shot down during a combat assault, resulting in the amputation of his left arm at the shoulder and numerous other injuries;

"WHEREAS, among his military decorations Commander Hope received the Purple Heart, multiple Air Medals, Army Aviation Badge, the Vietnam Service and Campaign Medals; and

"WHEREAS, after being medically retired as a result of his wounds, Commander Hope earned his bachelor of business degree administration from Tarleton State University with a major in marketing; and

"WHEREAS, he began his professional career with the DAV as a National Service Officer in Waco, Texas, 1979; and

"WHEREAS, Commander Hope was promoted to a National Service Office Supervisor in Oklahoma City in 1983 and Winston-Salem in 1987, before serving as the Area Supervisor for Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee until his retirement in 2010; and

“WHEREAS, members of the Disabled American Veterans unanimously elected him to National Commander during the 2014 National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada; and

“WHEREAS, he has shown outstanding leadership during his year as National Commander and stands as an inspiration and role model for all those who follow; and

“WHEREAS, Commander Hope kept membership well-informed on all matters that affect veterans, widows, and orphans, has again proven that he has kept a constant vigil over the happenings that affect the present and future of all facets of veterans and their families;

“WHEREAS, Commander Hope personally involved in meeting with the House and Senate leadership which resulted in passage of advance appropriations for VA’s mandatory spending programs such as disability compensation, indemnity compensation, and education payments;

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the DAV National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8th through the 11th, 2015, express its members’ heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude to Commander Hope for his sacrifices, selfless service, professionalism, and dedication to his fellow wounded, ill and injured veterans and their families of the Disabled American Veterans during his year as the National Commander; and

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the DAV also salutes and extends our sincere appreciation to Commander Hope’s mother Lucille, his daughter Rhonda, and their families for steadfast support for his sacrifices during his year as the DAV National Commander.”

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on General Resolutions. On behalf of the Committee I move for the adoption of these resolutions and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

(The above-mentioned resolutions follow:)

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 039**  
**EXTEND MILITARY COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE**  
**PRIVILEGES AND SPACE-AVAILABLE AIR TRAVEL TO**  
**CERTAIN SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, disabled active duty personnel who were discharged from military service prior to October 1, 1949—the effective date of the Career Compensation Act—are not entitled to disability retirement from the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, many service-connected disabled veterans have been deprived of the various benefits which all other disabled retired military personnel have enjoyed; and

WHEREAS, due to inflation, service-connected disabled veterans receiving Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation as a sole source of income are experiencing difficulties in keeping pace with the increased cost of living; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation which would extend military commissary and exchange privileges, as well as space-available air travel aboard military aircraft, to enlisted personnel who were discharged from active military service prior to October 1, 1949, for a service-incurred injury or disease rated by the VA as 30 percent or more disabling and who retained at least a 30-percent evaluation for a period of five years from the date of separation from active duty.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 040**  
**SEEK THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ANY AMERICANS WHO MAY**  
**STILL BE HELD CAPTIVE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, THE KOREAN**  
**WAR, THE VIETNAM WAR, THE PERSIAN GULF WAR, AND OPERATIONS**  
**ENDURING FREEDOM AND IRAQI FREEDOM AND THE RETURN OF**  
**THE REMAINS OF ANY AMERICANS WHO DIED DURING THESE WARS**

WHEREAS, the members of DAV are deeply concerned for the thousands of American Servicemen still unaccounted for in the aftermath of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, numerous efforts by high level American delegations, including members of Congress, have visited Southeast Asia in continuing efforts to solve the mystery of the whereabouts and fate of our missing in action from that war; and

WHEREAS, the brave families of these missing Americans continue to live in uncertainty and anguish regarding their missing sons and husbands; and

WHEREAS, there are still today more than 73,000 unaccounted for following World War II, some 7,500 from the Korean War, over 1,600 in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam War, two from the Persian Gulf War and two from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, who have not been forgotten; and

WHEREAS, DAV was extremely disappointed with the timing of our government's decision to normalize relations with the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV), prior to the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIAs from Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, DAV believes that the SRV can increase its unilateral efforts to account for Americans still missing in action, especially those who were last known alive in captivity; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, urges the United States Government to ensure this issue be considered as one of America's highest priorities, accelerating efforts to obtain the release of any American who may still be held captive and obtain the fullest possible accounting of those still missing and the repatriation of the remains of those who died while serving our nation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the government of the SRV to increase its unilateral efforts to account for American POW/MIAs, including locating and making available remains of Americans last known alive in captivity that have not previously been returned.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 041**  
**OPPOSE ANY AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF MEMBERS**  
**OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION**  
**WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMED CONSENT**

WHEREAS, those who serve in our nation's Armed Forces make personal sacrifices to maintain our national security; and

WHEREAS, members of the Armed Forces should be accorded special respect and the gratitude of us for whom they serve; and

WHEREAS, their willingness to sacrifice and relinquish their liberty does not surrender their natural right to determine what shall be done with their own bodies and their right to personal dignity; and

WHEREAS, it is unethical and a trespass against the person to use service members for human experimentation without their knowledge and consent; and

WHEREAS, our government has in the past used military members as human guinea pigs to test the effects of harmful and injurious substances on the body; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, opposes any rule or provision that would authorize use of service members for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 042**  
**ENCOURAGE ALL DISABLED VETERANS**  
**TO BECOME REGISTERED VOTERS AND VOTE**

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

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

WHEREAS, the United States Congress and the President's Administration have failed to fulfill their obligation to our nation's disabled veterans, providing inadequate funding for veterans' benefits and health care; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress and the President's Administration have targeted veterans' programs for unwarranted spending cuts and reductions under the mistaken and misguided theory that veterans do not base their vote on veterans' issues; and

WHEREAS, the failure of disabled veterans to register and vote will result in the perpetuation of this theory; and

WHEREAS, because of their disabilities, disabled veterans have more difficulty than their non-disabled peers in complying with some of the more strict requirements in voter registration laws; and

WHEREAS, there exists an urgent need for veterans, their families and all Americans concerned about veterans' issues to make their voice heard by becoming registered voters and exercising their vote in local, state, and federal elections; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, encourages 100 percent of our members to become registered to vote and thereby

strengthen our organization's ability to preserve and improve our system of veterans' benefits and services; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all DAV Departments and Chapters initiate and operate voter registration drives targeted at increasing voter registration among veterans and their families; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all DAV Departments, Chapters, and members are encouraged to ensure that all veterans and their family members are able to get to polling locations to vote.

\* \* \*

### **RESOLUTION NO. 043**

#### **CONDEMN PUBLIC DESECRATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court, by a 5-4 decision, has ruled that public desecration of the American flag, as a form of free speech and expression, is legal and permissible; and

WHEREAS, the American flag—"Old Glory"—is our National Ensign, the proud and beautiful symbol of our country's precious, free heritage; and

WHEREAS, this symbol, in the form of our irreplaceable "Stars and Stripes," has been carried and defended in battle, revered and cherished by its citizens, and viewed as a beacon of hope and fulfillment by all the world since it was first unfurled at the birth of our nation; and

WHEREAS, the constitutional First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech was not intended by our Founding Fathers to enable individuals—who do enjoy unfettered freedom to express their views, no matter how abhorrent, in both oral and written form—to publicly and contemptuously desecrate our beloved flag; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, 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. 044**

#### **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 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the courtroom, chambers, and other space is inadequate to meet the present and future needs of the Court and those it serves; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interests of veterans and their dependents that the Court be accorded the same respect enjoyed by other appellate courts of the United States; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, shall take such actions as may be necessary or advisable in support of legislation to authorize and fund the construction of a suitable and appropriate courthouse for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

\* \* \*

### **RESOLUTION NO. 093**

#### **SUPPORT ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, understaffing of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs in recent years has hampered the VA's ability to effectively administer programs intended to benefit this nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, continued efforts by the Office of Management and Budget to reduce the VA budget will lead to further deterioration of all VA programs; and

WHEREAS, this nation's first concern should be to fulfill its obligation to those who served in the military services in defense of this country; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, seeks and strongly supports adequate funding for all VA programs.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 094**  
**EXTEND SPACE-AVAILABLE AIR TRAVEL ABOARD MILITARY**  
**AIRCRAFT TO SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS ENTITLED**  
**TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION AT THE 100-PERCENT RATE**

WHEREAS, totally disabled service-connected veterans have sacrificed greatly in terms of their impairments and loss of earnings capacity; and

WHEREAS, more than any other living group of Americans, such veterans should be eligible for all benefits and privileges that the Congress may provide; and

WHEREAS, such totally disabled veterans should be extended the same privileges as other personnel currently authorized to utilize space-available military air travel; and

WHEREAS, the extension of such travel to totally disabled service-connected veterans would not place any additional burden upon the administration of this program; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, seeks the enactment of legislation that would extend space-available air travel aboard military aircraft to all service-connected veterans entitled to receive compensation at the 100% rate to the same extent and under the same conditions as is currently provided to retired military personnel.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 095**  
**EXTEND COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES TO SERVICE-**  
**CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS**

WHEREAS, current Department of Defense regulations authorize military commissary and exchange privileges to a broad category of active and retired military personnel, their dependents and survivors; and

WHEREAS, veterans injured while in service to their nation have earned the privilege to use commissary and exchange stores; and

WHEREAS, the recent downsizing of the military jeopardizes the continued profitable operation of military and exchange stores; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports legislation to extend commissary and exchange privileges to service-connected disabled veterans and their dependents.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 097**  
**SUPPORT THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF VETERANS**  
**TREATMENT COURTS FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, many military service members and veterans return from today's overseas combat engagement with signature wounds of poly-trauma, traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health and repatriation challenges; and veterans from earlier eras have absorbed their own signature disabilities, including PTSD; and

WHEREAS, some veterans resort to overuse of legal and illegal substances in their attempts to cope with their chronic physical and mental health challenges, other barriers and obstacles, and pain; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of chronic substance-use disorder or lasting residuals of combat exposure, a minority of veterans display antisocial and even criminal behaviors, and thus become involved with law enforcement and justice systems; and

WHEREAS, veterans treatment courts evolved from a proven national model of diversionary drug courts and mental health courts, to address the specific situations of veterans, and to maximize efficiency of available resources while making use of the distinct military culture to which veterans are accustomed; and

WHEREAS, many veterans are eligible for the financial benefits, social supports and health care services available through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and through other national, state and local veterans programs; and

WHEREAS, grouping troubled veterans together within specific court dockets expedites access to helpful resources and promotes the camaraderie and mutual support found amongst all veterans; and

WHEREAS, veterans in general deeply value their military experiences and share an inimitable bond with their peers, and the veterans courts build upon this bond by enabling veterans to proceed through the treatment court process with people who are similarly situated, and by pairing together veterans and mentors; and

WHEREAS, years of experience from the veterans treatment courts now in existence nationwide has produced a statistically significant reduction of recidivism rates in veterans compared to persons in other treatment courts and individuals not involved in any sort of alternative or diversionary court; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DAV in National Convention, assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports the continued growth of the veterans treatment courts throughout our nation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all DAV Departments and Chapters are encouraged to support additional veterans courts and work with local VA officials and law enforcement to build support for the establishment of these courts; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Departments and Chapters to work in support of state legislation where necessary to authorize veterans courts.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 166**

#### **SUPPORT FOR DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY**

WHEREAS, members of DAV have long been deeply committed to achieving the fullest possible accounting for United States personnel still held captive, missing and unaccounted for from all of our nation's wars; and

WHEREAS, personnel and funding for the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Accounting Agency (DPAA) have not been increased at a level commensurate with the expanded requirement to obtain answers on Americans unaccounted for from all of our country's wars and conflicts; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the United States government to account as fully as possible for America's missing veterans, including—if confirmed deceased—the recovery of their remains when possible; and

WHEREAS, the DAV deeply appreciates Vietnam's 2009 proposal to expand the pace and scope of POW/MIA accounting cooperation, including use of United States Navy vessels for underwater operations; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress recently passed the Defense Authorization Bill mandating that the Department of Defense develop the capability to identify a minimum of 200 remains per year beginning in 2015; thus requiring additional funding and personnel to carry out strategies, programs and operations to resolve this issue and obtain answers for the POW/MIA families and our nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, this accounting effort should not be considered complete until all reasonable actions have been taken to achieve the fullest possible accounting; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, remains steadfast in its commitment to the goal of achieving the fullest possible accounting for all United States military and designated civilian personnel missing from our nation's wars; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our government to support personnel increases and full funding for the efforts of DPAA, the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory, and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, including specific authorization to augment assigned personnel when additional assets and resources are necessary; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls upon Congress to immediately appropriate the funds necessary to increase personnel and resources of DPAA, the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory, and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory to enable reaching the identification goals set forth in the Defense Authorization Bill.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 215**

#### **SUPPORT FORMER PRISONER-OF-WAR SLAVE LABOR CLAIMS AGAINST JAPANESE FIRMS**

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2009, the government of Japan through its Ambassador to the United States Ichiro Fujisaki offered an official apology to American POWs for their abuse, misuse, pain and suffering caused by Imperial Japan; and

WHEREAS, in September 2010, the government of Japan reinforced its apology by initiating a visitation program for former POWs to visit Japan, to return to the sites of their imprisonment and to receive the apology directly from senior Japanese government officials; and

WHEREAS, the United States owes much to these soldiers, sailors, Marines, and air men, the majority of whom fought in the early heroic battles of World War II in the Philippines, on Wake Island, Guam, Java and in the Sunda Strait; and

WHEREAS, the American POWs of Imperial Japan were forced into slave labor throughout the Japanese Empire in the most unjust, brutal and inhumane conditions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports and commends the efforts of the American POWs of Japan to reclaim their dignity and attain full justice from the government of Japan and those Japanese private companies that enslaved them; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED DAV insists the government of Japan provide and publicize an official transcript in English and Japanese of the government's 2009 apology to the American POWs; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED DAV insists Congress and the Administration work with all parties involved to ensure the continuation of the POW visitation program to Japan, that it be expanded to include family members and descendants, and funds be provided for a dedicated program of research, documentation, exchange, and education; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED DAV works with all parties involved in persuading the private Japanese companies that benefited from POW slave labor during WWII, especially those companies now doing business in the United States, to follow the Japanese government's lead in acknowledging their use and abuse of American POW labor and join with the Japanese government to create a fund for remembrance, research, documentation, exchange, and education on the POW experience in the Pacific and its lessons for war and peace.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 216 SUPPORT MOVE TO RENEW PRISONER-OF-WAR/ MISSING IN ACTION DISCUSSIONS**

WHEREAS, DAV has long been and is now deeply committed to accounting for United States personnel previously listed as prisoner, missing and unaccounted for from the Korean War and all of our nation's past wars; and

WHEREAS, DAV recognizes the utility and importance of bilateral discussions with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), separate from those held on strategic issues, in an effort to reach agreement for proceeding on a humanitarian basis with Prisoner of War/Missing in Action accounting cooperation; and

WHEREAS, DAV also recognizes the lead time required between renewing bilateral discussions and restoring actual operations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Denver, Colorado, August 8–11, 2015, supports renewing direct bilateral humanitarian talks with the DPRK regime for the purpose of restoring agreements and processes required to account as fully as possible for unreturned Korean War veterans.

\* \* \*

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 2.

COMMANDER HOPE: We have a motion. Do I hear a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 2.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 2.

MR. CHARLES HICKS: Charles Hicks, Delegate of California, I second that motion.

COMMANDER HOPE: We have a motion and a second. In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish read?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 4.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 4.

MR. DEMPSTER: I'd like to read Resolution 196, Thomas Dempster from District 10.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VANDROVEC: Resolution to support the establishment of a national veterans' cemetery in the Upper Peninsula.

"WHEREAS, the government has traditionally developed and maintained national cemetery systems to provide our nation's final tribute to military veterans of our country in the major conflicts and wars; and

"WHEREAS, the location of Fort Custer National Cemetery in the Southwest Region of the State of Michigan is more convenient for the population centers of Illinois, Northern Indiana, and its major population centers of Michigan; and

"WHEREAS, the Great Lakes' Cemetery located in Holly, Michigan, meets the needs of Metro Detroit's veterans and their families;

"WHEREAS, the national cemetery is conveniently located to meet the needs of the Upper Peninsula veterans and their families;

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Disabled American Veterans' Department of Michigan assembled in Convention June 5th, 6th, and 7th of 2015, in Sault Saint Marie, Michigan, go on record supporting and endorsing.

"Respectfully submitted by the Department of Michigan, Beth Gonzales, State Commander."

COMMANDER HOPE: We have a motion and a second on the floor to accept the resolutions as read. All in favor signify by saying aye; all opposed. So ordered.

It's an honor and a pleasure to introduce the Chairman of DAV's Charitable Trust, Richard Marbes.

A Wisconsin native, Mr. Marbes enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1955 and served as an airborne radio operator. While assigned to medical evacuation and troop carrier squadrons in France and Germany he was medevaced back to the United States following an injury that resulted in the amputation of his leg. He was subsequently retired due to service-connected disability in 1958.

Mr. Marbes is a life member and Chapter Service Officer for Chapter 3 in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He has held most appointed and elected positions within that Chapter, including Chapter Commander. In 1978, Mr. Marbes' fellow Wisconsin veterans honored his service by naming him the Wisconsin Disabled Veteran of the Year.

In 1987, after many years in the printing industry, he decided to pursue his passion for helping ill and injured veterans full-time. Since then he has served in many capacities at the Chapter, Department and National levels, including serving as the DAV's National Commander in 1993 and 1994.

He remains steadfast in his commitment to veterans and serves as a role model for America's ill and injured heroes beginning the road to recovery. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming the Chairman of the DAV Charitable Service Trust, Richard Marbes. (Applause)

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RICHARD E. MARBES: Thank you, Commander Hope for that kind introduction. And let me also extend the DAV Charitable Service Trust's gratitude to National Adjutant Burgess, our National Officers, and delegates and guests.

As president let me introduce the Trust's governing board. They are Vice President Marc Burgess from Kentucky, Secretary-Treasurer Dave Tannenbaum of Florida, and our Directors: National Commander Ron Hope of North Carolina; Nancy Lawrence of Utah; Denise Williams of Virginia; and George Kanelos of Maine. On behalf of the Trust and our Board I am proud to present our annual report to this National Convention.

Since we last convened, the landscape has continued to shift rapidly for veterans. In many ways more layers of confusion have been added for veterans and their families, and the future of their care and benefits made exceedingly unclear.

There have been tough times for veterans in the past year and many have struggled to find both answers and a sense of faith in the nation's ability to provide them with the care they were promised when they were injured or fell ill. In my view, that makes what we do all the more important.

The DAV Charitable Service Trust helps fill in those gaps in local community care, programs and services where veterans and their families are in need. In times like these, I believe the Trust's efforts truly shine and are the most critical.

We know the landscape isn't perfect and that reform takes time, but while the VA and Congress work to find solutions to the current problems, we cannot simply leave veterans to fend for themselves. They still need our support.

The Trust works in concert, so to speak, with the programs and services provided directly by DAV.

We fund additional local and national-level programs that we believe are absolutely essential to helping the men and women who served succeed as they go down the road to recovery. Many of these programs fall outside the scope of programs and services provided by VA but are still critical to ensuring the health and well-being of veterans and their families.

While we have a tremendous impact, we know the Trust can't do it alone. There are many ways to help contribute to the Trust's mission of service to veterans. The Trust is a listed beneficiary for the Combined Federal Campaign as well as other workplace giving programs like the United Way.

Corporate matching gift programs, bequests, trusts and other forms of contributions from corporations, foundations and individual donors further enable the Trust to fulfill its promises to the men and women who served.

In 2014 these gifts, along with income derived from investments, totaled more than \$7.3 million, allowing the DAV Charitable Service Trust to devote nearly \$6.5 million toward critical health services, homeless support, employment and transition assistance and much more.

The Trust has demonstrated how fiscal responsibility maximizes the impact of our assistance and, once again, putting more than 97 cents out of every dollar we receive directly toward programs that support veterans and their families. (Applause) This ensures donations go where they are most critically needed.

Last year we attained a coveted four-star rating for “sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency” from Charity Navigator for the tenth time since being first evaluated a dozen years ago.

As Charity Navigator is the nation’s largest independent charity evaluator, I could not be more proud to see us hold firm on that rating, knowing that only a third of the site’s more than 7,000 listed charities achieve that high rating. (Applause)

This is, I believe, a testament to our dedication to veterans and our commitment to being sound stewards of donor funds.

In 2014 more than 70 organizations were granted essential funding to maintain programs that support veterans and their families. While each program featured services that truly impact the lives of these worthy households, it is crucial to consider that the Trust allowed for veterans to access a wide range of services—from basic necessities to career readiness and medical or mental health care.

Included in those that have established resources, especially for low-and very low-income veterans, is the Washington, D.C., VA Medical Center. Aside from the traditional medical support, the center has provided warm winter clothing, boots, comfort kits, food, and health care for hundreds of homeless and at-risk veterans.

In the traditional Stand Down setting the medical center allows for assistants to cater to each veteran through these resources, as well as connections to other agencies, as appropriate.

HVAF of Indiana, Inc., is also dedicated to breaking the cycle of veteran homelessness and does so through the housing and reintegration services for veterans on the streets of Indianapolis. Namely, the organization operates 17 supportive housing properties that provide more than 200 veterans with a place to sleep and heal.

Through the REST program, HVAF supplies individual counseling, community meetings, substance-abuse meetings, psych education groups, job service assistance, job training, case management and legal services to chronically homeless and disabled veterans that struggle with co-occurring disorders.

In the spirit of impacting veterans through improvements to their shelter, the Trust also issued a grant to the Gary Sinise Foundation. As a longtime friend of the veteran community, Gary Sinise has provided substantial support to service members from every era to ensure that they have a high quality of life. Mr. Sinise’s efforts through the RISE program are no exception to this objective.

The program has allowed for a number of severely injured veterans to receive customized “smart homes” that cater to any limitations or barriers from combat. Typical features include retractable cooktops, cabinets and shelving; automated lighting, air conditioning and window treatments; elevators; roll-in bathrooms; front-load washers and dryers; intercom systems; and automated doors.

In conjunction with partnering organizations, the Gary Sinise Foundation has committed to the construction of 27 of these smart homes which substantially improve the place that our nation’s veterans call home.

Additionally, the Trust has played a role in the increasing, in increasing the self-sufficiency of veterans through a number of programs that secure additional income by way of earned benefits or career readiness.

The New York Legal Assistance Group, dedicated to providing no-cost legal services for New Yorkers who cannot afford a private attorney, now provides support specifically for veterans, thanks to the Trust. The organization uses a medical-legal partnership to provide comprehensive legal services to veteran patients at the Northport VA medical center.

This firm’s services address matters of family law, consumer law, landlord/tenant law, eviction/foreclosure prevention, income tax issues, employment law, unemployment benefits and other public or veteran benefits to ensure that veterans are treated fairly and appropriately given the resources that they have earned.

Also aiming to maximize veteran resources, the Trust has supported the University of New Mexico Foundation which helps student veterans, in particular. Participants are offered a three-day retreat intended to aid in their transition from combat to college life. Activities include mindfulness training, small group discussions, large group events and supervised wellness sessions.

Aside from the direct results of these efforts, student veterans are able to build camaraderie in an environment that highlights shared experiences and an outlet for continued success in the university setting.

Similarly, Arkansas State University has developed an initiative distinctly for its student veterans through the Beck Pride Center. As an award-winning entity, the Center assists combat veterans in accessing counseling, advocacy, financial assistance, educational resources and other information for excellence in their post-military lives.

Staff serves as a liaison between the veteran, university and other organizations that contribute to fulfillment of the individual student's goals, in consideration of their unique background.

These programs are exceptional models for reintegration that have received great feedback from the veterans they serve. In recognition of the ongoing challenges faced by these unique members of the university, we very much support any effort to build on their existing talents and further prepare them for quality employment.

Moving forward, the Trust has assisted a number of projects that support medical, dental or mental health care for veterans that are often uninsured or underinsured. Among these organizations are Ohio's CincySmiles Foundation and the Columbia Oral Health Clinic in South Carolina. These grant recipients, in particular, are providing critical dental services to men and women veterans in need.

Both groups provide exams, cleanings, routine fillings and more advanced work such as extractions, root canals, tooth restoration, dentures and cancer screenings to improve the overall well-being of our nation's heroes. Undoubtedly, veterans need accessibility to these medical or dental services as well as those for the less visible conditions.

In consideration of those issues, the Trust awarded funds to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund which has operated the National Intrepid Center of Excellence for several years. The Center, a facility adjacent to the Walter Reed National Medical Center, provides comprehensive services for veterans with traumatic brain injury and other psychological conditions.

As part of a new initiative to expand on the success of the facility through nine satellite locations deemed "Spirit Centers," the Fund has been actively developing institutions in Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky, among others that are expected to be operational in the near future.

Another therapeutic outlet—and perhaps the most unique method—is the programming of "Soldiers Who Salsa." The organization offers dance classes for military personnel and their families. What began as occasional salsa dancing at lunchtime in a Naval medical center has grown into an opportunity for veterans to improve balance, coordination, memory recall, and social connectivity.

Though already offered at a number of military medical facilities, these therapeutic programs are continuing to expand throughout the nation with support from the Trust. Each location utilizes a recreational, occupational or a physical therapist alongside the skills of a qualified dance instructor.

Since initiation, Soldiers Who Salsa has seen a rise in interest—has seen a rise in interest among veterans and their family members who want to reconnect and recover in such an engaging way.

USA Cares, Inc., a rapid-response service in Kentucky, contributes to the psychological health of returning veterans through coverage of primary finances while combat-injured veterans engage in treatment for post-traumatic stress.

After assisting veterans in selection of the appropriate PTSD treatment, the charity provides financial aid to help cover rent, mortgage, utilities or other essential bills to ensure that veterans are not hindered with household issues while seeking such needed mental health care.

These services ensure that the veteran gets the inpatient treatment services they need without worrying about losing their home or going into extensive debt. We're proud to have assisted this important initiative.

Based out of Colorado, a group called A Sanctuary for Military Families takes military families from battle-ready to family-ready through recreational therapy alongside marriage and financial classes.

The program, known as Project Sanctuary, offers free retreats to service members, their spouses and their children, as well as activities specific to the families of fallen soldiers to benefit the widowed and orphaned individuals in need. Following the scheduled events, staff provide additional support for an average of two years to ensure that participants remain stable and the family intact.

Throughout these details you may have noticed a lot of differences but also a lot of similarities among the grant recipients from the past year. The Trust supports programs that certainly address a variety of the trials faced by veterans but also those of their loving families and caretakers.

Of course, caring for veterans is our top priority, but caring for veterans means caring for their families as well. In families where mom or dad is severely injured during military service, children's

lives can be dramatically altered. There is often a shift for spouses to now care—not just for their children—but also for their recovering spouse.

It can be a difficult transition for kids. But, thankfully, there are organizations such as Our Military Kids that are dedicated to keeping children's lives as normal as possible during these challenging times.

Through Our Military Kids, a nonprofit based in Virginia, the children of severely injured military members are awarded grants to take part in extracurricular activities of their choosing.

The grants cover a vast variety of sports programs, fine arts activities, tutoring and leadership training, as well as other extracurricular activities such as camp, driver's education and scouting. The feedback we've received from participants has been heartwarming.

Four-year old Emma was able to attend tap and ballet class. Through her parent's service brought instability to her life—I'm sorry. Though her parent's service brought instability to her life, she was able to learn a new skill and have fun. She also met a new friend in her teacher, Miss Emily.

Almae Delia Ramirez was able to play soccer in Texas. Whatever sacrifice she has faced, she was glad to compete and knows why she was being recognized. "My daddy fights for our beautiful country," she wrote.

Landen in Saint Pete, Florida, was able to play T-ball for the first time. In spite of his dad's military commitments, he was able to live a more normal life. "I get to play with my friends," he said.

And if these testimonials weren't enough, a little girl named Emma had her life changed forever. The program was able to get her into ballet and tap classes, even covering her recital costume. Her family thanked the DAV and Charitable Service Trust for making it possible.

Now let's take a closer look at how this program is helping to change the lives of some of the youngest members of our military and veteran family community.

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

**CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MARBES:**  
Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Our Military Kids founder and executive director Linda Davidson. Ms. Davidson. (Applause)

MS. LINDA DAVIDSON: Thank you. And good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. DAVIDSON: Kids deserve the chance to be kids. Oftentimes those with military parents make sacrifices that impact their childhoods and have potential to affect their futures. This is especially true for children whose parents are recovering from visible and invisible wounds of war.

For the past decade Our Military Kids has been dedicated to preserving childhood experiences. We have awarded more than 51,000 grants to children living in all 50 states and U.S. territories. The money is paid for kids to stay involved with or trying the extracurricular activities of their choice.

Some kids excel at sports. Others enjoy fine arts. Some kids need tutoring. Our Military Kids allows children and their parents to select an activity that is best suited for that individual. There is no "one size fits all" solution to help children cope with and reduce the stress and anxiety that can accompany a parent's deployment or injury.

We owe it to those who make sacrifices for our freedom and safety to support their most important assets: their children.

Thanks to the DAV Charitable Service Trust and its monetary gift to Our Military Kids last year, 133 children were funded in the activity of their choice. The Trust is dedicated to empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

What better way than to assist their young children to thrive, even during challenging and stressful times as their military parents work to recover from their visible and invisible wounds of war: thrive by developing new skills, discovering new talents, building self-esteem and leadership abilities.

You just saw the video clip testimonials from several of the children supported through Our Military Kids grants. I want to close by sharing a thank-you note that I believe illustrates all that is good about what we are doing. The wife of an Army wounded warrior who served multiple tours to Afghanistan and Iraq wrote:

"I would like to say thank-you for your program's grants to my children, Angelina and Pedro. It's been a blessing for both my children and husband. His symptoms hinder his ability to work and keep him secluded and angry. This puts us in a financial bind that prevents us from placing our kids in social activities.

"Your program has allowed our children to participate in Tae Kwon Do and dance. Pedro has gained more confidence and discipline. He looks forward to learning and exercise daily.

"Angelina takes dance lessons and in the process has made numerous new friends. She has always been an artist and can now express herself.

"Your program has the added benefit of helping my husband. Serious social and crowd anxiety limit his outings with us. He is a strong believer in children's socializing and being involved in after-school activities.

"This has forced him to face his anxieties whenever I cannot take the kids to their planned activities. He is learning to cope and enjoy these opportunities with his children.

"These times shared together were greatly needed by me and my children and would not have been possible without the grant you provided to help us."

So on behalf of Pedro and Angelina and other military children finding themselves in similar situations, I thank DAV Charitable Service Trust for recognizing the importance of supporting the children of our wounded warrior families, providing them with fond memories of their childhood, and allowing them to heal from the wounds of war as a family. Thank you very much. (Applause)

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MARBES: Thank you, Linda. Your work clearly shows the impact of providing care specifically for our military kids and is a great example of the DAV Charitable Service Trust's commitment to improving the quality of life for veterans and their families.

There are countless organizations across this country doing great work for veterans, day-in and day-out. We are able to provide support to some of these amazing organizations, but there are so many more that could use help from the Trust and that's where we need your help the most.

There are a few ways, specifically, you can help make a difference. Make the suggestion that the DAV Charitable Service Trust is a deserving beneficiary for gifts through the United Way and Combined Federal Campaigns.

And when you do your online shopping, head to AmazonSmile.com and select the Trust as your beneficiary. It's a small change but can make a big impact when you make your purchase.

Before I close, let me reiterate that while I am incredibly proud of all the work the Trust has been able to do, our work is far from complete. You play a critical, active role in communicating the message of the DAV Charitable Service Trust.

And our need for your voice has never been more urgent.

As I close out this year's report, I want to thank each of you for the work you have done and the work you continue to do, all in the name of our brothers and sisters who served this nation. On behalf of the Trust and all its beneficiaries, I salute your devoted partnership and thank you for standing up for veterans.

And let me also acknowledge at this time the fine work of Bridgette Shaffer, administrator of the Trust, and her great staff back at National Headquarters who make the work of the Board of Directors so good and so easy.

Thank you, Commander, for the opportunity to make this presentation and recognize the tremendous services and support provided by the Trust's grant recipients. This concludes my report. Thank you and God bless every one of you for your attendance. God bless the U.S.A. (Applause)

# Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust

Financial Statements as of and for the Years  
Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, and  
Independent Auditors' Report



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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the Board of Directors of  
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)  
Charitable Service Trust:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust (the "Trust"), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

**Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Trust's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Deloitte + Touche LLP*

April 10, 2015

Member of  
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

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	2014	2013
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 2,163,059	\$ 1,806,648
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	47,178	52,688
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	450	22
CAMPAIGNS' PLEDGES RECEIVABLE—Net of allowance for uncollectible pledges of \$340,444 in 2014 and \$403,005 in 2013	271,986	356,681
PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHER	29,946	27,324
INVESTMENTS—Includes charitable gift annuity reserve balances of \$6,847,286 and \$7,666,341 in 2014 and 2013, respectively	21,982,564	23,420,279
SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT IN PROCESS	<u>45,362</u>	<u>45,362</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 24,540,545</u>	<u>\$ 25,709,004</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>		
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable—DAV	\$ 163,916	\$ 174,036
Accounts payable—other	30,201	3,808
Annuity payment liability	<u>4,291,928</u>	<u>4,494,138</u>
Total liabilities	4,486,045	4,671,982
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>20,054,500</u>	<u>21,037,022</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 24,540,545</u>	<u>\$ 25,709,004</u>

See notes to financial statements.

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

### STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE:</b>		
Contributions—net of assessment fees and provision for uncollectible pledges of \$403,048 in 2014 and \$447,638 in 2013	\$ 4,814,412	\$ 3,785,810
Contributions of charitable gift annuities—net	(68,527)	233,932
Bequests	108,440	4,807,320
Interest and dividend income—net	315,879	266,954
Gain on sale of investment securities	<u>2,171,311</u>	<u>770,161</u>
Total support and revenue	<u>7,341,515</u>	<u>9,864,177</u>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Program services	6,483,560	6,690,557
Management and general	94,847	81,612
Fundraising	<u>77,909</u>	<u>106,108</u>
Total expenses	<u>6,656,316</u>	<u>6,878,277</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN UNREALIZED (DEPRECIATION) APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	685,199	2,985,900
CHANGE IN UNREALIZED (DEPRECIATION) APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	<u>(1,667,721)</u>	<u>1,628,502</u>
CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	(982,522)	4,614,402
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS—Beginning of year	<u>21,037,022</u>	<u>16,422,620</u>
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS—End of year	<u>\$ 20,054,500</u>	<u>\$ 21,037,022</u>

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

## STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014, AND 2013

	2014			2013			
	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
EXPENSES:							
Allocations to charitable programs	\$ 6,384,064	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,588,833	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,588,833
Grant proposal processing	48,313			48,788			48,788
Administrative charges		32,209	56,585		32,525	80,814	113,339
Travel	546	15,759		2,991	17,417		20,408
Advertising	24,591	1,639	6,558	22,117	1,474	5,898	29,489
Printing, postage and supplies	3,662	3,847	2,150	5,660	5,685	6,003	17,348
Legal fees			6,840			6,840	6,840
Professional fees	20,429			16,653	16,653		33,306
Project costs	120			3,200			3,200
Insurance	1,835	1,835		1,835	1,835		3,670
Banking and credit card fees	1,835	17,063		1,835	3,382		3,382
Other expenses		2,066	5,776	480	2,641	6,553	9,674
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ 6,483,560</u>	<u>\$ 94,847</u>	<u>\$ 77,909</u>	<u>\$ 6,690,557</u>	<u>\$ 81,612</u>	<u>\$ 106,108</u>	<u>\$ 6,878,277</u>

See notes to financial statements.

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

### STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

	2014	2013
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in unrestricted net assets	\$ (982,522)	\$ 4,614,402
Noncash contributions	(86,270)	(26,357)
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted net assets to net cash (used in) provided by operating activities:		
Change in unrealized depreciation (appreciation) of investments	1,667,721	(1,628,502)
Gain on sale of investment securities	(2,171,311)	(770,161)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest and dividends receivable	5,510	(32,824)
Accounts receivable	(428)	249,978
Campaigns' pledges receivable	84,695	(3,479)
Prepaid expenses and other	(2,622)	(13,394)
Accounts payable—DAV and other	16,273	(34,946)
Annuity payment liability	<u>68,527</u>	<u>          </u>
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	<u>(1,400,427)</u>	<u>2,354,717</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of investments	(45,864,883)	(29,489,844)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	47,892,458	28,584,438
Additions to software development in process	<u>          </u>	<u>(45,362)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>2,027,575</u>	<u>(950,768)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from gift annuity agreement contributions	567,802	808,423
Payments to annuitants	<u>(838,539)</u>	<u>(840,915)</u>
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(270,737)</u>	<u>(32,492)</u>
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	356,411	1,371,457
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS—Beginning of year	<u>1,806,648</u>	<u>435,191</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS—End of year	<u>\$ 2,163,059</u>	<u>\$ 1,806,648</u>

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

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### 1. ORGANIZATION

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust (the Trust) is a not-for-profit service organization formed under the laws of the District of Columbia for the single purpose of empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. To carry out this responsibility, the Trust supports physical and psychological rehabilitation programs; enhances research and mobility for veterans with amputations and spinal cord injuries; benefits aging veterans; aids and shelters homeless veterans; and evaluates and addresses the needs of veterans wounded in recent wars and conflicts and their caregivers.

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Financial Statements**—The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

**New Accounting Standards**—In October 2012, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2012-05, *Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230), Not-for-Profit Entities: Classification of the Sale Proceeds of Donated Financial Assets in the Statement of Cash Flows*. The ASU requires a Not-for-Profit to classify cash receipts from the sale of donated financial assets consistently with cash donations received in the statement of cash flows if those receipts were from the sale of donated financial assets that upon receipt were directed without any Not-for-Profit-imposed limitations for sale and were converted nearly immediately to cash. Accordingly, the cash receipts from the sale of those financial assets should be classified as cash inflows from operating activities, unless the donor restricted the use of contributed resources to long-term purposes, in which case those receipts should be classified as cash flows from financing activities. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after June 15, 2013, and should be applied prospectively. The Trust adopted the ASU and it did not have a material impact on the Trust's presentation of cash flows.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**—The Trust considers all highly liquid instruments purchased with a maturity date of three months or less to be cash equivalents and are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. The earnings credit received on the Trust's checking accounts were \$2,961 and \$3,423 in 2014 and 2013, respectively. The Trust maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts, which, at times, exceed federally insured limits. The Trust has not experienced any losses in such accounts.

**Revenue Recognition**—The Trust is a member of Independent Charities of America (ICA) and Military Family & Veterans Service Organizations of America (MFVSOA). ICA and MFVSOA are charitable agency federations, certified by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to participate in the annual combined federal campaigns, as well as state and corporate workplace giving campaigns.

The Trust recognizes contribution revenue as an increase in unrestricted net assets when notification of the campaign designations is received and also recognizes an allowance for uncollectible pledges. Pledge receivables that are outstanding for more than one year are written off in their entirety. The Trust also evaluates pledges receivable for any amounts to be specifically reserved. Pledges receivable of \$271,986 are expected to be received in 2015. Amounts received from accounts previously written off are recognized as contribution revenue when received.

As a member of MFVSOA during 2014 and 2013, the Trust was assessed a portion of MFVSOA's annual operating budget based on the relative amount of total pledges made to the Trust compared with the sum of all member agency pledges. Pledges designated to MFVSOA (versus a member agency) and other revenue, such as interest income, are shared among all member agencies in this same proportion. Therefore, if MFVSOA's revenue exceeds expenses, the member agencies share the excess income. This excess income is distributed in the following year. The Trust recognizes such distribution as an increase in unrestricted net assets when received. The Trust received \$206,796 and \$209,465 in 2014 and 2013, respectively, for excess income recognized by MFVSOA in 2013 and 2012.

**Contributions and Bequests**—Contributions and bequests received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted support depending on the existence and nature of any donor restrictions. The Trust recognizes contributions and bequests with donor-imposed restrictions that are met in the same period as unrestricted contributions and bequests. The Trust received noncash contributions at a fair market value of \$86,270 in 2014 and \$26,357 in 2013.

**Income Taxes**—As a not-for-profit service organization, the Trust has received a determination from the Internal Revenue Service that it is exempt from federal income tax as a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions made to the Trust are tax deductible by the contributor as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Use of Estimates**—The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### 3. INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES

Investments include investment of contributions and charitable gift annuity agreements (see Note 6). Investments are recorded at fair value. The fair value of the Trust's investments is determined based on the quoted market prices of the related securities or quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets. Gains and losses on the sale of investment securities are recognized based upon the specific identification method and are reflected as a separate component of revenue for the investments. The Trust's policy is to report cash and cash equivalents, which include money market funds, within its trust accounts as investments.

The cost and fair value of investments and the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2014 and 2013, are summarized below:

	Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
<b>2014</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 265,929	\$ 265,929	\$ -
U.S. government agency notes	6,688,129	6,670,798	(17,331)
Corporate bonds	2,895,309	2,778,917	(116,392)
U.S. government securities	1,189,574	1,189,522	(52)
Common stocks	2,637,129	2,986,482	349,353
Mutual funds/ETFs	<u>7,116,283</u>	<u>8,090,916</u>	<u>974,633</u>
Total	<u>\$20,792,353</u>	<u>\$21,982,564</u>	<u>\$1,190,211</u>
<b>2013</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 774,368	\$ 774,368	\$ -
U.S. government agency notes	7,504,669	7,460,520	(44,149)
Commercial paper	349,580	349,545	(35)
Corporate bonds	2,961,644	2,875,747	(85,897)
U.S. government securities	1,070,234	1,068,557	(1,677)
Common stocks	6,198,158	8,329,349	2,131,191
Mutual funds	<u>1,703,694</u>	<u>2,562,193</u>	<u>858,499</u>
Total	<u>\$20,562,347</u>	<u>\$23,420,279</u>	<u>\$2,857,932</u>

Interest and dividend income—net is \$315,879 and \$266,954 for 2014 and 2013, respectively. The year 2014 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$380,032 less \$64,153 for investment management and custody fees. The year 2013 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$322,445 less \$55,491 for investment management and custody fees.

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively, the amount of securities in a continuous unrealized loss position for a duration of greater than twelve months is not material

#### 4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value, as follows: Level 1, which refers to securities valued using unadjusted quoted prices from active markets for identical assets; Level 2, which refers to securities not traded on an active market but for which observable market inputs are readily available; and Level 3, which refers to securities valued based on significant unobservable inputs. Assets are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The Trust did not hold any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement (Level 3) during 2014 or 2013.

The Trust's policy is to recognize transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no transfers during 2014 and 2013.

**Asset Valuation Techniques**—Valuation techniques used maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets recorded at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2014 and 2013.

Cash and cash equivalents, composed of money market funds, are categorized as Level 1, and are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The money market funds represent the Trust's shares in a registered investment company's fund.

U.S. government agency notes and corporate bonds are categorized as Level 2. They are valued using third-party pricing services. These services may use, for example, model-based pricing methods that utilize observable market data as inputs. Broker dealer bids or quotes of securities with similar characteristics may also be used.

Commercial paper, categorized as Level 2, is valued using broker quotes that utilize observable market inputs. Commercial paper represents the Trust's share in an unsecured promissory note, issued by a corporation, with a fixed maturity of less than one year.

U.S. government securities and common stocks held are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the individual security is traded.

Shares of registered investment companies (mutual funds) are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at quoted market prices that represent the net asset value of shares held at year-end.

The major categories of the Trust's financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, are as follows:

2014 Asset Category	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 265,929	\$ -	\$ 265,929
U.S. government agency notes		6,670,798	6,670,798
Corporate bonds		2,778,917	2,778,917
U.S. government securities	1,189,522		1,189,522
Common stocks	2,986,482		2,986,482
Mutual funds/ETFs:			
Domestic equity funds	5,218,220		5,218,220
International equity funds	<u>2,872,696</u>		<u>2,872,696</u>
Total mutual funds	<u>8,090,916</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,090,916</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 12,532,849</u>	<u>\$ 9,449,715</u>	<u>\$ 21,982,564</u>

2013 Asset Category	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 774,368	\$ -	\$ 774,368
U.S. government agency notes		7,460,520	7,460,520
Commercial paper		349,545	349,545
Corporate bonds		2,875,747	2,875,747
U.S. government securities	1,068,557		1,068,557
Common stocks	8,329,349		8,329,349
Mutual funds—domestic equity funds	<u>2,562,193</u>		<u>2,562,193</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 12,734,467</u>	<u>\$ 10,685,812</u>	<u>\$ 23,420,279</u>

Fair value of the annuity payment liability of \$4,291,928 and \$4,494,138 as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively, was calculated as the net present value of expected annuity payments based on the following significant assumptions:

- (1) the discount rate expected to reflect yields available on high quality investments;
- (2) the mortality assumption based on expected annuitant longevity.

## 5. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During 2014 and 2013, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) personnel assisted the Trust on a limited basis in administering its business operations, fundraising, and grant programs. For these personnel services, the Trust reimbursed DAV \$137,107 and \$157,626 in 2014 and 2013, respectively. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, the Trust owed DAV \$163,916 and \$174,036, respectively. DAV provides the Trust with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge.

In 2014 and 2013, the Trust distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services:

	2014	2013
National Transportation Network	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Mobile Service Office Program	250,000	15,000
National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic	83,233	43,000
Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program	45,000	45,000
DAV Media Outreach Campaigns		3,000,000
National Service Officers' Case Management System		700,000
National Service Officer Programs—Other		165,000
DAV "Just B Kids" Scholarship	100,000	
DAV Employment Initiative	1,400,000	
DAV Women Veterans Transition Report	59,426	
Assistance to disabled veterans and their families	12,900	26,875

In performing the duties of their positions, DAV's National Commander and National Adjutant serve on the Board of Directors of the Trust. In performing the duties of their positions as a Trust Board of Director, some members also serve on the DAV National Service Foundation Board of Directors.

In 2014 and 2013, the Trust granted \$800,000 and \$740,000, respectively, to the DAV National Service Foundation—Columbia Trust Fund for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program.

## **6. ANNUITY PAYMENT LIABILITY**

The Trust enters into charitable gift annuity agreements with donors. In the statements of activities, contributions of charitable gift annuities of \$(68,527) and \$233,932 for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively, are the net result of the portion of gift annuity contributions recognized as revenue of \$303,167 and \$593,944 respectively, annuity payments to donors and beneficiaries of (\$838,539) and (\$840,915), respectively, and other charges to the annuity liability of \$466,845 and \$480,903, respectively. The Trust recognizes an annuity payment liability as the present value of the future cash flows expected to be paid to the donors and their beneficiaries using a discount rate of 5% as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

There are various state statutes and regulations that govern not-for-profit entities that enter into charitable gift annuity agreements with donors. As required by various state statutes and regulations, the Trust segregates the deposit of charitable gift annuity proceeds and reserves a portion for fulfillment of future annuity obligations. The required minimum balance of the reserve account is maintained and invested in accordance with applicable state statutes, the fair market value of which is \$5,630,432 and \$6,030,014 as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

In addition to this reserve account, the Trust is required by California statutes to maintain segregated reserves for future obligations to charitable gift annuity donors residing in California. The fair market value for the California reserve account is \$1,216,854 and \$1,636,327 as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The minimum required balance of the segregated accounts for California donors is calculated and invested in accordance with applicable California statutes and regulations.

The Trust also maintains the minimum amount of unrestricted net assets as required by any state for the acceptance of charitable gift annuities, which is \$1,000,000. The total unrestricted net assets that are subject to state statutes or regulations (calculated as the reserve funds (investments), less the annuity payment liability) amounted to \$2,555,358 and \$3,166,348 as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

## **7. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

No events have occurred after December 31, 2014, but before April 10, 2015, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

\* \* \* \* \*

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you, Dick. May I have a motion to accept that impressive report?

MR. MICHAEL SCHUENKE: Commander, Mic 3.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 3.

MR. SCHUENKE: Michael Schuenke, Commander, Chapter 3, Green Bay, Wisconsin, I make a motion to accept the Richard Marbes' Charitable Service Trust report.

COMMANDER HOPE: I have a motion. Do I have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 2.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 2.

MR. THOMAS W. GAULKE: Thomas Gaulke, Wisconsin, Chapter 51, District 12, I so second.

COMMANDER HOPE: I have a motion and a second. All those in favor signify by saying aye; all opposed. So ordered.

On October the 5th, a historic milestone was achieved in our nation's history. After a 17-year journey, a memorial, our memorial, was formally dedicated in Washington, D.C. It is my belief that this memorial will extend its reach across the nation to all veterans of all eras and their families.

I believe I speak for all veterans when I say that we are eternally grateful for DAV's unique role in this project, which finally became a prominent monument in the view of our nation's capital in Washington.

We are joined today by a well-known DAV leader who has been on the ground floor for our efforts to establish this memorial. Gene Murphy has served on the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation's Board of Directors since its creation in 1998. As a young Army sergeant in Vietnam in 1969, the South Dakota native was paralyzed by two gunshots to his right side, just 30 days before he was scheduled to return home to the United States.

Gene's long history of advocacy on behalf of disabled veterans began almost immediately upon his return from Vietnam when he became a lifetime member of the DAV. He served as DAV's National Commander in 1987 and 1988.

He was named South Dakota's Handicapped Citizen of the Year in 1979 and has frequently worked with the South Dakota legislature on disability and veterans' issues. In 1984 he was honored as DAV's Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year. He served for 20 years on the South Dakota Veterans' Commission.

Ladies and gentlemen, Secretary-Treasurer and past National Commander Gene Murphy.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GENE MURPHY: Thank you, Commander Hope. It is an honor to be here today to represent the Memorial. Our thoughts go out to recently-elected board president and past DAV National Commander Dennis Joyner who could not join us due to an illness.

This has been a very dynamic year. And I want to thank you and all my brothers and sisters at DAV and the Auxiliary for the hard work that has made this longstanding dream a reality.

Let me begin by introducing my colleagues on the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation Board of Directors. As I mentioned before, President Dennis Joyner of Florida, and Vice President Marc Burgess of Kentucky lead our efforts, and our Directors: National Commander Ron Hope of North Carolina; Jim Sursely of Florida; Dave Gorman of South Carolina; and Bobby Barrera of Texas.

As the Commander noted, the opening of the American Veterans' Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, D.C., last October was a significant end to a very long and exceptionally worthwhile journey, spanning nearly two decades from inception to dedication of this breathtaking memorial.

Many of you joined us on that special day. For those of you who couldn't, here is a quick look at the ceremony.

(Whereupon, a video of the American Veterans' Disabled for Life Memorial dedication was viewed.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MURPHY: The memorial gives me, and I hope it gives you, a sense of contentment knowing what we gave, what our families gave, and that our contributions will be forever remembered in our nation's capital.

Through a star-shaped pool, lit by a ceremonial flame, and imposing granite and glass walls, the American Veterans' Disabled for Life Memorial conveys a combination of strength and vulnerability, loss and renewal.

It is now a sacred spot where everyone—sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, wives and husbands, and friends—have the opportunity to learn the important lessons of courage, sacrifice, loyalty and honor by bearing witness to the experiences of disabled veterans.

There are many people who have generously and freely given of themselves to make this all possible. I want to recognize some of them now. First, let me honor our co-founders and my close friends Lois Pope and Art Wilson. None of this would be possible if it were not for their remarkable dedication, determination and leadership.

And some of my fellow members of the original Board: Dennis Joyner and Gunner Kent. I also recognize Bobby Barrera and Dianne Musselman. For so many, a shared commitment of this project has been unwavering.

To make something like this possible, there are a couple of people who have dedicated so much of their time and passion to the day-to-day operation of the Foundation. Rick Fenstermacher, the Chief Executive Officer, and Barry Owensby, Project Executive, took us past the many hurdles we faced along the way with their experience, vision and strategic approach.

And, sadly, since this massive effort began, we have lost three amazing people who made tremendous differences for us all: the late Ken Musselmann and Gordon Mansfield were both members of the Board of Directors, and, of course, the late, great, Jesse Brown who was co-founder and first Executive Director of this Foundation. I know these three gentlemen would be immensely proud that this memorial is actually opened.

I want to express my personal thanks as well as the appreciation of every member of the Board of Directors, past and present, to the Disabled American Veterans—National, State Department, Chapters and Auxiliary, and you, the members, for your generous support.

You, the members, are the reason and the means by which this became a reality. I believe you deserve a huge round of applause. (Applause)

After completing the necessary fundraising campaigns for the creation and the construction of the memorial, the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation recently entrusted DAV with the longterm safeguarding of this site. Given DAV's longstanding affiliation with the memorial, it was the most logical choice.

The memorial has officially been turned over to the U.S. government, and DAV will work with the National Park Service to ensure it is preserved for future generations of veterans.

Selecting DAV as the memorial's guardian was the obvious choice. And we have the utmost confidence that the DAV will continue representing and fighting for every injured and ill veteran.

Thank you, Commander. (Applause)

# Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Financial Statements as of and for the  
Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, and  
Independent Auditors' Report



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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the Board of Directors of  
 Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation"), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

**Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Foundation's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Foundation's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Foundation as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Deloitte + Touche LLP*

April 2, 2015

Member of  
 Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited

**DISABLED VETERANS'  
LIFE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.**

**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CASH	\$ 90,461	\$ 152,717
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	867	2,154
INTEREST RECEIVABLE	75	263
PREPAID EXPENSES		23,182
COMMEMORATIVE COIN INVENTORY (net of reserve)	39,395	82,082
INVESTMENTS	<u>2,408,109</u>	<u>12,451,138</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 2,538,907</u>	<u>\$ 12,711,536</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND OTHER LIABILITIES	\$ 437,625	\$ 958,988
ACCRUED SALARIES	<u>                    </u>	<u>6,723</u>
Total liabilities	<u>437,625</u>	<u>965,711</u>
COMMITMENTS (Note 6)		
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted	2,101,282	7,044,273
Temporarily restricted	<u>                    </u>	<u>4,701,552</u>
Total net assets	<u>2,101,282</u>	<u>11,745,825</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 2,538,907</u>	<u>\$ 12,711,536</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**DISABLED VETERANS'  
LIFE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.**

**STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

	2014		2013	
	General (Unrestricted)	Temporarily Restricted	General (Unrestricted)	Temporarily Restricted
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE:</b>				
Public support — contributions	\$ 12,424	\$ -	\$ 26,852	\$ 340,000
Revenue:				
Interest income	11,896		27,717	
Commemorative coin sales	60,777		160,302	
Net assets released from restriction	4,701,552	(4,701,552)	638,448	(638,448)
Special events revenue			50,000	
Total revenue	4,774,225	(4,701,552)	876,467	(638,448)
Total support and revenue	4,786,649	(4,701,552)	903,319	(298,448)
EXPENSES:				
Program services	9,677,701		4,895,051	
Fundraising costs	4,213		21,256	
General and administrative	47,726		117,531	
Total functional expenses	9,729,640	-	5,033,838	-
Bad debt expense (see Note 5)			800,000	
Total expenses	9,729,640	-	5,833,838	-
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(4,942,991)	(4,701,552)	(4,930,519)	(298,448)
NET ASSETS:				
Beginning of year	7,044,273	4,701,552	11,974,792	5,000,000
End of year	\$ 2,101,282	\$ -	\$ 7,044,273	\$ 4,701,552
				\$ 11,745,825

See notes to financial statements.

**DISABLED VETERANS'  
LIFE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.**

**STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

	2014			2013				
	Program Services	Fund Raising Costs	General and Administrative	Total Functional Expenses	Program Services	Fund Raising Costs	General and Administrative	Total Functional Expenses
Consulting fees	\$ 56,006	\$ -	\$ 565	\$ 56,571	\$ 35,734	\$ 5,411	\$ 11,336	\$ 52,481
Office, mailing, and solicitation supplies	919		9	928	680	103	216	999
Salaries	655,104	4,020	12,058	671,182	440,976	14,335	28,670	483,981
Payroll taxes	20,866	111	334	21,311	19,814	590	1,180	21,584
Employee benefits	15,140	82	247	15,469	16,551	509	1,019	18,079
Travel and training	41,748			41,748	25,802	96	1,703	27,601
Postage and shipping	784		297	1,081	(93)	(25)	103	(15)
Insurance			8,093	8,093	13,030		3,369	16,399
Telephone and communications	539		5	544	444	67	141	652
Accounting fees			17,196	17,196			19,135	19,135
Memorial dedication	1,327,974			1,327,974	3,965,020			3,965,020
Memorial construction	7,211,662			7,211,662	255,570			255,570
Cost of commemorative coins sold	133,299			133,299	1,598			1,598
Commemorative coin expense				-	3,542		428	3,770
Legal fees			574	574	116,283	170	50,610	167,063
Professional fees	213,660		8,348	222,008			(379)	(79)
Other				-	300			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,677,701</b>	<b>\$ 4,213</b>	<b>\$ 47,726</b>	<b>\$9,729,640</b>	<b>\$4,895,051</b>	<b>\$ 21,256</b>	<b>\$117,531</b>	<b>\$5,033,838</b>

See notes to financial statements.

**DISABLED VETERANS'  
LIFE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.**

**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

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	2014	2013
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	\$ (9,644,543)	\$ (5,228,967)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in operating activities-		
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts and contributions receivable	1,287	2,800,042
Interest receivable	188	745
Prepaid expenses	23,182	44,800
Commemorative coin inventory	42,687	257,168
Accounts payable and other liabilities	(521,363)	949,313
Accrued salaries	<u>(6,723)</u>	<u>(52,338)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(10,105,285)</u>	<u>(1,229,237)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from sale of investments	10,393,029	4,649,346
Purchases of investments	<u>(350,000)</u>	<u>(3,426,314)</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>10,043,029</u>	<u>1,223,032</u>
NET DECREASE IN CASH	(62,256)	(6,205)
CASH — Beginning of year	<u>152,717</u>	<u>158,922</u>
CASH — End of year	<u>\$ 90,461</u>	<u>\$ 152,717</u>

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED VETERANS' LIFE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

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### 1. ORGANIZATION

Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation") is a not-for-profit service organization, formed under the laws of the District of Columbia for the purpose of receiving and disbursing funds to honor the millions of veterans of the Armed Forces who became disabled for life while defending our American freedom. Originally, the mission of the Foundation was to commemorate their sacrifice and their dedication and to ensure that disabled veterans are always remembered with the construction of the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial (the "Memorial") in Washington, D.C., in their honor. Since this was the purpose of the Foundation and the Foundation will not own the Memorial, all costs associated with construction of the Memorial were considered program expenses. The Memorial was dedicated on October 5, 2014, and ownership of the Memorial will transfer to the National Park Service in 2015. Accordingly, the Articles of Incorporation were amended in January 2015 to reflect a new mission, which is to promote the interests of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, D. C.

Additionally, Public Law 106-348, which is the enabling legislation for the construction of the Memorial, contains the following requirement: "If, upon payment of all expenses of the establishment of the Memorial, there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the Memorial, the Foundation shall transmit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Treasury." The Foundation expects to have funds remaining once all expenses are paid. The transfer of funds is expected to occur in 2015.

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Financial Statements** — The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

**New Accounting Standards** — In October 2012, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2012-05, *Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230), Not-for-Profit Entities: Classification of the Sale Proceeds of Donated Financial Assets in the Statement of Cash Flows*. The ASU requires a Not-for-Profit to classify cash receipts from the sale of donated financial assets consistently with cash donations received in the statement of cash flows if those receipts were from the sale of donated financial assets that upon receipt were directed without any Not-for-Profit-imposed limitations for sale and were converted nearly immediately to cash. Accordingly, the cash receipts from the sale of those financial assets should be classified as cash inflows from operating activities, unless the donor restricted the use of contributed resources to long-term purposes, in which case those receipts should be classified as cash flows from financing activities. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after June 15, 2013 and should be applied prospectively. The Foundation has adopted the ASU and it did not have a material impact on the Foundation's presentation of cash flows.

**Cash** — The Foundation maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts that, at times, exceed federally insured limits. The Foundation has not experienced any losses in such accounts.

**Commemorative Coin Inventory** — Inventory is carried at the lower of cost or market, determined on the first-in, first-out basis. As applicable, the Foundation writes down inventory for estimated obsolescence or unmarketable inventory by an amount equal to the difference between the cost of inventory and the estimated market value based upon assumptions about future demand and market conditions. The inventory reserve amount was \$175,621 and \$100,250 at December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively.

**Contributions** — Contributions received are recorded at their fair value and are classified as either unrestricted or temporarily 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. The Foundation recognizes contributions with donor-imposed restrictions that are met in the same period as unrestricted contributions. Contributions recorded as contributions receivable are reduced to their net realizable value as appropriate. The Foundation no longer routinely solicits contributions.

**Temporarily Restricted Net Assets** — Certain contributions were restricted for use in construction only and were designated as temporarily restricted in the financial statements. All remaining temporarily restricted contributions were used in 2014 to fund Memorial construction costs.

**Income Taxes** — As a not-for-profit service organization, the Foundation has received a determination from the Internal Revenue Service that it is exempt from federal income tax as a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions to the Foundation are deductible by the contributor as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Use of Estimates** — The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### 3. INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES

Investments are recorded at fair value. The fair value of the Foundation's investments is determined based on the quoted market prices of the related securities or quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets. Gains and losses on the sale of investment securities are recognized based upon the specific identification method and are reflected as a separate component of revenue for the investments. The Foundation's policy is to report cash equivalents, which includes money market funds, within its trust accounts as investments.

The cost and fair value of investments in securities and the net unrealized appreciation at December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 are summarized below.

<b>2014</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Unrealized Appreciation</b>
Cash equivalents	<u>\$ 2,408,109</u>	<u>\$ 2,408,109</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,408,109</u>	<u>\$ 2,408,109</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>2013</b>			
Cash equivalents	\$ 11,951,138	\$ 11,951,138	\$ -
Certificates of deposit	<u>500,000</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 12,451,138</u>	<u>\$ 12,451,138</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

### 4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value, as follows: Level 1, which refers to securities valued using unadjusted quoted prices from active markets for identical assets; Level 2, which refers to securities not traded on an active market but for which observable market inputs are readily available; and Level 3, which refers to securities valued based on significant unobservable inputs. Assets are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The Foundation did not hold any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement (Level 3) during 2014 or 2013.

The Foundation's policy is to recognize between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no transfers during 2014 or 2013.

**Asset Valuation Techniques** — Valuation techniques used maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets recorded at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2014 and 2013.

Cash equivalents, composed of money market funds, are categorized as Level 1. Such investments are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The money market fund represents the Foundation's shares in a registered investment company's fund.

Certificates of deposits, categorized as Level 2, are valued at fair value, which approximates amortized cost.

The major categories of financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis during the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, are as follows:

Asset Category	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
<b>2014</b>			
Assets:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 2,408,109	\$ -	\$ 2,408,109
Total assets	<u>\$ 2,408,109</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,408,109</u>
<b>2013</b>			
Assets:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 11,951,138	\$ -	\$ 11,951,138
Certificates of deposit		<u>500,000</u>	<u>500,000</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 11,951,138</u>	<u>\$ 500,000</u>	<u>\$ 12,451,138</u>

#### 5. UNCOLLECTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE

An \$800,000 unrestricted promise to give was deemed uncollectible and written off in 2013. This amount is included as bad debt expense in the accompanying statements of activities.

**6. CONTRACTS AND COMMITMENTS**

In 2011, the Foundation began executing contracts for the construction of the Memorial. Contracts are in place with the general contractor, construction manager, glass panel fabricator, glass supplier, architect, National Park Service, and sculptor. The total amount of executed contracts is \$15,025,767. As of December 31, 2014, the amount outstanding on these contracts is \$222,264. Expected timing of contract payments is as follows:

<b>Contract Amount</b>	<b>2012 &amp; Prior Payments</b>	<b>2013 Payments</b>	<b>2014 Payments</b>	<b>2015 Estimated</b>
<u>\$ 15,025,767</u>	<u>\$ 6,430,076</u>	<u>\$ 1,400,145</u>	<u>\$ 6,973,282</u>	<u>\$ 222,264</u>

**7. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

DAV personnel assist the Foundation on a limited basis in administering its business operations at no charge. In 2013, DAV agreed to purchase the Foundation’s remaining commemorative coin inventory at a discounted price. During 2013, DAV made an initial purchase of 5,000 coins at a cost of \$100,000 with the remainder of the coins to be purchased in 2014. In December, 2014, DAV and DVLMF voided the agreement for DAV to purchase the remaining coin inventory. The 5,000 coins that DAV purchased in 2013 were sold back to DVLMF at a cost of \$100,000.

The Foundation recognized contributions from entities related to the Chairperson of the Board of the Foundation of \$50,000 in 2013. There were no contributions from the Chairperson in 2014.

**8. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Other than the organization items described in Note 1, no events have occurred after December 31, 2014, but before April 2, 2015, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

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COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you, Gene. May I have a motion to accept that report?

MR. LOZANO: Mic 3.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 3.

MR. LOZANO: Mic 3. Manny Lozano, Chapter 28, Department of Georgia, so makes the motion.

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you. I have a motion. May I have a second?

MR. BUDDY BRICKMAN: Mic 2.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 2.

MR. BRICKMAN: Mic 2. Buddy Brickman, Chapter 1, Florida, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER HOPE: I have a motion and a second. All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Will you please welcome Warren Tobin of North Dakota, newly elected President of the Commanders and Adjutants Association for 2015–2016. (Applause)

MR. WARREN TOBIN: National Commander Hope, National Adjutant Burgess, National Officers, delegates and guests, I am proud to have been elected the President of the State Commanders and Adjutants Association for 2015 through 2016.

We pledge to continue our support of the National Organization through our sponsorship of the State Commanders and Adjutants Orientation, a program which has just completed its 18th year, the Mid-Winter Conference, and the Winter Sports Clinic. Again, we look forward to another productive year with the DAV.

At this time I would like to read into the record our officers and committees for the coming year. President, Warren Tobin of North Dakota. Vice President, Teresa Johniken, Texas.

Executive Committee members are Danny Oliver, from Oklahoma; Brian Wilner from Georgia; John Donovan from Arkansas; Kirk Johnson from California; William Robinson from South Carolina; and Cynthia Madison from Virginia.

Our Secretary-Treasurer continues to be David Tannenbaum from Florida. Assistant Secretary-Treasurer is Rita Alberegg from Virginia. Judge Advocate is Jimmy Stewart from South Carolina. Assistant Judge Advocate, Samuel Mantilla from New York. Chaplain, Joe Parsetich from Montana. Assistant Chaplain, Katherine Baran from Nevada.

Sergeant-at-Arms, Penny Larson from Utah. Our Audit Committee: Robert Bertche, Ohio; Craig Vance, Oklahoma; Frank Brown from Virginia; and Burl Jimmerson from Georgia. Constitution and Bylaws Committee: Carol Baldwin from Tennessee and Frank Berquist from Kansas.

Resolutions Committee: Wanda Janus from Oregon; Mark Wischmann from Delaware; Glynn Parker from Maryland; Charles Waugh from Alabama. And our Special Projects Committee is Terry Sanders, Indiana; Ed Kalk, Louisiana; and Algermon Hill from North Carolina.

I would National Commander Hope and National Adjutant Burgess to please join me to receive a presentation?

(Whereupon, Commander Hope and Adjutant Burgess joined Mr. Tobin at the podium.)

MR. TOBIN: And on behalf of the State Commanders and Adjutants Association I would like to present two checks to the National Service Foundation. One check is in the amount of \$100 in honor of our immediate Past President Brenda Reed and a second check for \$1,500. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Tobin presented Commander Hope and Adjutant Burgess with the two checks, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. TOBIN: Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: Thanks, Warren. We like checks. (Laughter) Please join with me in welcoming incoming the Imperial Golden Rodent Herb Lewis, Imperial Red-Eyed Gnawer Al Sorrentino and Imperial Council of the National Order of the Trench Rats. (Boo)

(Whereupon, the National Order of Trench Rats entered the room and advanced to the podium amid booing.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER ALBERT SORRENTINO: I thought I was in Hollywood for a minute. I said, "What happened to the DAV sign?" Oh, there it is. Okay. (Laughter) All right. Thank you so much from the National Order of the Trench Rats to have us here at your National Convention.

But before we go on, I'd like to introduce a young lady, the other one—my wife couldn't be here because she is there voting with the Auxiliary but I'd like to introduce you to the next woman. Her husband was a combat veteran in Vietnam. They had a business. They had to close it down because he was sick. And when we changed secretaries she came to work for the, for us—Rita Kozak. (Applause)

MRS. RITA KOZAK: Thank you. Thank you all very much. It's an honor to work for the National Order of Trench Rats and be a part of the Disabled American Veterans. My husband is a disabled American veteran. Thank you. (Applause)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: I don't know where to begin at this time. Sometimes it's very hard to get a message across to all of you, not only as disabled veterans, for the cause that you believe in to help other veterans because our country has let us down.

There are so many more men and women that are dying today and if we don't lead them when they come home, we don't lead them, we're not going to have a future. But that's also the same reason why you have the National Order of the Trench Rats.

We are the elite group that go into that hospital, all over the United States, to make sure that our veterans, their wives and their dependents, are surely taken care of, not only by the DAV, but also the Trench Rats, for the work that they do.

At this time I'd like to thank all of you not only for your support but remember this one thing: if you don't grow in the DAV you won't grow in the Rats. And we won't be elite. And then you've got things to worry about because we're all sick. (Laughter)

I remember somebody in my department said to me, and I won't mention his name but he is here, "Not all disabilities are physical." I don't know if that was true or not but that's what he told me. And the rest of you can take it for what you want to take it for.

All right, but, please—and I know you've probably heard it many, many times from your National Commander, your National Adjutant, the mail you get in the mail, I could tell you traveling with the Trench Rats, there are so many veterans out there that don't know who we are. And you've got to reach those.

And the last thing you want to do is take care of the poor. Those poor veterans that are homeless, that need your love, no matter where you see them let them know we care.

Now I'd like to introduce our Incoming Imperial Golden Rodent—what's his name?—Bob Bent. (Boos)

INCOMING IMPERIAL GOLDEN RODENT ROBERT E. BENT: As AI mentioned, the lineage and the background of the National Order of Trench Rats, it's not anything new. It's not recent. We've been around since 1924 when the National Organization in Nevada recognized it as an Auxiliary.

The Trench Rats at that time were instrumental and a major supporter of the program that you know of today and that was the training and the establishment of our National Service Organization, the Service Officers, which is, of course, the background of our, the world's best service organization in the world, I'll tell you. And that's the DAV. (Applause)

And less than 10 years later, Mr. Moody, a Trench Rat, became our National Commander. And this has continued today where just in 2012 Larry Polzin, our National Commander, was also a Trench Rat. And we are proud of having him move up through the chairs within our DAV Organization and is a proud member and a leader in the National Order of Trench Rats. Let's give Larry a hand. (Applause)

In 2009 we opened our organization to women and we're proud that we've got a couple of hundred women in our organization already. And, as you know, they excel in service to our veterans, which is what the National Order of Trench Rats stand for. (Cheers) All right. Give it to women. (Boos)

And they are spread throughout the country and in the possessions such as Puerto Rico area where we have approaching 100 different dugouts and continuing to do service and following the mission of the DAV Organization because we are all part of the "big" team. We have fun. We bring in people that also like to have fun. You have fun. We have fun. We can do it together.

I, as the Incoming Golden Rodent, am very humbled, really, to follow a long, long line of Imperial Rodents. Only a few are here today because many of them have gone. And, unfortunately, even within the last year, we lost two. They may gain one this year but when we lose two we're losing ground.

Again, thank you very much for a moment or two of your time. And Trench Rats, go. (Boos)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: I know, Marc, you are looking at me. I figure I'd better do this last because it will keep me out of trouble—you talk too long. (Laughter) Anyway, National Adjutant, National Commander and National staff, once again, thank you for letting us be here.

I have a check here for \$4,200. (Applause)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Very nice. Let's get a picture.

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: A picture? I'm not used to these things.

(Whereupon, the check was presented to Adjutant Burgess and Commander Hope, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: The people who passed away last year are our National Imperial Board member and at the same time Oswald Peterson. He passed away also. So that's \$200 in their memory. We do that every year. You can see every year we've been up here doing it so a lot of us old-timers are passing away.

God bless you all. Thank you so much. (Boos)

COMMANDER HOPE: Thanks, Bob.

(Whereupon, the National Order of Trench Rats withdrew from the ballroom.)

COMMANDER HOPE: It's an honor and a pleasure to invite to the stage the President of DAV's National Service Foundation, a man who hardly needs an introduction among this crowd.

Massachusetts native and Vietnam-era Air Force veteran, Art Wilson began his illustrious DAV career as a National Service Office trainee in Atlanta. Rising through the ranks to become DAV's National Adjutant and CEO in 1994, Art led our organization until his retirement in June of 2013.

Retirement didn't last long, though, as he was elected President of DAV's National Service Foundation just two months later in August 2013. In addition to serving as Foundation President in his spare time he also served as President of the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation from its inception and dedication until DAV assumed responsibility of the Memorial in early 2015.

He is also a member of the U.S.S. Intrepid Museum Foundation Advisory Council in New York.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the man who has helped shape the DAV we know today, our National Service Foundation President, Art Wilson. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT ARTHUR H. WILSON: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Commander Hope, for your kind introduction. Adjutant Burgess, National Officers, delegates, guests and our friends.

I'd like to begin this morning by reporting on the Foundation activities and introducing you to the DAV National Service Foundation's Board of Directors: Vice President Marc Burgess from Kentucky; Secretary-Treasurer Alan Bowers from Massachusetts. Our Directors are National Commander Ron Hope from North Carolina; Daniel Contreras from California; Joseph Johnston of Ohio; and Cleveland Bryant of North Carolina. (Applause) They are yours. (Applause)

And it is with fondness and gratitude that we remember the contributions of Sal Tornatore of New York who passed away this past January. Sal was a longtime member of our Board and a very close friend of mine and, more importantly, especially to veterans as a whole.

He will be greatly missed. But through the many years he spent working to ensure DAV's free services that would be, those services would be able to be available to veterans well into the future, Sal created a tremendous legacy of service to the veterans' community.

I'm always proud to report on the wonderful services of the National Service Foundation. And those services are able to help support because we know the end result is a better life for veterans and their families.

One of the things we keep hearing about is the uncertain future of VA. We know there will be a change. There is no doubt. But veterans today, those men and women coming years down the road, need to know without question that the benefits and the care promised to them will be available no matter what. How can we ask people to stand up and volunteer for dangerous military duty today without ensuring our promises are kept for them tomorrow?

We believe in safeguarding a lifetime of care for injured and ill veterans. That's what the National Service Foundation is all about. We do that by extending the critical services to veterans in need today to ensuring that DAV services are available to veterans tomorrow.

Veterans and their families will need to know and they need to know there is help available for them when they need it. And that's the reason that we exist.

We have held steady in that objective over the past year and I'm thankful to everyone who, once again, helped raise nearly \$2 million in donations and bequests for the Foundation in 2014.

Your tremendous generosity, paired with prudent investment strategy, allowed the Foundation to end another incredibly successful year with more than \$115.8 million in net assets, a \$7.8 million increase over 2013. Most importantly, the Foundation was able to devote \$3.9 million or 93 percent of our total expenses directly to veterans and their families through program services.

And for added impact, the DAV National Organization matches each dollar that you, your Chapter, or you Department donates to the Foundation's Columbia Trust Fund, effectively doubling the value of your gifts.

As you know, the National Service Foundation helps to address some of the more pressing needs of veterans and their families, but it also maintains the future of DAV's services.

Your gifts to the Foundation go toward: ensuring the longterm financial stability of DAV's service program so we can continue offering free services to veterans well into the future; and supporting the day-to-day work of DAV, to include providing transportation for veterans to VA medical appointments, assisting with disability claims, and other services as need.

I know you all share a deep sense of commitment and obligation to your fellow veterans. That's why we are all here this week. And that's what makes us such a strong and vibrant organization. Along with

your daily work you provide veterans in your communities, your contributions to the Foundation make it possible for us to continue in DAV's worthy mission.

For example, your gifts ensure our dedicated National Service Officers have the tools that they need to serve veterans and their families. DAV is known for our expert professionalism among its Service Officers. And the Foundation spent nearly \$1.2 million in 2014 to ensure that this remains the case.

Among other needed equipment, part of this funding helped enhance and implement the NSO Structured and Continuing Training Program, which will keep our staff members in the field highly trained and the best in the business.

Our NSO's represented more than 340,000 benefit claims in 2014 and continue to achieve more victories for veterans than any other veterans' organization.

And thanks to your support, veterans also have free advocacy and representation at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Another way the Foundation is able to provide direct support to veterans and their families is through the Columbia Trust. In 2014 the Trust provided more than \$1.7 million to Chapters and Departments to support projects and programs in three specific service areas: our DAV Transportation Network, Hospital Service Coordinators, and Department Service Officers, as well as various other state and local service initiatives.

Additionally, each year the National Order of Trench Rats takes the interest earned by a special Legislative Fund that they maintain with the Foundation and transfers it to the National Service Foundation to support the DAV Legislative program. This year the fund ended with \$219,000 in assets. And it is my pleasure to present Commander Hope with a check in the very generous amount of \$10,044 earned through that special fund, on behalf of the National Order of Trench Rats.

(Whereupon, President Wilson presented Commander Hope with a check from the National Order of Trench Rats Fund, at which time an official photograph was taken, followed by a round of applause.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Looking through the Foundation's 2014 Annual Report you will see we have had another terrific year. And I consider us incredibly fortunate to have such committed and caring individuals dedicated to our cause who continued to express their devotion through contributions to the Foundation in 2014.

We also noted some very special individuals who have been extraordinarily generous in support of the Foundation. In recognition of that generosity we have created a special place for them called the National Honor Roll of Exceptional Lifetime Donors.

In 2014 we recognized the law firm of Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner for its distinguished commitment to the Foundation and our nation's veterans. The firm, whose total lifetime contributions surpassed the \$1.4 million mark, is the largest corporate contributor in the Foundation's history. (Applause)

The Ernestine Schumann-Heink Chapter 2 from the Department of Missouri has also earned a special place on this prestigious page. The Chapter has contributed a combined lifetime total of \$522,000. (Applause)

It is our belief that such commendable generosity deserves equal recognition. This year, 27 benefactors have earned a place or a higher position on our Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donors located at our offices in Washington, D.C.

It is often the case that these distinguished contributions are gifts from individuals and family foundations. Others represent the valued partnership of esteemed corporations and organizations.

Now, I would like to take just a moment to recognize the outstanding contributions of DAV Chapters and Departments who gave contributions of \$1,000 or more during 2014: the Department of Alaska; the William E. Tate Chapter Number 1, the Department of Georgia; and the G.C. Martino, Sr., Memorial Lake County Chapter 16 in the Department of Illinois.

In addition to the model efforts of these Chapters and Departments, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the individuals, couples, families and foundations, companies and other organizations who have earned special recognition in 2014.

More than 100 benefactors took a place on the Honor Roll of Benefactors or attained a National Service Foundation Commendation this year. Additionally, there were 42 Departments and Chapters who have earned Distinguished Donor Certificates for their generous gift this past year.

To all of our donors, you inspire us with your dedication to keeping the mission moving forward and safeguarding America's veterans, today and well into the future. Congratulations to you all. And, again, I offer you my heartfelt thanks.

Now, as you read through the copy of the 2014 Annual Report, I encourage you to scan through the names of those in your state who made a gift of \$100 or more to the fund last year.

If you have donated during the year, let me offer you my personal thanks. I believe that your generosity is a testament to your faith in the work the DAV does and you are helping to keep the veteran-to-veteran service alive and thriving. You may never know the true impact of your contributions, but let me be the first to tell you that it means a great deal to me and to the veterans and the families that we serve.

Now I would like to take just a moment to proudly recognize National Service Director Jim Marszalek and his elite corps of National Service Officers, whose daily work is truly the backbone of DAV's mission.

Jim, though I know you and your team are constantly striving to provide better service—excuse me—you have truly earned your stellar reputation. You should be extremely proud of the impact that you have had on the lives of this country's veterans.

And one way to see that impact is reflected through the gifts made in the honor of the National Service Officers for the work that they do for veterans. This not only extends to their personal legacy of service but well into the future, but it also creates the financial strength that will support the DAV mission for many years to come.

The Pacesetter Performance Award recognizes the NSO in each division who has the largest cumulative total contributions made in his or her name. Jim, would you help me honor these outstanding National Service Officers.

(Whereupon, National Service Director James Marszalek advanced to assist President Wilson.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Division 1, National Service Officer James R. Laverdiere of Togus, Maine, with a total of \$4,998. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 1 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetter Performance Award was presented to James R. Laverdiere of Togus, Maine.)

MR. JAMES R. LAVERDIERE: Hi. On behalf of the donors, my support staff—Kathy and Sonja—past Supervisor Brandon McKinney, and the Department of Maine DAV and DAV Auxiliary I accept the award. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Division 2, National Service Officer Gary J. Prescott II—the Second—from Albuquerque, New Mexico, who is credited with \$3,095. Gary. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 2 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetter Performance Award was presented to Gary J. Prescott, II, of Albuquerque, New Mexico.)

MR. GARY J. PRESCOTT, II: I just want to thank all the donors in the great State of New Mexico who made this award possible for me today. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Division 3, National Service Officer Michael R. Kwaiter of Seattle, Washington, with a grand total of \$9,778. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 3 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetter Performance Award was presented to Michael R. Kwaiter of Seattle, Washington.)

MR. MICHAEL R. KWAITER: Thank you on behalf of the Seattle National Service Office in the Department of Washington. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: And Division 4, National Service Officer David M. Fitzgerald of our Boston, Massachusetts, office with a total of \$9,735. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 4 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetter Performance Award was presented to David M. Fitzgerald of Boston, Massachusetts.)

MR. DAVID M. FITZGERALD: I want to say thank you to the donors, Department of Massachusetts and our Boston office for their hard work. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: And Division 5, National Service LeRoy Acosta of Oakland, California, with a total of \$7,944. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 5 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetter Performance Award was presented to LeRoy Acosta of Oakland, California.)

MR. LeROY ACOSTA: Thank you very much. On behalf of the DAV Department of California I'd like to thank all the donors to help us move forward to fulfill our promises to the men and women who served. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Please join me again in thanking all of these great NSOs for being such an incredible business and doing such an incredible job. (Applause)

As you know, these men and women embody the DAV's mission. And they play a key role in carrying out the Foundation's mission. They are often the first introduction that a veteran has to our organization. And they are the front-line soldiers of DAV, making sure the veterans receive the benefits

that they have earned. We all share the same mission. And I hope that you are as inspired as I am by the generosity of our fellow veterans and supporters.

I now want to call upon you, your Chapters and Departments, with being part of the cause. For many of us this is a way to donate in honor of our friends, brothers, sisters, and to commemorate our fallen brethren. These men and women embody the DAV's mission. They play a key role in carrying out the Foundation's mission—

So, here, now we are able to show our commitment and our support for our nation's finest through the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund, the Columbia Trust, or the Trench Rats Fund, as you specify. The thermometer is now up, awaiting your generous donations.

To kick off this time of giving, I'm pleased to acknowledge a contribution from Chapter 12 of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, \$500 to the NSF and \$500 to the Columbia Trust; the Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner, \$150,000 to the Foundation; (Applause) the Chisholm, Chisholm, Kilpatrick Firm, \$50,000 to the Disabled Veterans LIFE Memorial Foundation; (Applause) the Oak Cliff Texas Chapter 32 of \$500; and the memorial—I'm sorry, the Moral Rearmament League of \$2,000.

So let's build some momentum and get that thermometer moving. Thank you. Let's go. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Hello, folks. Every year I donate a thousand dollars to DAV. And I try to donate some other money to other veterans' organizations. If you don't want to pay your income tax, instead of paying the government that money—you don't know where it is going—donate it to the DAV because you know where it is going. Thank you. (Applause)

MS. TRACEY M. TORRES: Tracey Torres from San Diego, Dick Cosgriff Chapter 2, on behalf of the Chapter we'd like to donate \$2,000 to the National Service—I'm sorry, to the Columbia Trust. Thank you. (Applause)

MS. JAZMIN BRAVO: Jazmin Bravo, on behalf, from San Diego Chapter 2, Dick Cosgriff, we have, we are giving the National Service Foundation \$2,000. (Applause)

MR. JAMES HOGAN: Good morning. My name is Commander James Hogan, Blind Chapter, National Chapter Number 1. We have a check on behalf of the organization, \$1,000 to—and my personal \$100 donation to the National Trust Foundation—Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thanks very much.

MR. HOGAN: Thank you very much, sir.

MS. HELEN BENNETT: Helen Bennett, Commander of the Department of Massachusetts, I am making a donation—the Department is making a donation to the National Service Foundation in the amount of \$1,000 and \$1,000 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Texas 42, donation, \$1,000 to the National Foundation, Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. BILL JACKSON: Bill Jackson, Commander, Blue Bonnet Chapter 20, Department of Texas, \$250 to the Winter Sports Clinic. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Adjutant of Chapter 20, Blue Bonnet, Texas, \$250 to the Disabled Memorial Life Fund, perpetual, and a personal donation of \$100 to the same account. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MS. KATHERINE A. BARAN: Good Morning. Commander Katherine Baran, Department of Nevada, I have \$200 in memory of our PDC Pete Buell and we rounded it up to \$5,000 for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Great. Thank you very much.

MR. ALEX HERNANDEZ: Alex Hernandez, Department Commander for the State of Missouri, I present a check in honor of Andrew Edwards and the Saint Louis staff of \$25,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning, sir.

MR. CARL WILLIAM "BILL" RIEGER: Good morning. Commander Bill Rieger out of Kansas City, Missouri, Chapter Number 2, and in honor of Andrew Edwards and the staff of Saint Louis a check for \$30,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning, sir.

MR. BUDDY BRICKMAN: Good morning. Hey. Buddy Brickman, Commander Department of Florida, we have \$100 in the name of Andy Marshall to the Service Foundation, \$5,000 to the Service Foundation, and \$5,000 to Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Hey.

MR. RICHARD TOLFA: Good morning. Rich Tolfa, Florida. I have two checks here from Chapter 150, Lady Lakes, Florida, \$500 to Columbia Trust and \$500 to the Service Foundation. (Applause)

MR. MARK WISCHMANN: Mark Wischmann from the Department of Delaware present a check to the National Service Foundation for \$200 in memory of our departed PDCs. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Hello, Brigitte.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER BRIGITTE MARKER: Hi, Brigitte Marker, Fourth National Junior Vice, I am personally donating for myself and my family \$100 to the National Service Foundation. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MARKER: Thank you.

MR. ALBERT BURLIKOWSKI: Good morning.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Yes, sir.

MR. BURLIKOWSKI: Al Burlikowski from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, donates, our Chapter donates \$500 in memory of PDC Nick Vigliano. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: I remember him very well.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: From the great State of Colorado and the Queen City of Denver, Colorado, I donate \$100 to the National Service Foundation; that will be Chapter 11, Denver, Colorado. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Bonjour, mon amis. Bonjour. From the Department of Louisiana we're donating \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. Thank you and bonsoir. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning, sir. The host State of Colorado, Chapter 7, would like to donate \$5,000 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

MR. CARROLL DAVIS: Carroll Davis, Commander, State of Mississippi, on behalf of all the men and women in the state we donate \$1,000 to the Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

MR. JOSEPH PARSETICH: I'm Joe Parsetich, the NEC for District 14, and I proudly donate \$303 from our District. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Joe. Good morning.

MR. PAUL DUBEY: Paul Dubey, Adjutant, DAV Chapter, Charles Musante Chapter 46, Athol, Massachusetts, we have a gift for the National Service Trust in memory of a very generous comrade, Paul (undistinguishable), for the sum of \$10,000. (Applause)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ALAN BOWERS: That young fellow is my adjutant. I'm Al Bowers, Past National Commander, donating \$1,000. (Applause)

MR. DOUGLAS STOVER: I'm Douglas Stover from Bangor, Maine, Chapter 6, John F. Kennedy Post. We're donating this in the National Foundation of \$400.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. (Applause) Good morning, sir.

MR. STACY MOSLEY: Good morning. I'm Stacy Mosley, Treasurer for Disabled American Veterans, Big D Chapter 57, Dallas, Texas, and I've been authorized to donate on behalf of the Chapter \$500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Hi, Chad. Good morning, sir.

MR. CHAD RICHMOND: Chad Richmond, Adjutant, the Department of Alabama, and on behalf of the Department I'd like to donate \$500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MR. DARRELL WALKER: Darrell Walker, Commander of the State of Alaska, the largest state in the country. We are donating \$1,500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MR. STEVE BENSON: My name is Steve Benson, Commander of Chapter 2, North Dakota. And we have a donation to the Columbia Trust of \$1,000 and also \$1,000 to the Winter Sports Clinic. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MS. MARILYN SMITH: Marilyn Smith, on behalf of the Department of Arkansas, we have \$2,500 to Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning, sir.

MR. JIM TORRES: Jim Torres, Commander, Department of California. On behalf of the Department of California, \$10,000 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

MR. MICHAEL KERR: Michael Kerr, on behalf of the DAV Charities of Central California I humbly present a check in the amount of \$2,000 to the National Service Foundation. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. CHRIS CHANEY: Chris Chaney, the Assistant Supervisor of the Roanoke NSO Office, on behalf of a veteran who was too ill to come to Convention, presenting a check to the National Service Foundation for \$4,000 in honor of NSO Chris Chaney and the Roanoke NSO Office.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Chris. Thank you very much.

MR. CHANEY: Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Hello, Jim.

MR. JAMES BOGAN: James Bogan, Vice President of California's Rehabilitation Foundation, make a presentation of \$10,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Hello, sir.

MR. EDWARD L. LA MORA: Ed La Mora, Department of New York, \$5,000, Charitable Trust; \$1,000, National Service Foundation; \$300, National Service Foundation in memory of Dennis Krudler, Sal Tomatore, and Mark Miller. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning to you.

MR. DOUGLAS R. STEWART: Doug Stewart for the Department of Idaho, like to donate \$250 to the Columbia Trust. Thank you.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: West Allis, Chapter 19, Department of Wisconsin is pleased to present the National Service Foundation a donation of \$1,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. GARY THOMAS: Good morning. My name is Gary Thomas. I'm the Commander of Chapter 1, Saint Louis, Missouri. I'd like to proudly present this check to the National Service Foundation in the amount of \$10,000 and this is in honor of Andrew Edwards. Semper Fi, Marine. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MS. PAMELA BEALE: Pam Beale, Chapter 7, Metro Chapter 7 Commander. We have a donation for \$1,000 for the National Service Foundation. And I have a personal \$100 for the National Service. Thank you.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of the members of Chapter 19, New Mexico, I make a donation of \$400 to the National Service Foundation in memory of our departed brother Raymond Fabre. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir.

MR. ERWIN SCHULTZ: Erwin Schultz, National Appeals Officer, Senior Vice Commander of Arlington-Fairfax Chapter 10, from the great Commonwealth of Virginia, in the immortal words of our Chapter Adjutant John Mackie, "The best Chapter in the known universe," I want to present the National Service Foundation with a donation of \$1,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: How are you?

MR. JAMES A. PROCURNIER: Tough act to follow. PDC Jim Procurrier from the Commonwealth of Virginia and also from "The greatest Chapter in the known universe." In memory of PDC Alan McCrosky, my personal donation of \$2,000 to the Service Foundation.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause) Good morning, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. Chapter 7 from Puerto Rico, a donation for National Service Foundation, \$100, and \$100 for Columbia Trust. (Applause)

MR. STEVEN M. STRODBECH: Steven Strodbach, President, National Guild of Attorneys in Fact, \$500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Two thousand dollars donated by Department of Arizona. I'm the second junior vice, also commander for a Chapter in Arizona. This is in memory of Don Archuleta who was our adjutant. He passed away suddenly a week ago yesterday. Semper Fi, Marines. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. GREGORY D. REMUS: Greg Remus, Commander of Minnesota, on behalf of our foundation we are donating \$10,000 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Thank you, sir.

MR. DAVID VALTINSON: David Valtinson, past Department Commander, Minnesota, on behalf of the Department we're donating \$10,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MS. LISAA. SLOAN: Lisa Sloan, Department of Vermont. I have a check for \$100 from the Bryan Morris Chapter 3 for the Columbia Trust and National Service Foundation; Bennington Chapter 4, \$25 for Columbia Trust and the National Service Foundation; and \$500 from the Orleans County Chapter 22 for Columbia Trust and the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

MS. SLOAN: Thank you.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning, sir.

MR. LAVAUGHN PRICE: I'm Lavaughn Price, the Commander of the State of Maryland. In memory of Michael "Mad Dog" Sader we'd like to donate \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good to see you.

MS. SHANDA TAYLOR-BOYD: Good to see you, too. Hi, everybody. My name is Shanda Taylor-Boyd. I come from Seattle, Washington. And I just found out that if you are taking a VA loan you're not supposed to really take out too much money so on behalf of my three daughters, Olivia, Danielle and Taylor, I'd like to donate \$100 to each of our trusts and foundations. (Applause) And, hold your applause, please. (Laughter)

If you can see this, it's my baby daughter. You never know what is going to happen and how God turns a tragedy into a triumph. You know I sustained TBI about 10 years ago and now my baby daughter is going to be a senior and she's a neurobiology major. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Congratulations. That's wonderful. Good morning, sir.

MR. FRANK BROWN: Frank Brown, Department of Virginia. We've donated \$1,000 to the National Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning, sir.

MR. CLARENCE BROWN: Clarence Brown from South Carolina. I'd like to donate \$500 in the name of (undistinguishable). (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MR. DAVID VARBERG: I'm David Varberg. I'm the Commander of North Dakota. I have a number of them. I've got from Chapter 31, Jamestown, North Dakota, \$250 to the Columbia Trust, \$500 to the National Service Foundation; from Chapter 3, Bismarck, North Dakota, \$4,000 to the Columbia Trust and \$4,000 to the National Service Foundation. And from the State of North Dakota I've got \$1,500 to each of the trust companies. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Ninety-second Buffalo, Chapter 20, South Carolina, to the National Service Foundation, \$1,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. I know that guy.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LARRY A. POLZIN: Larry Polzin, Past National Commander, donates \$200 from Chapter 73 and \$100 from the National Order of Trench Rats, Dugout 65 from the same Chapter. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. GREGORY ALAN KEESEE: How are you doing? My name is Greg Keese. I am the Department Commander for the State of North Carolina. I have two checks. One is from Chapter 37, Pitt County, for, in the amount of \$100; the other is for the Department of North Carolina, \$1,000. Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of Department of Illinois, Department Commander Robert Arens, a check in the amount of \$5,000 to the National Service Foundation. Go Navy. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Hi, Al.

MR. ALFRED C. REYNOLDS: I'm Al Reynolds, Commander of Macon County 17 of the Department of Illinois. I have two checks, the first being one for \$10,000 for the National Service Foundation, which I believe that brings us up to \$113,000; and also I've got a check for \$5,000 for the Sports Clinic. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Al.

MR. ROBERT F. CUDWORTH: Bob Cudworth, the Commander of Chapter 1, Scranton, Pennsylvania, the second-oldest Chapter in the nation, I make a personal contribution of \$250 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning, sir.

MR. ROBERT E. SOLOMON: Robert Solomon, Adjutant, Chapter 1, Georgia. Chapter 1 would like to make a donation for \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation and \$1,000 to the Columbia Trust Fund. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. JOHN D. CAUSEY: John Causey, Department of Georgia, Finance, \$1,000 to the Colorado Trust and \$1,000 to the Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Thank you very much.

MR. RUBEN A. CABAZA: Good morning. My name is Ruben Cabaza, Senior Vice Commander of the Department of Puerto Rico. We would like to make the following contribution to the National Service Foundation, \$500; and \$200 to the Columbia Trust and on behalf of the Department of Puerto Rico and Department Commander Idalis Marquez. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. GEORGE KANELOS: George Kanelos, Department Commander of Maine, I have two checks, one from Chapter 1 for \$500 and one from the Department of Maine for \$1,000. (Applause)

MR. BOYD E. FULMER: Boyd Fulmer from the State of South Carolina, DAV Chapter 51, a check for \$500 in the memory of Past State Commander Michael Truscelo. (Applause)

MR. ROBERT A. BRANDT: I have—I'm Bob Brandt, PDC, Department of Oklahoma. I have four donations, each to the National Service Foundation. First I have a donation of \$1,000 from the Department of Oklahoma. On behalf of Chapter 32, Department of Oklahoma we have a \$150 donation. And then in memory of my parents, Rolfe and Jean Brandt, both World War II disabled veterans, \$150 each. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

MR. BRANDT: Thank you.

MR. CLARENCE A. MAIER: Clarence Maier, Chapter 11, Salina, Kansas, donates \$500 from the Chapter to the National Service Foundation. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. AL LABELLE: Mr. Wilson, here you go. I'm Al Labelle, Legislative Director, DAV Wisconsin. I am making a personal donation of \$500 to the National Service Foundation in the name of Joseph A. "Joe" Violante for his mentorship as DAV National Legislative Director and for his service to DAV and all wartime, wounded, ill and injured veterans. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Hello, there. How are you, sir?

MR. GLEN PARKER: Good morning. My name is Glen Parker from Department of Maryland. I wish to make a personal donation in the memory of Michael "Mad Dog" Sader, a great supporter of veterans and a great American. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. WANDA JANUS: Good morning. Wanda Janus, Portland Chapter 1 in the great State of Oregon, make a personal donation of \$250 to the Columbia Trust and \$250 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

MR. ROLLY D. LEE, SR.: My name is Rolly Lee. I'm 10th District NEC, home of Jim Harbaugh and Michigan Wolverines. (Boos and cheers) Thank you. Thank you. I'd like to—on behalf of the Department of Michigan we'd like to make a \$1,000 donation to the National Service Foundation and also a \$1,000 to the Charitable Service Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. DAVID T. WIGGIN: How are you doing? My name is David Wiggin and I am the local Commander in Dover, New Hampshire called Bellamy Chapter 5 and I'm also this year's Commander for the State of New Hampshire. On behalf of New Hampshire and all our veterans we're going to donate \$500 to the National Service Foundation and we also want to donate \$500 to the Charitable Service Trust. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. CHARLES HICKS: Charles Hicks, California, Commander, Chapter 5, Los Angeles, we'd like to donate \$300 to the Foundation and \$100 to the Trust. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. PHILIP A. ALEXANDER: Philip Alexander, Department of Ohio, \$500 for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir.

MR. WALTER T. APPLGATE: Walt Applegate, Ocean County Memorial Chapter 24, \$100 for the Trust and \$100 for the National. (Applause) Thank you.

MR. KEVIN J. WALKOWSKI: Kevin Walkowski, Department Commander, State of Wisconsin, membership donates \$1,700 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. DAVID W. BRADER: David Brader, Department of Kansas Adjutant, donates, the Department donates \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

MR. RICH WILSON: Rich Wilson, Department of South Dakota, I have four separate donations for the National Service Foundation. The first one is a \$100 check from Gene Murphy in memory of Roger Andall.

I have a \$100 donation from Chapter 3 in memory of Earl Jefferson, Past Commander. I have a \$250 donation from Chapter 1 honoring our National Service Officers Eric Van Emerick and Owen Richards. And the last is a \$500 donation from the Department of South Dakota for the National Service Foundation, \$500. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. GERALD E. HUMPHRIES: Chapter 11, State of Mississippi, donates this \$1,000 in the name of Gerald E. Humphries, NSO retired 30 years. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Who is that guy? (Laughter) Well, thank you, all, once again. I am looking at the numbers down there and it shows almost a half a million dollars was donated. (Applause) What a wonderful day. We can do this again tomorrow if you'd like. (Laughter)

Once again, I want to offer to you, all of you, my special thanks for your continued generosity and support. It goes a long, long way in ensuring DAV's critical service and programs.

And I want to extend our appreciation to Commander Hope and Adjutant Burgess and, of course, to our Administrator Bridgette Shaffer for a terrific year and all of their support. Thank you all very much. Have a great convention. Thank you, Commander. That concludes my report.

# Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation

Financial Statements as of and for the  
Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, and  
Independent Auditors' Report



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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the Board of Directors of  
 Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation (the "Foundation"), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

**Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Foundation's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Foundation's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Foundation as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Deloitte + Touche LLP*

May 28, 2015

Member of  
 Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

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	2014	2013
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 2,325,301	\$ 1,748,555
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	6	6
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	6,528	11,179
INVENTORY	442,500	294,428
PREPAID EXPENSES	25,402	21,123
INVESTMENTS	113,807,077	106,036,681
SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT IN PROCESS	<u>45,362</u>	<u>45,362</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 116,652,176</u>	<u>\$ 108,157,334</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
LIABILITIES:		
Due to DAV	\$ 604,182	\$ 61,270
Due to DAV Legislative Program	10,044	7,772
Other liabilities	<u>199,809</u>	<u>65,709</u>
Total liabilities	<u>814,035</u>	<u>134,751</u>
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted:		
General	19,666,465	17,896,101
The Columbia Trust	1,343,977	1,283,799
Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund	30,807,677	29,803,962
Accumulated net unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>9,031,016</u>	<u>8,284,685</u>
Total unrestricted	<u>60,849,135</u>	<u>57,268,547</u>
Temporarily restricted	<u>54,769,712</u>	<u>50,538,742</u>
Permanently restricted	<u>219,294</u>	<u>215,294</u>
Total net assets	<u>115,838,141</u>	<u>108,022,583</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 116,652,176</u>	<u>\$ 108,157,334</u>

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

	2014		2013		Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted					
<b>PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES:</b>									
Public support — contributions and bequests	\$ 1,003,714	\$ 977,539	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,985,253	\$ 889,159	\$ 1,020,902	\$ -	\$ 1,910,061	
<b>Revenues:</b>									
Interest and dividend income — net	2,160,080	2,015,591		4,175,671	1,617,107	1,515,208		3,132,315	
Gain on sale of investment securities	1,648,348	1,379,140		3,027,488	1,188,350	1,142,030		2,330,380	
Sales of fraternal items	1,175,061			1,175,061	916,542			916,542	
Total revenues	4,983,489	3,392,731	-	8,376,220	3,721,999	2,657,238	-	6,379,237	
Net assets released from restrictions	980,685	(980,685)		-	1,023,461	(1,023,461)		-	
Total public support and revenues	6,967,888	3,389,585	4,000	10,361,473	5,634,619	2,654,679	-	8,289,298	
<b>EXPENSES:</b>									
Program expenses:									
Grants and expenses in accordance with The Columbia Trust	1,706,842			1,706,842	1,580,083			1,580,083	
Appropriations to DAV National Headquarters and other organizations	1,173,939			1,173,939	1,977,888			1,977,888	
Costs of fraternal items sold	839,493			839,493	666,263			666,263	
Other program expenses	142,837			142,837	139,765			139,765	
Total program expenses	3,863,111	-	-	3,863,111	2,583,899	-	-	2,583,899	
Management and general expenses	166,421			166,421	163,353			163,353	
Fundraising expenses	104,099			104,099	107,318			107,318	
Total expenses	4,133,631	-	-	4,133,631	2,854,570	-	-	2,854,570	
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	2,834,257	3,389,585	4,000	6,227,842	2,780,049	2,654,679	-	5,434,728	
CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	746,331	841,385		1,587,716	4,456,169	4,042,313		8,498,482	
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	3,580,588	4,230,970	4,000	7,815,558	7,236,218	6,696,992	-	13,933,210	
NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	57,268,547	50,538,742	215,294	108,022,583	50,032,329	43,841,750	215,294	94,089,373	
NET ASSETS — End of year	\$ 60,849,135	\$ 54,769,712	\$ 219,294	\$ 115,838,141	\$ 57,268,547	\$ 50,538,742	\$ 215,294	\$ 108,022,583	

See notes to financial statements.

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

### STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

	2014			2013				
	Program	Management and General	Fundraising	Total	Program	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
EXPENSES:								
Allocations to charitable programs	\$ 2,841,805	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,841,805	\$ 1,745,520	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,745,520
Costs of fraternal items sold	839,493			839,493	666,263			666,263
Grant proposal processing	36,335			36,335	30,223			30,223
Administrative charges		36,335	37,006	73,341		30,223	32,426	62,649
Travel		17,787		17,787		20,550		20,550
Postage and shipping	105,886	5,743	30,489	142,118	98,448	4,442	32,822	135,712
Printing, stationery and supplies	77	18,538	25,882	44,497	194	31,824	31,097	63,115
Advertising	36,982			36,982	41,317			41,317
Legal fees			6,840	6,840			6,840	6,840
Professional fees		28,699		28,699		29,798		29,798
Insurance		3,559		3,559		3,559		3,559
Registration fees		17	3,882	3,899		90	4,133	4,223
Awards		10,422		10,422		8,587		8,587
Banking & credit card fees	2,533	44,984		47,517	1,934	33,790		35,724
Miscellaneous		337		337		490		490
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 3,863,111</u>	<u>\$ 166,421</u>	<u>\$ 104,099</u>	<u>\$ 4,133,631</u>	<u>\$ 2,583,899</u>	<u>\$ 163,353</u>	<u>\$ 107,318</u>	<u>\$ 2,854,570</u>

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

## STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

	2014	2013
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 7,811,558	\$ 13,933,210
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	(1,587,716)	(8,498,482)
Gain on sale of investment securities	(3,027,488)	(2,330,380)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest and dividends receivable		86
Accounts receivable	4,651	(3,855)
Inventory	(148,072)	(87,345)
Prepaid expenses	(4,279)	(12,284)
Due to DAV	542,912	(76,504)
Due to DAV Legislative Program	2,272	(345)
Other liabilities	<u>134,100</u>	<u>(25,130)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>3,727,938</u>	<u>2,898,971</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchases of investments	(20,489,554)	(32,252,348)
Proceeds from sale of investments	17,334,362	29,802,375
Additions to software development in process		<u>(45,362)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(3,155,192)</u>	<u>(2,495,335)</u>
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITY:		
Contributions of permanently restricted assets	<u>4,000</u>	
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	576,746	403,636
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — Beginning of year	<u>1,748,555</u>	<u>1,344,919</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — End of year	<u>\$ 2,325,301</u>	<u>\$ 1,748,555</u>

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

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### 1. ORGANIZATION

Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation (the Foundation) is a financial auxiliary of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). The purpose of the Foundation, as set forth in Article 3 of the Articles of Incorporation, is as follows:

“To receive and maintain a fund or funds of personal or real property, or both, to solicit and obtain contributions from the public, and, subject to the restrictions set forth in the Articles of Incorporation, to use and apply the whole or any part of the income and principal of said fund exclusively for the promotion of social welfare (including incidental nonpartisan legislative activity in furtherance of such purpose) within the meaning of Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, primarily for the assistance, aid, maintenance, care, support, and rehabilitation of disabled veterans and their dependents, either directly or by contributions to the DAV, a Congressionally chartered organization, or any chapter or department thereof.”

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Financial Statements** — The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

**New Accounting Standards** — In October 2012, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2012-05, *Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230), Not-for-Profit Entities: Classification of the Sale Proceeds of Donated Financial Assets in the Statement of Cash Flows*. The ASU requires a Not-for-Profit to classify cash receipts from the sale of donated financial assets consistently with cash donations received in the statement of cash flows if those receipts were from the sale of donated financial assets that upon receipt were directed without any Not-for-Profit-imposed limitations for sale and were converted nearly immediately to cash. Accordingly, the cash receipts from the sale of those financial assets should be classified as cash inflows from operating activities, unless the donor restricted the use of contributed resources to long-term purposes, in which case those receipts should be classified as cash flows from financing activities. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after June 15, 2013, and should be applied prospectively. The Foundation adopted the ASU and it did not have a material impact on the Foundation’s presentation of cash flows.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents** — The Foundation considers all liquid instruments purchased with a maturity date of three months or less to be cash equivalents that are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. The earnings credit received on the Foundation’s checking accounts were \$4,866 and \$3,230 in 2014 and 2013, respectively. The Foundation maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts which, at times, exceed federally insured limits. The Foundation has not experienced any losses in such accounts.

**Inventories** — Inventories are carried at the lower of cost or market, generally determined on the first-in, first-out basis. Inventory consists of purchased fraternal items to be sold, solicitation materials, and other items.

**Contributions** — Contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted support, depending on the existence and nature of any donor restrictions. Donated assets are recorded at their fair market value at the time of the donation.

**Unrestricted Net Assets** — All unrestricted contributions and bequests to the Foundation are designated by the Board of Directors (the Board) for investment in a Board-designated endowment fund, known as the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund, as a reserve for future needs.

Investment income derived from these invested amounts are included in the General Fund and used for current operations of the Foundation or appropriated by the Foundation for use by DAV.

The Foundation has adopted an investment policy for the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund and temporarily restricted investments. The primary goals of the investment portfolio are safeguarding of the assets; maximization of return on the interest, dividends and appreciation of capital; and avoidance of undue interest rate risk in the fixed-income portion of the portfolio. The portfolio performance objective is to exceed a custom benchmark of 60% Russell 3000 / 40% Barclays Intermediate Government Credit over a five-year period and a full market cycle.

The Foundation relies on a total return strategy in which investment returns are achieved through both capital appreciation (realized and unrealized) and current yield (interest and dividends). The Foundation targets a diversified asset allocation that places a greater emphasis on equity-based investment to achieve its long-term return objective within prudent risk constraints.

The Foundation's unrestricted Board-designated endowment for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, had the following activity:

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Public support — contributions and bequests	\$ 1,003,714	\$ 889,159
Revenues:		
Interest and dividend income — net	2,160,080	1,617,107
Gain on sale of investment securities	1,648,348	1,188,350
Sale of fraternal items	<u>1,175,061</u>	<u>916,542</u>
Total public support and revenues	<u>5,987,203</u>	<u>4,611,158</u>
Expenses:		
Program:		
Appropriations to DAV National Headquarters and other organizations	1,173,939	197,788
Internal appropriation to Columbia Trust	750,000	
Cost of fraternal items sold	839,493	666,263
Other program expenses	142,837	139,765
Grant proposal processing	<u>36,335</u>	<u>30,223</u>
Total program expenses:	2,942,604	1,034,039
Management and general	166,421	163,353
Fundraising	<u>104,099</u>	<u>107,318</u>
Total expenses	<u>3,213,124</u>	<u>1,304,710</u>
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>746,331</u>	<u>4,456,169</u>
Total change in unrestricted Board-designated endowment fund	<u>\$3,520,410</u>	<u>\$7,762,618</u>

For 2014, appropriation to the Columbia Trust of \$750,000 is excluded from the statement of activities due to the transaction being an internal appropriation.

For 2014 and 2013, the Board has designated \$1,343,977 and \$1,283,799, respectively, as total unrestricted net assets for The Columbia Trust and are not included in the Board-designated endowment fund. The Columbia Trust recorded an increase in unrestricted net assets of \$60,178 in 2014 and decrease in unrestricted net assets of \$526,400 in 2013. No unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments is designated to The Columbia Trust's net assets from the unrestricted general fund.

**Temporarily Restricted Net Assets** — Funds contributed to The Columbia Trust are matched 100% by DAV, up to a maximum of \$3,000,000 per year. In 2014 and 2013, The Columbia Trust received \$64,420 and \$52,800, respectively, in contributions, which were matched by DAV.

In 2014 and 2013, The Columbia Trust received \$800,000 and \$740,000, respectively, from the DAV Charitable Service Trust to be used for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program. In 2014 and 2013, The Columbia Trust also received \$48,698 and \$175,302, respectively, from the DAV for funds designated to assist in meeting the transportation and medical needs of veterans.

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, The Columbia Trust held \$224,885 and \$224,830, respectively, in money market funds.

**Permanently Restricted Net Assets** — Contributions by the National Order of Trench Rats for the DAV Legislative Program are permanently restricted. Investment income of \$10,044 and \$7,772 in 2014 and 2013, respectively, from the National Order of Trench Rats DAV Legislative Fund was transferred to DAV and is temporarily restricted for use by DAV's Legislative Program. These permanently restricted net assets of \$219,294 and \$215,294 as of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively, are included within the investments balance in the statements of financial position.

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

**Use of Estimates** — The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### 3. INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES

Investments are recorded at fair value. The fair value of the Foundation's investments is determined based on the quoted market prices of the related securities or quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets. Gains and losses on the sale of investment securities are recognized based upon the specific identification method and are reflected as a separate component of revenue for the investments of the Foundation. The Foundation's policy is to report cash and cash equivalents, which include money market funds, within its trust accounts as investments.

The cost and fair value of investments and the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, are summarized below:

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)</b>
<b>2014</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,283,583	\$ 1,283,583	\$ -
Common stock	4,531,814	6,545,714	2,013,900
Fixed-income mutual funds	37,499,991	37,235,859	(264,132)
Equity mutual funds / ETFs	<u>52,962,016</u>	<u>68,741,921</u>	<u>15,779,905</u>
Total	<u>\$96,277,404</u>	<u>\$ 113,807,077</u>	<u>\$ 17,529,673</u>
<b>2013</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,220,436	\$ 2,220,436	\$ -
Common stock	5,890,793	8,251,454	2,360,661
Fixed-income mutual funds	36,456,978	36,171,290	(285,688)
Equity mutual funds	<u>45,526,517</u>	<u>59,393,501</u>	<u>13,866,984</u>
Total	<u>\$90,094,724</u>	<u>\$ 106,036,681</u>	<u>\$ 15,941,957</u>

Interest and dividend income — net is \$4,173,671 and \$3,132,315 for 2014 and 2013, respectively. The year 2014 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$4,192,536 less \$18,865 for investment management and custody fees. The year 2013 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$3,154,636 less \$22,321 for investment management and custody fees.

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, the amount of securities in a continuous unrealized loss position for a duration of greater than twelve months is not material.

#### 4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value, as follows: Level 1, which refers to securities valued using unadjusted quoted prices from active markets for identical assets; Level 2, which refers to securities not traded on an active market but for which observable market inputs are readily available; and Level 3, which refers to securities valued based on significant unobservable inputs. Assets are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The Foundation did not hold any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are observable and significant (Level 2) and unobservable and significant (Level 3) to the overall fair value measurement during 2014 or 2013.

The Foundation's policy is to recognize transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no transfers during 2014 or 2013.

**Asset Valuation Techniques** — Valuation techniques used maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets recorded at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2014 and 2013.

Cash and cash equivalents, composed of money market funds, are categorized as Level 1, and are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The money market funds represent the Foundation's shares in a registered investment company's fund.

Common stock securities held are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the individual security is traded.

Shares of registered investment companies (mutual funds) are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at quoted market prices that represent the net asset value of shares held at year-end.

The major categories of financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, are as follows:

	<b>Fair Value Measurements Using</b>		
	<b>Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)</b>	<b>Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2014</b>			
<b>Asset Category</b>			
Cash and Cash equivalents	\$ 1,283,583	\$ -	\$ 1,283,583
Common stock	6,545,714		6,545,714
Mutual funds:			
Domestic fixed-income funds	31,551,855		31,551,855
International fixed-income funds	5,684,004		5,684,004
Domestic equity funds / ETFs	53,763,415		53,763,415
International equity funds	12,451,701		12,451,701
Real estate equity funds	<u>2,526,805</u>		<u>2,526,805</u>
Total mutual funds	<u>105,977,780</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>105,977,780</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 113,807,077</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 113,807,077</u>

2013	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
<b>Asset Category</b>			
Cash and Cash equivalents	\$ 2,220,436	\$ -	\$ 2,220,436
Common stock	8,251,454		8,251,454
Mutual funds:			
Domestic fixed-income funds	30,561,878		30,561,878
International fixed-income funds	5,609,412		5,609,412
Domestic equity funds	48,350,027		48,350,027
International equity funds	9,103,889		9,103,889
Real estate equity funds	1,939,585		1,939,585
Total mutual funds	95,564,791	-	95,564,791
Total assets	\$ 106,036,681	\$ -	\$ 106,036,681

## 5. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During 2014 and 2013, DAV personnel assisted the Foundation on a limited basis in administering its business operations and fundraising program. For these services, the Foundation reimbursed DAV \$109,677 and \$92,872 in 2014 and 2013, respectively. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, the Foundation owed DAV \$604,182 and \$61,270, respectively. DAV provides the Foundation with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge.

As discussed in Note 2, DAV contributed \$64,420 and \$52,800 to The Columbia Trust in 2014 and 2013, respectively. The Columbia Trust also received \$48,698 and \$175,302 from the DAV in 2014 and 2013, respectively, for funds designated to assist in meeting the transportation and medical needs of veterans.

In 2014 and 2013, the DAV Charitable Service Trust made contributions of \$800,000 and \$740,000, respectively, to The Columbia Trust for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program.

In 2014 and 2013, the Foundation appropriated the following in support of DAV programs and services:

	2014	2013
National Service Office Furniture and Equipment Fund	\$ 20,000	\$ 45,000
National Service Office Copier Fund	18,895	15,016
National Service Office Reference Manuals	25,000	25,000
National Service Office Structured & Continuing Training Program	1,100,000	
Construction of fraternal merchandise internet store front		105,000

In performing the duties of their positions, DAV's National Commander and National Adjutant serve on the Foundation's Board. The Chairman of DAV's Board of Directors serves as an ex officio member of the Foundation's Board. In performing the duties of their positions as a Foundation Board of Director, some members also serve on the DAV Charitable Service Trust's Board of Directors.

**6. GRANTS AND EXPENSES OF THE COLUMBIA TRUST**

At December 31, 2014 and 2013, the grants and expenses of The Columbia Trust are as follows:

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Grants to DAV chapters and departments in accordance with The Columbia Trust:		
Hospital Service Coordinator Program	\$ 458,140	\$ 454,097
National Transportation Network Van Grant Program	1,013,488	1,063,635
Other grants to service programs	196,237	30,000
Miscellaneous expenses	2,642	2,128
Grant proposal processing	<u>36,335</u>	<u>30,223</u>
 Total	 <u>\$ 1,706,842</u>	 <u>\$ 1,580,083</u>

In 2014, temporarily restricted net assets of \$980,685 and designated, unrestricted net assets of \$726,157 were used. In 2013, temporarily restricted net assets of \$1,023,461 and designated, unrestricted net assets of \$556,622 were used. The temporarily restricted net assets used, of \$980,685 and \$1,023,461, are shown as "Net assets released from restrictions" in the accompanying statements of activities for 2014 and 2013, respectively.

Net assets are released from restrictions by incurring expenses to satisfy the restricted purposes or by occurrence of other events specified by donors.

**7. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

No events have occurred after December 31, 2014, but before May 28, 2015, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

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COMMANDER HOPE: May I have a motion to accept the report from President Wilson for the National Service Foundation.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 3.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 3. Mic 3. Mic 3.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 2.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 2.

MR. BRICKMAN: Buddy Brickman, Commander, Department of Florida, makes that motion.

COMMANDER HOPE: Okay I have a motion. Do I have a second?

MR. DAVID L. SARTORI: Second by David Sartori from Chapter 19, West Allis, Department of Wisconsin.

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you. All in favor signify by saying; opposed. So ordered. Thank you, Art, for that excellent report. At this time I would ask Vince Darcangelo of the POW/MIA Interim Committee, for a presentation. (Applause)

MR. VINCENT DARCANGELO: Thank you. Good morning, Commander. Good morning, everybody. (Response of "Good morning.")

MR. DARCANGELO: I'm Vincent Darcangelo. I'm chairman of the Interim Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Committee. And, as you know, the POW issue is a very passionate one for many veterans. We still have over 83,000 men and women who wore the uniform of the United States military and they never came home.

And I know that we have over 1,300 members of the Disabled American Veterans organization that have identified themselves as former POWs and at this time if we have any former POWs in the room would you please stand and be recognized—former POWs.

(Whereupon, all former POWs stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

MR. DARCANGELO: One of the goals of our Committee is to make the public aware and also educate our young people of the inhumane and brutal punishment that they were subjected to during their time as prisoners. They were away from their families and loved ones for weeks, months, some for years.

And we want to acknowledge their service and sacrifices that they endured. And you may have noticed on hats, on patches, on arm patches, the POW logo, Prisoner of War/Missing in Action logo. It's a black and white slogan. And there are four words on that.

At the bottom of that patch it says "You are not forgotten." And, again, that's one of the goals of our POW/MIA Committee, to make the public aware and educate our young people.

On the third Friday of September, coming up next month, is the National POW/MIA Recognition Day. And I would ask that you do your part. Veterans helping veterans, service to our own, fulfilling the promises of those former POWs. If you have a POW flag, we ask that you fly it proudly. And, again, we are paying honor and homage to those former POWs that endured so much for their country.

And I would like to thank the others on the Committee. We had Wayne Stratos from the Department of Pennsylvania—you want to stand up, Wayne; (Applause) Nancy Lawrence from the Department of Utah; (Applause) thank you; John Willey from the Department of Illinois could not be here for health reasons.

And we had a tremendous amount of help from our two Committee advisors, Mr. Paul Varela—please stand, Paul; and Justin Hart. (Applause) I'm not sure where Justin is. Thank you, Justin. (Applause)

Now I would like to continue a tradition that we started several years ago. We want to thank the outgoing National Commander for his support of the POW/MIA issue and our Committee. And at this time I would ask Commander Hope to please come over here and take a look at this. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Commander Hope was presented with a POW/MIA flag, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. DARCANGELO: Thank you, Commander. Thank you.

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you. Thank you, Vince. Marc, do you have any announcements?

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Thank you, Commander. Immediately following the adjournment of this session the Nominating Committee will be meeting for about a half hour in Director Row J. So if you're a delegate to the Nominating Committee, please report to Director's Row J for a meeting.

This afternoon's final business session will begin promptly at 1:30 p.m. We will start off with the important business of nomination and election of our officers so please be on time.

And we are giving away \$30 gift certificates redeemable through the DAV store to five delegates attending the Convention. So it is my pleasure to read off your name. If your name is called and you are in the hall, please see Membership Director Doug Wells up here on the stage as soon as we adjourn.

And the winners are Michael Kerr, Department of California, Homer Blevins Chapter 1; (Applause) Paul Kominsky, Blind Veterans Chapter, National Chapter Number 1; (Applause) Wanda Janus, Department of Oregon, Portland Chapter Number 1; these are all Chapter 1. (Laughter)

All right, we'll shake it up. Walter Bernard, Department of Texas, Texas State Chapter 2. (Laughter) All right. And Joann Green, Department of Virginia, Bernard L. Hines Chapter 21. (Applause) Congratulations.

This evening's activities include the introduction of our National Officers at six o'clock followed by delicious food and great entertainment.

Commander, that is all the announcements I have.

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you, Marc. Chaplain Dover, would you lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Let us pray. We rejoice in your greatness and power, your gentleness and love, your mercy and justice. Enable us by your spirit to honor you in our thoughts, our words, and actions, and to serve you in every aspect of our lives. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER HOPE: This Convention stands in recess until 1:30 this afternoon.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:03 o'clock, a.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2015.)

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**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
FINAL BUSINESS SESSION**

**AUGUST 11, 2015**

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The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 94th National Convention convened in the Plaza Ballroom, Concourse Level, Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, Colorado, on Tuesday afternoon, August 11, 2015, and was called to order at 1:30 o'clock, p.m., by National Commander Ronald F. Hope.

COMMANDER RONALD F. HOPE: The Convention will come to order. As a reminder, once again we ask that everyone in attendance please turn off your cellular phones and portable devices.

In opening this afternoon's business session it is fitting and proper that we render proper respect due to the flag. Hand salute. Two. Hold it. Stop. Cool it. (Laughter) We will now be led in prayer by Chaplain Dover.

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Right behind you. Ladies and gentlemen, let us pray. Assist us in using our only best skills and judgment, keeping ourselves impartial, neutral, as we consider the merits and pitfalls of each matter that is placed before us. And help us always act in accordance with what is best for our organization. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER HOPE: You should never start anything without your Sky Pilot. (Laughter) As a reminder, in order for a delegate to be heard at this Convention you must be recognized by the Chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. Upon being so recognized, the delegate must state their name, Chapter number, and the state they represent.

I would like to remind everyone that registration of delegates is closed. I would like to call for, call upon Chairman Warren Tobin for the final report of the Credentials Committee.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOBIN: Comrade Commander and delegates, this is the final report of the Credentials Committee and reflects the total registration as of 10:00 a.m., August 11th, 2015.

There are 954 delegates and three alternates registered which includes 40 Departments and 374 Chapters. There are six national officers, 30 National Executive Committeemen and 12 Past National Commanders currently registered. The vote total is 7,488. At this time I would like to extend thanks to the Committee members and to our advisors.

Comrade Commander, that completes the final report of the Credentials Committee and on behalf of the Committee I move for its adoption.

COMMANDER HOPE: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 3.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 3.

MR. LOZANO: Manny Lozano, Chapter 28, Department of Georgia, so seconds.

COMMANDER HOPE: I have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye; all opposed. So ordered. I will now call on Dan Stack, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, for his report.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DANIEL P. STACK: Commander Hope, National Adjutant Burgess, and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Nominations of National Officers was called to order on the first business session on August 8th, 2015, by Committee Advisor Gene A. Murphy and Richard E. Marbes.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and Secretary. Dan Stack was elected as Chair and Al Reynolds was elected as secretary.

The Committee on the Nominations of National Officers met on Saturday, August 8th at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, August 9th, at 1:00 p.m. And then the Committee met again today at 11:30 a.m. to review and interview more candidates. We have elected the following individuals to be recommended for national office.

For the office of National Commander, Moses A. McIntosh from Georgia; (Applause) for the office of National Senior Vice Commander David W. Riley from Alabama; (Applause) for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander, Delphine Metcalf-Foster from California; (Applause) from the office of National Second Junior—for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander, Dennis R. Nixon from Texas; (Applause) I hate to say it, Texas, California outdid you on that one; for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander, Harmon L. Evans from South Carolina; (Applause) for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander, Stephan Whitehead from Minnesota; (Applause) for the office of National

Chaplain, Michael P. Dover from Georgia; (Applause) for the office of National Judge Advocate, Michael E. Dobmeier from North Dakota. (Applause)

Comrade Commander, this completes this report of the Committee on Nominations for National Officers. On behalf of the Committee I move the adoption of this report.

COMMANDER HOPE: I will now call for a second on that report of the Committee on Nomination of National Officers be adopted and that the Committee be discharged. Can I have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 3.

MR. DONALD J. MASSE: Comrade Commander, Mic 1.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 1.

MR. MASSE: Don Masse, Chapter 36, Abilene, Texas, I second that motion.

COMMANDER HOPE: I have a motion and a second. All of those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

You have heard the report of the Committee on Nomination of National Officers and they have nominated Moses A. McIntosh for National Commander. Here to second the nomination from the great State of Georgia is Retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel William B. Gillespie. (Applause)

MR. WILLIAM B. GILLESPIE: Thank you, Commander Hope. Moses McIntosh was born in Meridian, Georgia. He now resides in Augusta, Georgia, with his wife, Marjorie. He has two daughters Misher and Paige. He is a life member of Chapter 55 in Covington, Georgia.

Moses enlisted in the Air Force in 1977. Following Basic Training, he attended B52 Aerial Gunner training at Castle Air Force Base in California.

(Whereupon, a slide show began accompanying the seconding speech.)

MR. GILLESPIE: You may recognize two of us up there. (Laughter) His work ethic and technical skills led to his selection to become an Instructor Gunner. His leadership and team building abilities directly resulted in his merit promotion to the grade of E6 through the Stripes for Exceptional Performances program.

When the Aerial Gunner position was removed from the B52 in 1989, Moses sought out greater opportunities to lead and mentor. He requested, and was accepted for, an inner-service transfer to the Army. (Cheers) He attended Warrant Officer training and then Army aviation flight training where he became qualified in both the UH1 and the UH60 assault helicopter.

Using the crew leadership skills that he had developed in the B52, Moses applied them to his own crews while flying combat missions during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. While on a mission during Operation Desert Storm, he was injured in a flight mishap. As a result of that injury he was medically retired as a Chief Warrant Officer in 1997.

Moses' military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, the Air Force Combat Readiness Medal—for those that don't know, that's for pulling sack alert—the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, and the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal.

He also earned the Air Force Senior Enlisted Aircrew Badge as well as the Army Senior Aviator Badge.

In 1997, Moses joined the DAV. Being the leader he is, he quickly got involved and served in several capacities, including Chapter Treasurer. His team-building and leadership qualities were widely recognized and he was elected Department Commander in 2007.

Those qualities were called upon by the national leadership and he has been selected to serve on several Committees, including the DAV National Executive and the National Interim Membership Committees. Furthermore, DAV has elected him to national office where he currently serves as our National Senior Vice Commander.

From the time Moses enlisted in the Air Force, his service in the Army, and through his years of service in DAV, he has been a leader and a champion for our veterans and their families, ensuring that they receive the benefits they have sacrificed for and earned.

Now it's time to let Moses continue to fulfill the mission statement of this great organization of nearly 1.3 million members and those who sacrifice daily for our country.

It is my great honor to nominate our next National Commander for 2015 and 2016, Moses McIntosh. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you, Bill. The Chair will now call for any further nominations for the office of National Commander. Are there any further nominations for the office of National Commander? Any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations I close the nominations and declare Moses A. McIntosh elected as National Commander and instruct the National Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for his election. (Applause)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I, Marc Burgess, National Adjutant of DAV, hereby cast one unanimous ballot for Moses A. McIntosh, for the office of National Commander. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER HOPE: The Nominating Committee has nominated David W. Riley for the office of National Senior Vice Commander. Are there any further nominations?

Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare David W. Riley elected as National Senior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Delphine Metcalf-Foster for the office of First, National First Junior Commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I will close the nominations and declare Delphine Metcalf-Foster elected as National First Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Dennis Nixon for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I will close the nominations and declare Dennis Nixon elected Second, National Second Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Harmon Evans for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Harmon Evans elected National Third Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Stephen Whitehead for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations I will close the nominations and declare Stephen Whitehead elected as National Fourth Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Michael Dobmeier for the office of National Judge Advocate. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Michael Dobmeier elected as National Judge Advocate. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Michael Dover for the office of National Chaplain. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Michael Dover elected as National Chaplain. (Applause)

And I will now instruct the National Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for these officers.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I, Marc Burgess, National Adjutant of DAV, cast one unanimous ballot for David W. Riley of Alabama for National Senior Vice Commander; Delphine Metcalf-Foster of California for National First Junior Vice Commander;

Dennis R. Nixon of Texas for National Second Junior Vice Commander; Harmon L. Evans of South Carolina for National Third Junior Vice Commander; Stephan Whitehead of Minnesota for National Fourth Junior Vice Commander; Michael Dobmeier of North Dakota for National Judge Advocate; and Michael P. Dover of Georgia as National Chaplain. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: I would like to ask that the newly-elected officers and their spouses be escorted to the stage please.

(Whereupon, the newly-elected officers and their families were escorted to the stage.)

COMMANDER HOPE: I would like to call on National Commander-Elect Moses McIntosh for remarks. (Applause)

COMMANDER-ELECT MOSES A. MCINTOSH JR.: Thank you, Commander. I love you, too. Again, thank you, everyone, for that very warm welcome.

I think it is important for you all to know how humbled I am by the responsibility you have bestowed on me. To me, leadership is service rendered to this organization. And I promise to serve and represent all of you to the best of my ability during the course of the year.

Commander Hope, National Adjutant Burgess, and, most importantly, you all, my fellow veterans, I want you to know I will never take for granted the honor and privilege of working for our members, their families, and all of our nation's veterans.

Now, normally I'd say something about having big boots to fill, but since Commander Hope and I are both aviators, I'll say I know I have a big flight suit to fill. (Applause) I told you I was going to get you Ron, I'm not too sure I can actually get into yours, but you get what I mean. Okay? (Laughter)

But, on a serious note, you have been a friend, a coach and mentor to me through the years. And that's a debt that I can never repay. It means a lot. Thank you for your contributions to DAV and to our members. Your leadership has been absolutely inspirational during your entire tenure. And we are beginning on a high note this year because of that. Thank you. (Applause)

Fellow veterans, families and friends, DAV has had a busy year. It's my intent to make sure we get even busier. Let me explain why.

Last year at this same time we came together and discussed, among many things, how we would best serve veterans transitioning from military service as our weary nation was beginning to wind down from nearly 13 years of nonstop battle.

However, events occurring in the world in just the past few months remind me that the tactical situation on any battlefield is always in flux, always in motion, always fluid.

Not long ago the news reported that we had more than 4,000 American service members back in Iraq. There is also talk of extending our commitments in Afghanistan.

While there is no guessing what the political process will yield for our men and women in uniform, this is a stark reminder that our legacy of service to veterans and their families will continue. It must continue. And that's why we exist. We still have men and women deployed in harm's way and many will come home with their lives changed forever.

But that's where we come in. That's where DAV is at its best. We have all been there before. DAV was there for us when many in this very room didn't know who to turn to.

Now, we owe it to those who brought us into the DAV family to ensure we are reaching out to all veterans of all eras still today. That includes older generations who may not know about us, up to and including those currently serving.

Many of today's veterans are returning from war with what will be life-changing illnesses and injuries. They are struggling to get the help they were promised in the form of disability payments, jobs and health care.

In the nearly 14 years since American troops first deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, 2.6 million veterans have returned home to a country largely unprepared to meet their needs. At the same time, many Vietnam veterans are just now entering the VA health care system and their needs are greater than ever.

DAV knows the VA system operates the largest health care system in the country and offers some of the finest health care in the world. But the continued mismatch of funding and demand have led directly to the problems we are seeing today.

Last year several issues came to light and rightly disappointed and angered a lot of veterans. Access and funding remain the current issue at hand.

DAV will continue to tell our elected leaders we expect them to fully fund the VA so our country's bravest men and women receive the health care and benefits that they have earned. (Applause) And we will continue to promote our plans for true and lasting VA reforms.

I have spoken with Secretary McDonald and I truly believe he cares deeply for veterans and is fully committed to fixing the issues within the VA, not just with short-term, quick fixes, but with the intentions of genuine, longterm reform. Along these lines, as we work to reshape the VA, we must be cognizant of all veterans it served.

Right now, our veterans who were injured prior to 9/11 are not entitled to the same caregiver benefits as those injured after. This fight goes to the core of what we believe: disabled veterans have earned the same benefits, no matter when they served. (Applause) This is an issue near and dear to the DAV, and one we will continue to push for.

And for too long the word "veteran" has been seen as a purely masculine term. And while women veterans served with distinction in times of war, they do not receive the benefits they need and have earned. (Applause)

The contract between our nation and her veterans does not distinguish between genders. We need to welcome our sisters into our ranks and give them the opportunity to lead and advocate for them with a single, unified voice. (Applause)

DAV is leading the advocacy effort for women veterans. And I promise you we will continue to do so. Family, friends, and fellow veterans, it will be, indeed be a busy year for DAV. But I want you—I want to leave you with something I learned a long time ago: the power of hope. Boy, that's a good name to have, isn't it? (Laughter)

Hope—of all the forces in the world none is so powerful as hope. With hope one can think, one can work, one can dream. Remember, if you have hope you have everything.

We have a few fights ahead of us. But let me tell you this. If I have to go into battle, there is no one I would rather have beside me than the people right here in this room. (Applause)

I look forward to working with all of you this year. It's an honor and a privilege to serve as your National Commander. I pledge to you I will work tirelessly to ensure that your voices are heard as we continue our 95-year mission of service to the men and women who raised their hand, said, "Send me," and went forward to conduct America's business when called.

But then, on a personal note, I want to thank my team of DAV and the DAV Auxiliary for supporting me, guiding me, making sure I never lost sight of the goal. You are always there—even at those times I thought I lost all hope of success.

And remember, on every team there is that one person who is the anchor. Margie, you supported me throughout this whole process, and agreeing and at times disagreeing—and that's natural. That's what husbands and wives do. (Laughter) But in all honesty, you remain steadfast in your love and support. Without you I would not have become the man I am today. I love you, Margie. I love you, Paige. You are very dear to me. (Applause) And one thing—

(Whereupon, Mrs. McIntosh was presented with yellow roses.)

COMMANDER-ELECT MCINTOSH: Thank you. And, lastly, to the membership, I don't care what nobody tell you, don't ever forget it's because of your dedication that American remains free. It's because of our persistence that Congress shall not forget and it's because of your commitment that no veteran will be left behind. I want to thank you.

May God bless each and every one of you. May God bless the DAV. And may God bless America. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Commander Hope placed the National Commander's cap on the head of Commander-Elect McIntosh, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER HOPE: I would now like to call upon the National Senior Vice-Elect for any remarks that she may have—

ADJUTANT BURGESS: He.

COMMANDER HOPE: I'm sorry, that he may have. (Laughter) Well, you know, sometimes Dave just kind of throws me off. (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT DAVID W. RILEY: Thank you, Commander. Adjutant Burgess, Commanders Hope and McIntosh, fellow line officers and members, I get a lot of general ribbing about being in the Coast Guard. But you want to remember: the Coast Guard is always alert and guarding the coast. (Laughter) There is none missing. (Applause)

I have had a great time this last year with all the different things that I have done in the DAV and I look forward to a new year. Thank you, everybody, for your support. And I look forward to speaking with you over the next year. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: National First Junior Vice Commander-Elect, Delphine. (Applause)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER: Thank you and good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT METCALF-FOSTER: First of all I would like to thank God for my health and for being here. To the Nominating Committee, delegates, for your vote of confidence, I thank you. To my home Department—would the Department of California please, please stand and be recognized.

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

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT METCALF-FOSTER: I am very grateful to all of you who are here today. I am grateful that you would deem me necessary—me worthy of this position with our number-one service organization as well as grateful because I know that you all care and work hard for our fellow veterans. It's the spirit of the veterans helping veterans that powers the DAV and brings us here today.

Rest assured in this coming year I will do just what I have said I would do. I will stand tall for veterans and their families. What does that mean to me? It means I am committed to be a strong advocate for every veteran, committed to a year of hard work and mentorship. And it means you can count on me to give you the best of myself because you all deserve the best for your leadership.

And Commander McIntosh, in this coming year you can rest assured that I will have your back 100 percent as your First Junior Vice Commander. (Applause) I mentioned mentorship and throughout the upcoming year you will hear me talking about this concept a lot more.

We all have a special ability to inspire our Chapters to greater heights and to reach out to veterans in our communities. When we build each other up to be leaders we increase our impact. I would like

to encourage you to find someone this year in your area—maybe a new member—and come alongside with them.

Let's be walking examples of what makes this organization great. Let's be both leaders and team players. And in doing so let's be the voice for veterans and the force for the good. Thank you, again. And I look forward to serving alongside of all of you in this upcoming year.

May God bless all of you. May God bless the DAV. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: National Second Junior Vice Commander-Elect Dennis Nixon. (Applause)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT DENNIS NIXON: Thank you, Commander Hope, Adjutant Burgess, Commander-Elect. First I'd like to recognize my wife, Maxine. (Applause) She is there with me everywhere I go and provides full support. I want to recognize the Texas delegation. Please stand.

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

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT NIXON: Thank you for all your help. And I want to especially recognize everyone in the audience for making this organization what it is today. And I pledge to provide, to give my all in the upcoming year to fulfill the mission of taking care of those who served. Semper Fi. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: National Third Junior Vice Commander-Elect Harmon Evans, South Carolina. (Applause)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT HARMON L. EVANS: Thank you. Now I can say Past National Commander Hope, Adjutant Burgess, and newly-elected Commander Moses, I asked and you delivered. I made a promise I'm going to keep and with your help that we are going to take the DAV to the next level.

This organization is an organization that requires unity, teamwork. As long as we do that we will always remain the utmost service organization in the country.

I like to belong to the best and I know for a fact that the DAV and the DAV Auxiliary is the best. (Applause) I would like to have the entire Ninth District to stand and be recognized because I am from the Ninth District and I want to—

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

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT EVANS: I thank you for your support in the past, look forward to it in the future, and from here it's onward and upward. That's what we are going to do with this DAV. So thank you and let's move forward. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: National Fourth Junior Vice Commander-Elect Stephen Whitehead. (Applause)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STEPHEN WHITEHEAD: Commander Hope, National Adjutant Burgess, newly-elected Commander McIntosh, thank you for giving me this opportunity but also a special thank you to the Nominating Committee.

It is truly my honor to be representing this great organization. And I promise to you I will do everything within my power to make sure we continue on this path to be the great veterans' service organization leading and supporting and taking care of our brothers and sisters.

I want to give a special thank you to my wife who has always been here beside me at every adventure I go on. Kim, thank you. (Applause)

I would also like to have the Department of Minnesota who has taught me so much and I continue to learn from please stand up to be recognized.

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

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT WHITEHEAD: I leave with the final comments. I promised you that I would fight for you and I want to give you my final word that I will fight tooth and nail for everything that you need and you want to make sure that you live the better life that we deserve. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: National Judge Advocate-elect Michael Dobmeier. (Applause)

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER: Thank you, Commander. Thank each and every one of you for your continued trust. I can guarantee you that nobody up here takes that for granted. I would like to thank my wife, Sandy.

(Whereupon, Sandra Dobmeier stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT DOBMEIER: She doesn't stand behind me, she stands beside me when it comes to DAV. I would also like to thank the Fourteenth District.

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

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT DOBMEIER: That's the Departments of Minnesota, Montana, North and South Dakota. And it has been my privilege to work with both the professional staff and the fraternal organization of the DAV for all these years. And I can tell you that we're going to keep the train on the right tracks. And even though it's so big we will cover Moses' back. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: National Chaplain Michael Dover. (Applause)

CHAPLAIN-ELECT MICHAEL PATRICK DOVER: Thank you, Commander. I had prepared a 20-page, hour-and-a-half speech but I forgot it in my room (Laughter) and so, therefore, I just want—I just want to address a concern I have, Commanders, and that is I have given the members more than enough evidence of how crazy I have been during this convention and they still supported me. So this only leads me to believe one thing, and that is Action Jackson has passed out those bags he said he was going to at the beginning of the convention. (Laughter)

But on a more serious note, sir, it has been an honor and a pleasure and I appreciate the distinct service that you have allowed me to serve under your tutelage. And Moses, I'm looking forward to that same distinct honor with you. And to the line officers, I hope to live up to the standards. And to the members, I promise you I will do a better job next year. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: At this time I will entertain a motion to discharge the Credentials Committee. Do I hear a motion?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 2.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 2.

MR. KIRK H. JOHNSON: Mic 2. Kirk Johnson, 16th District, Chapter 85, Monterey Bay, make the motion.

COMMANDER HOPE: I have a motion. Do I have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 3.

COMMANDER HOPE: Mic 3.

MR. MARVIN AMES: Marvin Ames, Department of Arizona, I second that motion.

COMMANDER HOPE: We have a motion and a second. All those in favor signify by saying aye; all opposed. So ordered. (Laughter) National Adjutant Burgess, would you please read the list of newly-elected National Executive Committee members.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: The following members have been elected to the National Executive Committee for the two-year term 2015 to 2017: District 1, Dan Stack of Massachusetts; (Applause) District 3, Richard Fournier of Maine; (Applause) District 5, Lawrence Kelly of Pennsylvania; (Applause) District 7, Richard Tolfa of Florida; (Applause) District 9, Cleveland Bryant of North Carolina; (Applause) District 11, Robert Bertschy of Ohio; (Applause) District 13, Thomas Bratcher of Indiana; (Applause) District 15, Kimberly Tatham of Missouri; (Applause) District 17, Frank Maughan of Utah; (Applause) District 19, Sarah Royle of Oregon; (Applause) and District 21, Charles Stake of Arkansas. (Applause)

COMMANDER HOPE: Thank you, Marc. Well, believe it or not, that concludes today's agenda. Marc, do you have any announcements? (Applause)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Yes. As a reminder to all the National Executive Committee persons, including those newly-elected, the National Executive Committee will meet immediately following adjournment of the Convention, just a few minutes, in the Grand Ballroom I which is in the other tower. (Laughter) A swearing-in ceremony will be held at that time. NEC Alternates should also attend this swearing-in ceremony.

The Board of Directors will meet immediately following the NEC meeting in Grand Ballroom I.

The presentation of the National Officers will begin at six o'clock this evening here in the Plaza Ballroom, followed by dinner. Also this evening a musical experience for all ages will be provided by the \$6 Million Dollar Band. Six Million Dollars? (Laughter)

Did—yes, did the Board of Directors' approve that? (Laughter) Oh. Ron said Al Linden of Florida is covering that. (Laughter) Thank you, Al. (Laughter) So come and enjoy an evening filled with ceremony, food, friends, music and entertainment.

As a special reminder, next year's DAV National Convention will be held July 31st to August 3rd. Based on these dates the Convention schedule may fluctuate. We'll do our best to provide the schedule and share changes as they come but we will want to remember the date change and be ready to adjust to a slightly revised agenda.

COMMANDER HOPE: At this time I would like to call on Chaplain Dover, to lead us in a closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN DOVER: Ladies and gentlemen, please stand. Let us pray. As we come to the end of our time together we thank You for what has been accomplished here today. May the matters

discussed serve as a catalyst to move us forward and cause us to advance and see growth in all areas of our organization. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER HOPE: Will you retire the Colors, please.

(Whereupon, the Colors were retired by the Department of Arizona Color Guard.)

COMMANDER HOPE: Ladies and gentlemen, I want to personally recognize John McNeil, Demetrius Smith, Nancy Welch, Jessie Bernal and the outstanding Department of Arizona Honor Guard for an incredible performance. (Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, the 94th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans is now adjourned. We'll see you next year in Atlanta. (Applause)

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned on Tuesday, August 11, 2015, at 2:20 o'clock, p.m.)

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 93RD NATIONAL CONVENTION OF  
THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY HELD AT  
DENVER, COLORADO**

**AUGUST 8, 2015**

**First Business Session**

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The First Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Grand Ballroom 2, on the Second Level of the Tower of the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, Colorado, on Saturday afternoon, August 8, 2015, and was called to order at 2:01 o'clock, p.m., by National Adjutant Patricia S. Kemper.

ADJUTANT PATRICIA S. KEMPER: Silence your cell phones, please. National Sergeant-at-Arms please present National Commander LeeAnn Karg to the podium.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS KIM STAKE: I'd like to present my pages before we escort the Commander.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: You may.

(Whereupon, the pages were presented by Sergeant-at-Arms Stake.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, National Sergeant-at-Arms, please present National Commander LeeAnn Karg to the platform. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Sergeant-at-Arms Kim Stake escorted Commander LeeAnn B. Karg to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms please have National Chaplain Judy Uetterling escorted to the platform. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Chaplain Judith Uetterling was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please have the National Judge Advocate Carol Gray escorted to the platform. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Judge Advocate Carol Gray was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please see that National Fourth Junior Vice Commander Dorothy Reese is escorted. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Fourth Junior Vice Commander Dorothy Reese was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Please escort National Third Junior Vice Ellen Timmerman. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander Ellen L. Timmerman was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Second Junior Vice Craig Johniken. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Second Junior Vice Commander William Craig Johniken was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National First Junior Vice Commander Frances Costa. (Applause)

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice Commander Frances J. Costa was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Senior Vice Commander Linda Stake. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander Linda S. Stake was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: And please escort Immediate Past National Commander Susan Miller. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Immediate Past Commander Susan K. Miller was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please have National Convention Chairman Ernestine Bennett escorted to the platform, please. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Convention Committee Chairman Ernestine Bennett was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: And we will now introduce those who are representing their state Departments at this Convention. Danny Doss; (Applause) Arizona, Robin Linton; (Applause) Arkansas, Lillie Williams; (Applause) California, Samantha Galliher; (Applause) Colorado, Leslie Sandoval; (Applause) Delaware, Sarah Kashner; (Applause) Florida, Shirley Kirkland; (Applause) Georgia, Jeri Diehl; (Applause) Idaho, Sienna Stewart; (Applause) Illinois, Carla Reynolds; (Applause) Indiana, Tana Penland; (Applause) Kansas, Ardith Dillard; (Applause) Kentucky, Racheal O'Connor; (Applause) Louisiana, Winona Sepulvado; (Applause) Maine, Sylvia Heath; (Applause) Maryland, Barbara Forbes; (Applause) Massachusetts, Allen Herrick; (Applause) Michigan, Tess Morey; (Applause) Minnesota, Laurie Pekarik; (Applause) Mississippi, Charlene Williams; (Applause) Missouri, Mary Cummings; (Applause) Montana, Darlene Hopper; (Applause) Nebraska, John Kenney; (Applause) Nevada, Nancy Michalski; (Applause) New Hampshire, Jeanne Gideon; (Applause) New Mexico, Victoria Salazar; (Applause) New York, Cheryl Connors; (Applause) North Carolina, Sandra Head; (Applause) North Dakota, Joyce Stuber; (Applause) Ohio, Judy Davis; (Applause) Oklahoma, Jamie Parnell; (Applause) Oregon, Jerald Roysse; (Applause) Pennsylvania, Laurie Stopyra; (Applause) Rhode Island,

Sally Ann Campagnone; (Applause) South Carolina, Azzie Lee Hill; (Applause) South Dakota, Diana Peterson; (Applause) Tennessee, Phyllis Ledbetter; (Applause) Texas, Darlene Spence; (Applause) Utah, Beth Maughan; (Applause) Vermont, AuraLee Nicodemus; (Applause) Virginia, Carol Avanzato; (Applause) State Department of Washington, Crystal Tomlinson; (Applause) Wisconsin, Carrie Willems; (Applause) and Wyoming State Commander Peggy Lucus. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the delegates were escorted to the front as their names were called.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, present and post the State Colors of Colorado.

(Whereupon, the Colors for the State of Nevada were presented and posted.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, present the National Colors.

(Whereupon, the National Colors were presented.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, post the National Colors.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Post Colors.

(Whereupon, the National Colors were posted.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Hand salute.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: National Sergeant-at-Arms, dismiss the Color Bearers.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Color Guard is dismissed.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: We will now have the prayer by National Chaplain Judith Uetterling.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Judith Uetterling advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN JUDITH UETTERLING: Let's pray. Dear Lord, thank you for safely bringing us together again. Lord, we are trying to follow your words from above. It can be hard to do down here. But with your guidance we can do it.

Bless our veterans and those who care for them. Bless the troops around the world. And bless the United States of America. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," after which Chaplain Uetterling withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by National Americanism Chairman Ellen Timmerman.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and National Americanism Chairman Ellen L. Timmerman advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN ELLEN L.

TIMMERMAN: Free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart or render the appropriate salute and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman Timmerman led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which she withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Please be seated. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary state that the supreme legislative powers of this organization shall be vested in the Annual National Convention composed of the National Officers and representatives of the state Departments and Units.

In accordance with these directives I, Patricia S. Kemper, National Auxiliary Adjutant, declare the 93rd National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary to be convened at Denver, Colorado.

Consideration and disposition of business brought before this Convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws now in force. To all present take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

And now, it is my pleasure to introduce you to a wonderful, wonderful representative and ambassador for this organization. She and I have been a team since January 1 and, boy, have we run through some fields here, some battlefields.

We have taken care of business. And it's been a pleasure and a joy. And I am so proud that she has represented me as a member of this great organization and I thank you for everything you have done. I present National Commander LeeAnn Karg. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER LEEANN B. KARG: Thank you. Thank you. And welcome. Welcome to Colorado. I would like to just do one thing, if I could, and that is for all of you to please recognize my dear husband, Van. He is my veteran in this group. And he is my special friend. (Applause)

Okay. First off, we will have Earnestine Bennett, she is the National Convention Chairman, to bring us some greetings.

(Whereupon, Convention Chairman Earnestine Bennett advanced to the podium.)

CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN EARNESTINE BENNETT: Good afternoon, everyone.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Commander, officers, delegates and guests, Denver welcomes you to a beautiful city, the Mile High City, also known as the Queen City of the Plains. Denver is truly where the plains meet the mountains.

We are proud to live, to have the DAV and Auxiliary 94th National Convention. We know you will enjoy our city while here.

Downtown is easy to move about. The 16th Street Shuttle, just out the hotel lobby, is a free shuttle that only travels along the 16th Street Mall. It is a handicap-accessible ride and stops every block and runs very frequently.

Along the way of the Mall there are many shops, restaurants, fast food places, IMAX, (undistinguishable) and other vendors. There are benches if you just want to sit and watch the people.

Down the 16th Street Mall is Larimer Square which is Old Denver, now known as LoDo, a 26-square block historic district. It has the largest construction of Victorian-era buildings. Original buildings contain unique shops, jazz clubs and restaurants.

Colfax Avenue is just a block from the hotel, really, is the longest, continuous street in the United States. Along Colfax Avenue is the State Capitol Building. One State Capitol Building is the only state capitol building exactly one mile above sea level. So, hence, the city is called the Mile High City.

Covering the dome is a, is 200 ounces of 14-karat gold from Colorado mines. The stone structure of the building and the marble used inside are from Colorado quarries. Down the street is the Denver Mint which produces 10 billion coins a year.

The Molly Brown House, the Unsinkable Molly Brown, which is now a museum, is a few blocks from downtown.

Our performing arts complex, covering four square blocks, is second-largest in the country with 10 theaters seating more than 10,000 people for operas, symphonies, and ballet, Tony award-winning theater, and touring Broadway shows.

Denver has the largest park system in the country, with more than 200 parks within the city and 14,000 acres of parks in the nearby mountains, including spectacular Red Rocks Amphitheater.

The city has its own buffalo herd located in the mountains. Other mountain peaks include Echo Lake at the base of Mount Evans Highway, the highest paved road in America.

In 1935 the world's first cheeseburger came off the grill at Louis Ballast's Happy Humpty Dumpty Drive-In and Restaurant. (Laughter) So when you eat a hamburger you know it originated in Denver.

Out of the 360 days of the year Denver averages 300 days of sunshine. The average temperature for the month of August is 86 degrees. Golf courses remain open all year.

Denver is 600 miles from any major city. We're sitting here all by ourselves. (Laughter)

Our Mile High City is extremely dry so drink plenty of water. Remember the sunscreen as you are now a mile closer to the sun.

If you don't feel the effects of the altitude—if you do feel the effects of the altitude, feeling a little tired, take a little rest.

We will have a wonderful and productive convention. Have fun and enjoy Denver.

Again, welcome to Denver, Colorado, the Mile High City. And enjoy your Rocky Mountain High. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Convention Committee Chairman Bennett withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you, Earnestine. Now I would like to introduce our Past National Commanders. And if you would just hold your applause until I have them all standing that would be wonderful. Thank you.

First off we have Betty Hall; please stand; Jane Troutman; Evelyn Dorsey; Carol Gray; Renee Jones; Judy Steinhouse; Sandy Dobmeier; Susan Henry; Patti Rapisand; Donna Adams; and Susan Miller. Please give them a round of applause. (Applause)

(Whereupon, as their names were called each Past National Commander stood and acknowledged the audience.)

COMMANDER KARG: Now I would like to call on Past National Commander Donna Adams to come up and give greetings from the Past National Commanders.

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Donna Adams advanced to the podium.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DONNA ADAMS: Thank you, Madam Commander. National Officers, Past National Commanders, and our wonderful delegates and our guests, it's my absolute pleasure as the president of the Past National Commanders Association to bring greetings on behalf of these eleven wonderful Past National Commanders who are joining us today. We have lost one during the year.

And I also would like to introduce one honorary member of our Past National Commander's Association. Judy Hezlep, are you in the room?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: She is ill.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: She is ill. But Judy Hezlep has been voted as an honorary member of the Past National Commander's Association. (Applause)

All of our Past National Commanders on the bottom of our badges have a purple ribbon. Now it's not because we are royalty, (Laughter) although purple is definitely the royal color. I don't know why they picked it. (Laughter)

But it is there to signify that we are Past National Commanders and hopefully know a little something. So if you find yourself lost during the Convention, please, if you see any of these wonderful Past National Commanders around, they are here for you and we all would enjoy the opportunity to meet with each of you.

It is so absolutely wonderful. You know, it was only two years ago that I stood here as National Commander and so to have been elected as the President, well, it was kind of my turn. Oh well. But, anyway, they chose me. Okay? (Laughter)

But, anyway, and what an absolute honor it is to watch our present National Commander with her bubbly attitude and her commitment to our veterans stand up here before you.

She has done such a marvelous job. And on behalf of the Past National Commanders I would like to present you with this and thank you for your year of service.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Commander Karg was presented with a gift from the Past National Commanders.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: Have a great Convention.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Adams withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: My deepest thanks to all of you. Thank you very, very much. Now it's time to recognize some special people in the audience. So would all the first-timers please stand and be recognized. We have a ribbon for you. We welcome you. We hope you learn a lot and that you get to know a lot of us. (Applause)

(Whereupon, first-time attendees stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER KARG: Wow, this is awesome. Good. Wow. And stay standing so we can get you all a ribbon. (Applause) Thank you very much for being here. That's wonderful. Stay standing and they will get you a ribbon. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the first-time attendees were handed ribbons by the Sergeant-at-Arms and pages.)

COMMANDER KARG: We are certainly glad that you all came and decided to be a part of the DAV Auxiliary so thank you very much. And I hope you will come back. We want to see more of you.

Got a couple way up here in front. There is four of them, five of them, six of them, seven, eight. Oh my goodness. Just keep going. (Laughter) We are getting them all? Okay.

While they are finishing up, I would like to recognize a very special lady this afternoon. This morning she received her recognition for being the DAV Auxiliary Outstanding Member of the Year so Alice Ostrand, could you stand up and just give us a hello?

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

COMMANDER KARG: There she is, way in the back. We are so proud of you. Thank you so much for all you do.

At this time I'd like to excuse the Nominating Committee so—they have a precious job to do.

(Whereupon, the members of the Nominating Committee withdrew from the ballroom.)

COMMANDER KARG: I think we have a full house or a packed house. I've never seen so many full chairs. Always there are some empty chairs so this is wonderful.

Just a reminder for everybody, anyone making or seconding—making a motion or seconding a motion must go to a microphone. This is being recorded. And for him to be able to hear and get it on the recorder we need you to speak into the microphone.

I know we all have large, booming voices and we think everybody can hear us but it really would do us a great service if you could use the microphones.

Will the Credentials Committee Chairman please come forward to give a preliminary report?

Oh, here she comes.

(Whereupon, Convention Credentials Committee Chairman Shirley Walker advanced to the podium.)

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SHIRLEY WALKER: Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WALKER: Okay. I'm Shirley Walker. I am State Treasurer for Colorado.

The total units—the Credential report is as follows. This will be the first reading of the Credentials report.

Total Units registered, 150; total Departments registered, 40; National Officers registered, 7; Past National Commanders registered, 9; total guests registered, 120; total delegates, 302; total alternates, 28; total voting count 1,091.

Madame Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials report.

COMMANDER KARG: Is there a second?

MS. CAROL RUNDELL: Madam Commander, I second, Carol Rundell, Arizona.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. The motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? All those in favor say aye; all those opposed say no. Thank you very much. She wanted to say total registered was 4,000—or 466. Sorry.

(Whereupon, Convention Credentials Chairman Walker withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: Okay, the first order of business for this afternoon is going to be the adoption of the National Convention Rules. Printed copies of the Convention Rules have been furnished to all the registered guests and the Chair now will entertain a motion for adoption of these rules.

MRS. IRIS BRZEZINSKI: Iris Brzezinski, Sunrise Mountain Unit 13, Nevada, I move that we accept the Convention Rules. Thank you.

COMMANDER KARG: I have a motion. Is there a second?

MS. RUTH GATES: Ruth Gates, Texas, 175, second that motion.

COMMANDER KARG: All right, a motion has been made and seconded. Now all those in favor say aye; all those opposed say no. Carried.

Now we need a motion to accept the agenda which will be subject to change, which you all should have received. Do I have a motion? Thank you.

MS. CHERYL EDWARDS: Chery Edwards, Colorado, Nob Hill 26, I make a motion that we accept the agenda subject to change.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. Is there a second?

MS. REGINA FORTNER: Regina Fortner, Tawas Bay, Michigan Unit 130, we second it.

COMMANDER KARG: A motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor say aye; all those opposed say no. Carried.

I will now call on the Finance Committee Chairman, Debbie McLaughlin, for the National Finance Committee report and Budget Review.

(Whereupon, Finance Committee Chairman Debbera McLaughlin advanced to the podium.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DEBBERA McLAUGHLIN: National Commander LeeAnn Karg, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates, family and friends, good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McLAUGHLIN: The National Finance COMMITTEE meeting was held April 25th, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. at the Hilton Cincinnati Airport Hotel in Florence, Kentucky.

The voting members of the Committee present were LeeAnn Karg, National Commander; Linda Bailey, District 8 NEC; Rose Williams, District 12 NEC; Earnestine Bennett, District 17 NEC; and myself, Debbera McLaughlin, District 7 NEC. Those present without a vote were National Adjutant Pat Kemper and National Assistant Adjutant Ann Glende.

The purpose of the meeting was to set up and adopt a budget for the 2016 year. At this time I would like to thank the Committee and the staff for all of their help.

The budget was included in your registration packets and at this time I move for adoption of the budget.

COMMANDER KARG: Is there a second?

MRS. EARNESTINE BENNETT: Earnestine Bennett, Colorado, seconds.

COMMANDER KARG: The motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor say aye; all those opposed say no. Thank you.

(Whereupon, Finance Committee Chairman McLaughlin withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: I would ask the Senior Vice, Linda Stake, to take over the podium, please.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander Linda S. Stake advanced to the podium to assume the chair.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER LINDA S. STAKE: I will now present our National Commander, LeeAnn Karg, for the purpose of reading her report. Commander.

COMMANDER KARG: Okay, you can all just go to sleep now. (Laughter) National Adjutant Pat Kemper, Assistant Adjutant Ann Glende, National Officers, Past National Commanders, members and guests.

I have been truly blessed to have had such a wonderful year serving as your National Commander. The people I have met, the places I have seen, and the things that I have done are all so incredible. Thank you is just not enough to express how grateful I am to all of you.

This wonderful journey began with election and installation as National Commander on August 12th, 2014, in Las Vegas, Nevada, a very proud and humbling moment.

It is because of all of you that I was given the opportunity to serve all of you and our veterans.

My travels began with a trip to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for the Sharing and Caring Boat Ride for hospitalized veterans September 2nd through the 4th, 2014.

I had a great time meeting so many of the veterans and helping them to make sure that they had a great time on the boat ride—and we all did. The views from the riverboat were spectacular. Thank you to Laurie Stopyra for being my chaperone.

My next big event was National Fall Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. I thought it was a huge success and I hope all of you learned something. It was definitely a lot of fun.

Thank you to all the National Officers and Chairmen for their presentations. A lot of time and effort goes into each and every one of them.

I was very fortunate to be able to attend the dedication of the National Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, D.C. The dedication took place on October 5th, 2014, with about 3,000 people in attendance.

The Memorial was located close to the Capitol Grounds next to the Botanical Gardens. It was truly awesome to be able to represent the Auxiliary for that weekend.

Birmingham, Alabama, was the next stop on my agenda for Veterans Day on November 11th. We were treated to a barbecue, a parade, a banquet, and tours of a new state-of-the-art veterans' home, and a veterans' memorial park. They really know how to impress me.

After Alabama I was off to Mayetta, Kansas, for the 15th District Informational Seminar November 21st to the 22nd, 2014. Thanks to NEC Linda Gerke for the invite. My husband and I met so many wonderful people and had such a good time. Van even ran into an old Army buddy there. They had good talks.

Assistant National Director of Communications Steve Wilson gave a very informative seminar. And thank you very much, Steve, it was very good. Mr. Wilson has been a huge asset to me this past year.

While on vacation in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Van and I attended the retirement party for National Adjutant Judy Hezlep at National Headquarters in Cold Spring. That was December 18th.

Judy has served this organization for so many years and it is very hard to say goodbye to her. But she promised that she will still be around.

After the holidays were over we headed for Florida and their Midwinter Conference in Lake Mary, Florida, in January. We were able to renew some old friendships and make some new ones.

While we were there we attended the memorial service for the son of Past National Commander Jim Sursely who passed away. It was a very sad time for all of us and for the family. And our hearts go out to you Jim and Jean.

You know it's a cold winter when you fly to Washington, D.C., for the Legislative Conference and several attendees were unable to arrive due to a winter storm. And they closed the cemetery following our laying of the wreath because of the bad weather at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The Midwinter Conference was February 20th to the 25th. I was also honored to sit at the head table at the hearing to the Veterans' Affairs Committee with National Commander Hope giving his testimony on behalf of the Disabled American Veterans.

Prior to the hearing several of us walked to the Capitol Building in support of Keeping the Promise to our veterans and that initiative.

In March through April Van and I were in Snowmass, Colorado, for the Winter Sports Clinic. Nothing is more rewarding than to help out at this event.

Pat Kemper, Kelly Augustine and I helped out at the scuba-diving event. The sun was warm and the veterans were having the time of their lives, even though their service dogs got into—even their service dogs got into the swing of things. They followed those veterans around the pool until they popped up again. It was just heart-wrenching.

April 11th my Testimonial Dinner was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Everyone appeared to have a really good time so thank you to all and all of you that were able to attend, and those who sent cards.

I then attended the Americanism Program in Kansas City, Missouri, held by Ernestine Schumann-Hinke—sorry if I botched that—Unit Number 2. They took me on a tour of their World War II Museum and it was awesome.

I learned that term in Louisiana, by the way—awesome. (Laughter) We had a Kansas City barbecue and the Americanism Program was the best. Thank you to everyone from Unit 2.

From Kansas City I flew directly to Florence, Kentucky, for the National Finance Committee meeting. I am deeply grateful to the Finance Committee for their hard work in putting together a good budget.

May 1st and 2nd was National Commander Hope's Testimonial in North Carolina. Ron has been a wonderful advocate for the DAV Auxiliary and I can't thank him enough for embracing the emphasis on the DAV working together with the Auxiliary.

The next stop on the journey was Shreveport, Louisiana, for their state Convention May 14th to the 17th. I have never met so many wonderful people that I can call friends. They take such good care of you, make you feel like you are one of them. And I love Cajun food.

June I was in Austin, Texas, where I was given a tour of the State Capitol Building. So much history and pride in their state. Here, too, I was made to feel at home. This is National Auxiliary Second Junior Vice Commander Craig Johniken's home state. Excuse me.

June 19th to the 21st I finally got to go to Massachusetts, Leominster, to be exact. I have always wanted to go to Massachusetts. This is the home state of First Junior Vice Commander Fran Costa.

They have the most beautiful joint installation ceremony I have ever seen. The uniforms and the white dresses are very impressive. And the scenery is breathtaking.

June 25th to the 28th I was in Lexington, Kentucky, for their state convention. And this would be home of National Adjutant Pat Kemper. I'm checking up on them, just so you know. (Laughter)

Kentucky is another state that is breathtaking: green grass and rolling hills and beautiful horse farms.

To end my journey I attended the CNA training in Covington, Kentucky, July 19th to the 21st. I learned so much and had a great time on the riverboat cruise and the Oktoberfest at the Hofbrauhaus House. The seminars presented by the staff at National Headquarters were very informative and interesting.

In closing I just want to say thank you. You are all amazing. My list of friends has grown tenfold. And I thank God for each and every one of you.

God bless the DAV and Auxiliary and God bless our veterans. (Standing Ovation)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: Good report, LeeAnn. You have been great. I will now entertain a motion to accept the National Commander's report.

MRS. JOYCE JEFFERSON: Joyce Jefferson, Rapid City Number 3, South Dakota, I enjoyed your report and would love for it to be made a part of this Convention.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you.

MRS. JEFFERSON: Oh, she asked for—she asked for—

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: A motion.

MRS. JEFFERSON: A motion. I am making the motion. I did come up here to do the second but I'm glad to do the first. (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: Thank you, Joyce. May I have a second?

MS. CAROL PARKER-PARK: Carol Parker-Park, Unit 35, Ohio, love you, Minnesota. (Laughter) I'd like to second the motion to accept. Thank you.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: Thank you. All in favor say aye; any opposed. The motion carries. Thank you, LeeAnn.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander Stake withdrew from the podium and Commander Karg resumed the chair.)

COMMANDER KARG: I am so sorry. Okay. Okay. I would like now to call on Junior Activities Chairman Linda Oliver to approach the podium, please. Haven't these juniors just been awesome? They're so cute I want to take them home. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Junior Activities Chairman Linda Oliver advanced to the podium.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN LINDA OLIVER: Welcome, everyone. Is everyone having fun?

(Response of "Yes" and cheers.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN OLIVER: All right. The back area is having fun. Okay. (Laughter) I'd like to say it's been a pleasure being the Junior Activity Chairman.

I've read all the reports. And I am so overwhelmed. These kids are doing marvelous things. You juniors, you members, all of you need to share because I tell you what, they are tomorrow's—they are the future.

I am going to call your names one at a time. If the juniors could please come forward. I have Claire Sursely; (Applause) Brianna Sursely, she is from Florida; please come forward; (Applause) Desirae Sandoval, Pueblo, Colorado; (Applause) Olivia Kashner-Forward, Camden, Delaware; (Applause) Aaron T., (Applause) Washington, I couldn't read his writing; sorry; Dominic Cunningham, Selma, Texas; (Applause) Josette H. from Converse, Texas; (Applause) Parker is from Fridley, Minnesota; (Applause) Conner Lindeman, (Undistinguishable) Nebraska; (Applause) Katie Herzing, Fulton, Missouri; (Applause) Laney Byers is from Decatur, Illinois; (Applause) thank you; Rebecca Edwards, Colorado Springs; (Applause) Alicia Smith, Texarkana, Arkansas; (Applause) Ashton Johniken—I wonder where Ashton is from, (Laughter) oh, Lufkin, Texas; (Applause) Jeffrey Olson, Everett, Massachusetts; (Applause) and we have Clark—is Clark here?

MASTER CLARK (UNIDENTIFIED): Yes.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN OLIVER: Clark, where are you from?

MASTER (UNIDENTIFIED): (Undistinguishable), Nebraska.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN OLIVER: (Undistinguishable), Nebraska. (Applause) And I have one more, Cameron Richards, but I think he left. He will be back. And he is from (undistinguishable), Oklahoma. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Juniors advanced to the platform as their names were called.)

COMMANDER KARG: I think that's just a beautiful group of people. (Applause) This is our future, you guys. This is our future. (Applause) Thank you all so much for helping us this weekend. We really appreciate it and you've been awesome. Thank you. (Applause)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN OLIVER: I do have one more Junior and he had to leave—Jeffrey. And he was from Massachusetts. So he will get his, also. (Applause)

COMMANDER KARG: You are dismissed. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Junior Activities Chairman Oliver and the Juniors withdrew from the platform.)

COMMANDER KARG: It's just awesome to see these young kids helping out. It really is. Okay, we have one more speaker but in the meantime until she gets here Pat is going to go through announcements, okay?

ADJUTANT KEMPER: The Memorial Service is tomorrow at 7:30. And there was some discussion about and a question about attire. It is business attire. If you want to wear white, you may wear white. But it is business attire.

It didn't reach, funnel down through all of the channels in DAV so I know that someone in there this morning told you to wear your white, the NECs. So she just didn't get that memo.

Okay, National Chairman are to pick up their respective Committee folders tomorrow morning in the Auxiliary Office which is Governor's Square 10. It's catty-corner across the hall from Registration.

Convention Committee meetings convene tomorrow morning. If serving on a Committee, check the program schedule for the rooms and times.

There will be no Auxiliary business session tomorrow so that you can take advantage of the opportunity to attend some of the DAV seminars.

The Forget-Me-Not Luncheon is at 12:30 on Monday. You will show your ticket when you enter the room. And if you haven't purchased your ticket, I urge you to do so today after this meeting. The office closes at 4:00.

The tickets are sold in the Auxiliary Office, Governor's Square 10. We have to give a count to the hotel tonight so it would be nice if I could get a really close count and that way everybody can attend that wants to attend.

I also would like to ask Robin Kenney to please approach the podium, please.

(Whereupon, Robin Kenney advanced to the podium.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN OLIVER: Juniors, if you are going to help me in the morning with the Memorial Service, we need to be there at 7:00. Come see me. Give me your name so I know who is going to be there.

You need to be at the Plaza Ballroom, Concourse Level. So those junior pages that are going to help me tomorrow morning, please come see me in the back. Thank you.

MRS. ROBIN KENNEY: The last two years I've asked people from all over to send me doilies so that I could do a special blanket for LeeAnn. And anybody that sent me doilies, would you please just stand.

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

MRS. KENNEY: LeeAnn, this is from all your friends. I promised I'd get it done by Convention since I didn't make your Testimonial so this is for you.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Kenney presented Commander Karg with a gift.)

MRS. KENNEY: Do you want to go down front and look?

COMMANDER KARG: Sure.

MRS. KENNEY: Okay. I'll let you take it down.

COMMANDER KARG: This is gorgeous.

MRS. KENNEY: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Commander Karg and Mrs. Kenney displayed a quilt which was made of the doilies submitted, followed by a round of applause; after which Mrs. Kenney withdrew.)

COMMANDER KARG: Robin has been with me through this whole trip, all the years I've been going up through the chairs. And the quilt is—it's beyond thank you. It is absolutely beautiful.

And, just so you know, she has been asked to put it in our county fair so we will see what happens from there. But thank you so much. I wondered what the big bag was. I thought she was going to do it at the Forget-Me-Not Luncheon.

I guess we're not going to have our speaker? Okay. All right. If we're not going to do that, then we will have our closing prayer.

If she should come in after we've said our prayers and you are still here and you'd like to speak with her, it's—this is Deborah Rubyan. She is the Founder and CEO of Project S.N.A.P.

She has a booth out in the concourse area where the—is it the Plaza Ballroom is? Right out there where we were this morning. Oh, here she comes.

(Whereupon, Deborah Rubyan advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: Okay, everybody. Give a round of applause for Deborah Rubyan from Project S.N.A.P. (Applause) Thank you for coming in.

MS. DEBORAH RUBYAN: Thank you. I'm so honored. Thank you. Wow. Okay. Wow. Goodness gracious. I just ran here so I'm a little out of breath. That's fine. No problem.

Okay. So I think I know why I'm here. But I will try to explain it to you. First, thank you for letting me even address this unbelievably important audience. And I am so blessed to be here.

I started an organization called Project S.N.A.P. ten years ago. Phew.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Take a deep breath. (Laughter)

MS. RUBYAN: I'm not really nervous. I'm just out of breath. And about four years ago Ford Motor Company Fund approached us and asked us if we would do something to help raise awareness about the important work that the DAV is doing and also the DAVA.

And we were in Las Vegas last year. And we started the program actually the year before but last year we were invited to come by your gracious leaders to participate and to collect drawings and messages from members of the DAV and the DAVA and your families and friends.

And the reason we were doing that—and you might have heard that in today's Opening Ceremonies—wow, what an honor to be here with you today—was that we are creating a new mural.

So here is what we do. We travel across the country and we educate high school students and middle school students, their teachers, their administrators, on behalf of veterans and military families to give those people a chance to understand the important work that veterans do, that veterans did to serve our country, that our freedom is based on what our leaders and our heroes have done.

My father is a World War II veteran. He is 94. He is my best friend. He is still with me. And I have learned so much from him. And he taught me about the importance of citizenship and social responsibility, which is so much of what the work of the DAVA is and so much of what everyone here in this room and in this conference is all about.

So my little gift is that we create this giant mosaic and the mosaic is made up of all these art works, including the messages that people write. And in schools we create an essay experience. So the students actually get to write an essay about their thoughts. They learn and they integrate and they re-express. And then they do a drawing.

And, in fact, we give them art forms. And on the back is a space for their essay, although many of them write a lot more. And then on the front they create their drawing.

And through that they learn a lot about, about, really about the military and about the importance of taking care of our veterans and giving back into our communities.

So we created this booklet which features those drawings and some of the essays. And the booklet goes along with this reproduction of the mural which is what was presented today which is a blanket which—(Applause)

So I got this crazy idea in my head that the mural is in the Pentagon but I wanted to wrap everyone in appreciation. And the blanket is made of drawings that people created in appreciation for our military and for all the great work that everyone does and for our heroes and their families and friends.

And so we created the blankets so that we could put a blanket in every home and help, actually, to raise money for the DAV and the DAVA. That was our small mission.

But we also want to make sure that we can collaborate with you, if you would like, to collect art works. And so we are happy in addition to the blanket—which we really want to help raise money for you and the important work you are doing but we are happy—to share art forms with any Chapter, any group that wants to integrate this into your essay contest or into whatever program you are already doing—your Americanism program.

The median age for participation in our programs—I'm not looking at you but I'm talking to you, too—is 19. So this is a program for adults. We have just as many adults as young people participating.

So anyone who wants to participate, this is something you can do. Just let us know. I can give you my information. And we will be happy to send that.

In addition to that, I wanted you to hear about the blanket and this is actually not the official blanket because I am carrying it. But on behalf of my organization, which is Project S.N.A.P., I didn't get a chance to give you a blanket. Did you get one?

COMMANDER KARG: I did.

MS. RUBYAN: Okay. Good.

COMMANDER KARG: This one.

MS. RUBYAN: Well, then that's it. (Laughter) And thank you very much. (Applause) Thank you. I'm sorry to just burst in out of nowhere.

COMMANDER KARG: That's okay. Thank you, Debbie. Thanks.

MS. RUBYAN: Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER KARG: Beautiful blanket. And just to tell you, the gift I received this morning from the Ford Motor Company is one of those blankets. (Applause)

Okay, I think it's time. We will have a prayer from Chaplain Judy Uetterling.

(Whereupon, Ms. Rubyan withdrew from the platform as Chaplain Uetterling advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN UETTERLING: Dear Lord, we are getting the knowledge now. We take it and pass it on. Keep us safe in our evening activities as we renew friendship and make new ones. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," after which Chaplain Uetterling withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: Okay, we are recessed until Monday morning at 9:00 a.m.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 3:15 o'clock, p.m., on Saturday, August 9, 2014.)

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**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY HELD AT  
DENVER, COLORADO**

**AUGUST 10, 2015**

**Second Business Session**

— — —

The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Grand Ballroom 2, on the Second Level of the Tower of the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, Colorado, on Monday morning, August 10, 2015, and was called to order at 9:06 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander LeeAnn B. Karg after an announcement by Adjutant Kemper regarding a Parade of Hats by the Juniors.

COMMANDER KARG: Okay, while they're doing that I think because we're on a tight schedule this morning let's get rolling, if everybody is okay with that.

I'd like to open up this morning's session. First off we will have a prayer with our Chaplain Judy Uetterling.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Uetterling advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN UETTERLING: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CHAPLAIN UETTERLING: Let's pray. Lord, thank you for the great times we are having together. Thank you for your guidance at our Committee meetings. Help us to finish our business.

Bless our vets and the caregivers. And God bless everyone who needs your guidance. And God bless the troops and the United States of America. Amen.

(Response of "Amen" after which Chaplain Uetterling withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: We will now have the Pledge of Allegiance by Americanism Chairman Ellen Timmerman.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and National Americanism Chairman Timmerman advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: Free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart or render the appropriate salute and join in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman Timmerman led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which she withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. Will the Credentials Chairman please come forward.

(Whereupon, Convention Credentials Committee Chairman Walker advanced to the podium.)

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WALKER: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WALKER: Having a good time?

(Response of "Yes.")

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WALKER: Drinking plenty of water?

(Response of "Yes.")

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WALKER: Good. Madame Commander, National Officers, delegates and guests.

The Credentials report is as follows: total Units registered, 150; that's 150; total Departments registered, 40; National Officers registered, 7; Past National Commanders registered, 9; total guests registered, 126; that's 126; total delegates, 304; total alternates, 28; total vote count, 1,091.

Madame Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials report—and the total registered are 474.

COMMANDER KARG: A motion has been made. Is there a second?

MRS. SYLVIA HEATH: Sylvia Heath, Department of Maine, I second.

COMMANDER KARG: A motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? All those in favor say aye; all those opposed say no. Carried.

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WALKER: Thank you.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, the Convention Credentials Chairman withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: All right. Next we will move on to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, if they would come forward for the first reading of the proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments, please.

This is only a reading. So please hold all questions and comments for the second reading. And we have Past National Commander Judy Steinhouse.

(Whereupon, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman and Past National Commander Judy Steinhouse advanced to the podium.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JUDY STEINHOUSE: National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 93rd National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Constitution and Bylaws Convention Committee met in the Century Room at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 9th, 2015. Our advisor was Carol Gray. Sarah Kashner was our secretary. And I was elected chairman.

Excuse me while I murder the names of the 21 delegates to this Committee. (Laughter) District Number 1, Allen Herrick; Number 2, Diane Wisnesky; Number 3, Sylvia Heath; Number 4, Laurie Stopyra; Number 5—excuse me, Number 4, Sarah Kashner; Number 5, Laurie Stopyra;

Number 6, Evelyn Dorsey; Number 7, Delores Roussey; Number 8, Susan Henry; Number 9, Clarissa Brown; Number 10, Regina Fortner; Number 11, Delfrey (sic) Hall; I'm sorry if I ruined that name;

Number 12 Rose Williams; Number 13, Mabeline Stevens; myself is District 14, Judy Steinhouse; District 15, Janice Howard; District 16, John—

(Whereupon, John called out his name.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Thank you. (Laughter) Excuse me. District 17, Jean Jackson; District 18, Donna Adams; District 19, Christine Fairin; and District 20, Chris Easley; and District 21—

MS. JAMIE PARNELL: Jamie. Jamie.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Jamie Parnell. This is why I don't write my name very often. Okay, I hope everybody has received a copy of the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. As the National Commander has said, this is just a reading of these.

Page N37 and 38, Article IX, State Departments, Section 5, second sentence: Add "on junior memberships" after "state per capita." This sentence would then read:

"Such bylaws shall not prohibit a state Department from designating the number of state junior vice commanders, appointed state officers and committees, state per capita on junior membership, and/or state mandates."

Rationale: State per capitae are no longer needed as we do not have annual senior memberships. So this will allow a state to start or continue assessing a state per capita on junior memberships.

Page S5, Article 3, State Officers, Section 3, Eligibility for State Office, Paragraph 4, last sentence. Bold the last sentence which reads:

"Any elected state officer who serves on the state executive committee and are entitled to vote shall not serve as the state executive committee member of that unit."

The rationale is to emphasize that SECs cannot be line officers and vice versa.

Page S18, Article VIII, Finances. Add new section. New Section 7 shall read as follows:

"Section 7. Accumulation of Funds

"State Departments may not accumulate funds, whether for service purposes or otherwise, in excess of three—3 in parentheses—times the expenses of their last fiscal year. State Departments whose accumulated funds exceed this amount must comply with this section by expending such excess within a reasonable time.

"The expenditure of the excess accumulated funds must be for service purposes."

Rationale: This section is to comply with the DAV Bylaws restricting the National Office and its subordinate units from accumulating funds—excuse me—accumulating excess unrestricted funds that are not being spent on current or future needs and resources in planning service-related programs.

Article S18—excuse me, Page S18, Article IX, Supplement to State Bylaws, State Standing Rules, Section 1, Paragraph 2. Delete the words "during the first business session" and substitute with "a business session of the state convention." This paragraph would then read:

"The state Standing Rules may be amended by a majority vote of those registered and voting during a business session of the state convention."

Rationale: Due to the starting times of many state conventions, it is not possible to read and vote on proposed changes to state Standing Rules at the first business session.

Many conventions start with a joint session with the DAV and this may not allow adequate time to read/vote on these changes at the first business session. Even the National Convention does not read and adopt bylaw changes at the first business session of the convention.

Page U15, Article XV, Unit Finances and Dues. Add new Section. New Section 5 shall read as follows:

"Section 5: Accumulation of Funds

“Units may not accumulate funds, whether for service purposes or otherwise, in excess of three—3 in parentheses—times the expenses of their last fiscal year. Units whose accumulated funds exceed this amount must comply with this Section by expending such excess within a reasonable time.

“The expenditure of the excess accumulated funds must be for service purposes.”

Rationale: This new section is to comply with the DAV bylaws restricting the National Office and its subordinate units from accumulating excess unrestricted funds that are not being spent on current or future needs and resources in planning service-related programs.

Page U25, Membership Initiation Ceremony, last paragraph. Delete the sentence which reads: “You are now entitled to all the rights and privileges of this organization.”

Rationale: The Membership Initiation Ceremony is no longer a required ceremony for a member to be considered in good standing; therefore, this sentence is no longer necessary.

(Whereupon, Convention Constitution and Bylaws Chairman and Past National Commander Steinhouse withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you, Judy. I would just like to remind everybody to take some time now, read through these changes, make sure you understand that, understand them so that when we are ready to vote on them at the next session you will be ready to do that and you will have your questions ready. Okay?

Next I'd like to call on Past National Commander, Immediate Past National Commander Susan Miller with the Scholarship Fund report.

(Whereupon, Education Scholarship Convention Chairman and Past National Commander Susan K. Miller advanced to the podium.)

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SUSAN K. MILLER: National Commander Karg, National Adjutant Kemper, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests, it's been an honor to serve on this Committee for the past three years. And also serving with me was Commander Karg and National Senior Vice Commander Linda Stake.

We met via the computer, thanks to Pat setting it up for us, on April 29th, 2015. There were 51 applicants. We awarded a total of \$49,750 in scholarships.

Twenty-six applicants received \$1,500; and nine applicants received \$1,000. And there is one part-time applicant who received \$750.

I encourage everyone to spread the word about the scholarships. Maybe that would encourage them to join.

I would like to thank Pat for setting up the meeting for us and Ann for inputting all of our data into the computer so we could get our totals and decide who would win the scholarships.

Thank you, again. And it has been an honor serving with you guys. That's all I have. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Education Scholarship Convention Chairman and Past National Commander Miller withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you, Susan. Susan, do you want to wait up here because at this time we will take any donations to the Scholarship Fund? Okay, so we are going to go down front there.

(Whereupon, Commander Karg withdrew and Adjutant Kemper advanced to the podium while the delegates lined up to begin presenting their donations.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, if you are making a donation form a line here, as you are, and you will announce your name or the Unit or state Department you are representing and your donation.

And then when you are done announcing that you just step over here with the National Commander and then you will hand off your donation to Bunny over there at the table. Okay? It can be any donation, not just scholarship.

MS. BONITA MITCHELL: Bonita Mitchell from Unit 2 of Kansas City, Missouri. I have a donation for the Education Loan—

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Could you repeat that, Bonita, because there was some noise. Please, let's keep it quiet.

MS. MITCHELL: Bonita Mitchell from Unit 2 of Kansas City, Missouri. We have a donation.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

MR. CAMERON RICHARDS: Cameron Richards from the Oklahoma Department of Juniors and we have a donation for the Winter Sports Clinic. Thank you. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you very much.

MS. PARNELL: Jamie Parnell, Department of Oklahoma, and we have a donation for the Scholarship Fund.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you. (Applause) Excuse me just a minute. Dominic, could you move that mic over just a little so nobody trips as they walk by? Thank you. Thank you.

MS. AURALEE NICODEMUS: AuraLee Nicodemus, Department of Vermont, we have a \$100 donation for the National Education Loan Fund and a \$100 donation for the National Service Fund.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Very nice. (Applause)

MS. SHIRLEY KIRKLAND: Shirley Kirkland, State Department of Florida, we have a donation for the Scholarship Fund. (Applause)

MS. CHERYL CONNORS: Cheryl Connors, on behalf of the State of New York we have a donation for the National Service Fund and the Scholarship Fund. (Applause)

MR. ALLEN HERRICK: Allen Herrick, State of Massachusetts, I have from the Unit 72 in Plymouth, Massachusetts, for the Service Fund a check. Thank you. (Applause)

MS. JUDY DAVIS: Judy Davis, State of Ohio, we have a check for the Scholarship Fund and for the Service Support. (Applause)

MS. SIENNA STEWART: Sienna Stewart, the State of Idaho, I have a \$100 check for Scholarship and one for the Service program. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

MR. JOHN KENNEY: John Kenney for the Department of Nebraska, Scholarship, Camp Corral, and the Service Support. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

MS. LILLE WILLIAMS: Lille Williams, State of Arkansas, a \$100 check for the Service Support and \$200 check for Scholarship. (Applause)

MS. LINDA BRATCHER: Linda Bratcher, Lafayette, Indiana, Unit 27, I have a \$100 check for Scholarship, a \$100 for Service Foundation and a \$100 for Camp Corral. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

MS. RACHEL O'CONNOR: Rachel O'Connor, State of Kentucky, I have a check for National Scholarship and Service Fund. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

MS. MARY CUMMINGS: Mary Cummings, Department of Missouri. We have a check for Educational Scholarship, Service Support and Winter Sports. (Applause)

MS. DARLENE SMITH: Darlene Smith, Department of Texas, I have a check for the Service Fund and the Scholarship Fund. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

MS. LAURIE STOPYRA: Laurie Stopyra, Department of Pennsylvania, I have three checks, \$100 apiece, one for Winter Olympics, one for Service Fund, and one for Camp for Kids. (Applause)

MS. ANNELIESE RAUBER: Anneliese Rauber, New Mexico, I have a check for \$600 for Golden Corral. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

MS. BRENDA POLZIN: Hello. My name is Brenda Polzin. I'm from California, Unit 73. And we are donating \$200 for Camp Corral. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

MS. JEANNE GIDEON: I'm New Hampshire State Commander and I have two checks, one for National Service and one for Education. Thank you. (Applause)

MS. RONDA BAUER: Ronda Bauer, Department of Arkansas, a donation to the Scholarship Fund in memory of Maria Tedrow. (Applause)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER TIMMERMAN: Ellen Timmerman from New Mexico, I have a check for the Scholarship Fund and for the Service Support Fund from Tim and myself. (Applause)

MS. VERONICA BERGQUIST: Veronica Bergquist from the Department of Kansas and I have a check for Service Support and for the National Scholarship. (Applause)

MS. JOYCE JEFFERSON: Good morning. Joyce Jefferson, Rapid City Number 3, on behalf of my two granddaughters who were recipients of the Education Scholarship Fund I have a donation. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you. Thank you all very much for your generosity. Dominic, could I ask you to slide that back over a little bit, please. Thank you. Commander.

(Whereupon, Commander Karg returned to the podium and Adjutant Kemper withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: And thank you all so much for those donations. I will now call on Pat—National—National Adjutant Pat—we get it in the right order—Kemper so we can go into the Awards Program.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper advanced to the podium and Commander Karg went down onto the floor to distribute awards.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Monetary awards are given in each category of the respective programs to the first place winning Units and the checks will be mailed out by National Headquarters after Convention.

When called upon, the Convention Committee Chairman will approach the podium and announce the winners. Since we do not have a ramp to the podium, I ask the advisors to step to the awards table to the right of the podium for award presentation and photo opportunities.

As winners are announced, please step forward to the awards table to receive the awards. If needed, please form an organized line so we don't get all bunched up over there.

So first I will call on the chairman for the Americanism Committee, Kathy Phelps. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Americanism Convention Committee Chairman Kathy Phelps advanced to the podium.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KATHY PHELPS: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

(Response of "Good morning.")

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PHELPS: National Commander—she is over there, sorry—National Adjutant, National Officers and Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of the 93rd National Auxiliary Convention.

This National Americanism Convention Committee met in the Denver at 9:00 on August the 9th, 19—or, there I go. We're going to go back in time. (Laughter)—in 2015.

Our advisor is Ellen Timmerman. And I am the chairman, as, Kathy Phelps. I would like to announce all the participants that we're judging. I would like them all to stand if they are present. And I will attempt to say your names and your District.

District 1, Jacqueline Hickman—no, Herrick—it was very easy and I messed up—from Massachusetts, Unit 72; District 2, Monica Winsky, New York—Wisnesky, New York, Unit 88;

District 3, Jeanne Gideon, New Hampshire, Unit Number 7; District 6, Leeann (sic) Maki, Virginia—Lena Maki, Virginia, Unit 7, Unit 10; District 7, Juanita Slavinsky; District 8, Carolyn Harris; District 9, Shirley Hill;

District 10, Sam McClendon; District 11, Denise Proffitt; District 13, Rachel—oh, District 12, Barbara Helgeson; District 13, Rachel O'Connor; District 14, Joyce Stuber;

District 15, John Kenney; District 16, Leslie Svanevik; (Laughter) thank you; and District 17, easy, Kathy Phelps; District 18, Nancy Michalski; she showed me how to pronounce it but I still struggle with it; okay, 19 is Sienna Stewart; 20 is Fran Love—

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Fannie Love.

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PHELPS: Fannie Love; and 21, Brad Roden. Thank you. (Applause) And thank you for all your patience.

All right, let's do with Number 1, 10 to 50, Mary T. Klinker Unit 27, Lafayette, Indiana. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award, followed by a round of applause.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PHELPS: And please, if you want pictures please come over and get it done soon and I am going to continue reading, so do it. Group Number 2, 51 to 100 members, Pikeville Unit 134, Pikeville, Kentucky. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PHELPS: Group 3, 101 to 200 is

General Anthony Wayne Unit 58, Virginia—I think that's it. I can't pronounce the state—city. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award, followed by a round of applause.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Gloucester.

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PHELPS: Gloucester. Sorry about your—hopefully somebody is here. Okay.

And Group Number 4, 201 members and over, is Frances J. Bennett (sic) Unit 1, Fargo, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PHELPS: And I'm going to say something really nice. These reports were very, very good, very nice. I was pleased with them.

Next will be our special reports. Group Number 1 was 10 to 200 members, Stanley C. Seal Unit 12. (Applause) They know where they are.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: North Carolina.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PHELPS: North Carolina. And that's for the special reports.

Okay, Unit, or the next one, Group Number 2, 201 and over, Frances J. Bennett, (sic) Unit Number 1, Fargo, North Dakota. (Applause) I was waiting for her. She's busy about the one she just won.

Now, the Committee submitted—the Committee suggested that when you mail in your forms from the state do not attach the special report to your Americanism report.

And if you make a mistake, do not scratch it out, just start with a new report. Those were the suggestions for the Committee. Other than that, you guys did an awesome job. Thank you very much. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Americanism Convention Committee Chairman Phelps withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you. Now we move on to Community Service. Will the chairman of the Community Service Convention Committee please step forward. The chairman is Laurie Pekarik.

(Whereupon, Community Service Convention Committee Chairman Laurie Pekarik advanced to the podium.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LAURIE PEKARIK: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PEKARIK: We have had a lot of surprises so far and I hope we're going to be bringing more. To the National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of our 93rd Annual Auxiliary Convention.

The National Community Service Convention Committee met in the Spruce Room at the Sheraton Downtown at 9:00 o'clock a.m. on August 8th, 2016. Our advisor was Dorothy Reese. Thank you, Dorothy. And Judy Davis was our secretary.

If you are present I would like to introduce our Committee members: Lillian Halpin from District 1; Diane Freeman from District 5; Dawn Smith from District 6; Shirley Kirkland, District 7;

Charlene Williams, from District 8; Evelyn Bryant from District 9; Carol Lee from District 10; Judy Davis, District 11; Carla Reynolds, District 12;

Lynn Swanson from District 13; and I'm Laurie Pekarik from District 14; Patricia Wright, District 15; Jacqueline—I'm not going to pronounce this correctly—Medvigny; District 17, Shirley Walker;

District 18 Iris Brzezinski; District 19, Micki Kraft; District 20, Linda Grant; and District 21, Brenda Patterson. Thank you all so much for your help. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PEKARIK: Now we're going to go into the fun part and announce the winners. Community Service for Units with 10 to 50 members, it is Unit 11 from Sturgis, South Dakota. (Applause) That's Northern Hills.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PEKARIK: Yes. Yes, you may. And I'm just going to keep reading. Community Service Award for Units 51 to 100, Randolph Area Number 17 from Universal, Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PEKARIK: Community Service for Units with 101 members to 200, first place goes to John T. Hensley Number 96 from Lake Panasoffkee in Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION CHAIRMAN PEKARIK: And for Units with members 201 and over, first place goes to Phoenix Unit Number 1, in Phoenix, Arizona. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PEKARIK: The next item we'd like to pass on would be recommendations.

We noticed that several of the entries that were sent in did not have their donations properly itemized. It was just a category with a number. And some did not even have an amount. It was just a total for everything so we weren't able to easily track on that.

Be sure to use the back of your application form or your entry form and you are entitled to include one more page printed on both sides. So in some cases our units had lots to report.

In fact, one entry even had photographs. It was like a year history book. So please adjust the font on your computer when you are making your report. You could get a lot more into those three pages.

The next would be we noticed that there were two entries from one state. The State Adjutants need to be mindful of selecting only one from each state.

Check to be sure that the balances in your different categories equals the amount on the front of your form. Some of these were not correct.

And then organize your donations so they are in the correct category because some of them were—as an example, family services had general services to community in the family service category. So just take care and watch your categories.

We had close to 50 percent of the entries that were submitted that were not filled out correctly. The top of the form wasn't completed. Your deadline for submission was not there. There were signatures missing. There were a lot of things that were not complete so just a reminder to be mindful of that.

We also collectively thought that the Fall Conference would be an excellent venue for training local adjutants on how to complete the forms. And as long as we have so many of us gathered in one location it might be a nice item to include for our education programs.

And I did them out of order so I am at the end of my list. Isn't that happy. (Laughter) We just wanted to make sure that everyone was mindful of how the form is filled out, what the requirements are to be considered. So we hope to see a lot more next year. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Community Service Convention Committee Chairman Pekarik withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, we will move on to Hospital. Would the Hospital Chairman please step forward. Earlene Cole, is your chairman here in the room? Okay, here she comes.

You know what? We'll move on. Okay, to keep things rolling we will now go with Junior Activities.

The chairman from Junior Activities, will you please step forward. Okay—

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OLIVER: I'm coming. I'm coming.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: It would be your chairman, Linda. Who is your chairman?

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OLIVER: She's sick.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: I'm sorry.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OLIVER: She's sick. (Undistinguishable)

(Whereupon, Junior Activities Convention Committee Secretary Crystal Tomlinson advanced to the podium.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY CRYSTAL TOMLINSON:

Okay, can I please have the delegates that were on Junior Activities to please stand.

(Whereupon, the Junior Activities Convention Committee members stood.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY TOMLINSON: Okay, from District 1 we had AnnMarie Hurley; District 2 we had Carrie Robinson; District 3, Iriana Lozano Pagan—sorry, District 6;

District 7 was Marilyn Miller; District 8 was Danny Doss; District 9 was Steven Truscello; District 11 was Anita Marcum—she was also our chairman but she is not feeling well this morning;

District 13 was Sarah Veldhuizen; (Laughter) District 14 was Hollie Kosola; District 15, Linda Gerke; District 17, Diedra Tidwell; District 18, Amber Linton; District 19, myself, Crystal Tomlinson;

District 20 was Darlene Spencer; and District 21 was Theresa Vance; And District 16 was Dolores—sorry, I'm not even going to try that one. (Laughter) Okay. Thank you. (Applause)

Juniors Activities met in Tower Court Room A at 9:05 on August 9th. The advisor was Anita—or, I'm sorry, the advisor was Linda Oliver. And Anita was the chairman and I was the secretary.

For Group 1 for Juniors was West Allis Unit 19, Wisconsin. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY TOMLINSON: Group 2 was John Woodall, Unit 6, Georgia. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY TOMLINSON: Group 3 was Titusville Unit 109, Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY TOMLINSON: Group 4 was Murphy (Applause) Bro-Bro—yes, Number 7, Colorado. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY TOMLINSON: We had no Junior Activity books. Our National Junior Awards for 15 to 17 was Clark Chandler from Robert Flansburg, Number 7. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY TOMLINSON: Our National Junior for 11 to 14: Tony D. Armour out of Morris County Number 83, North Carolina. (Applause)  
(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY TOMLINSON: For 7 to 10, Morgan Slavinsky, West Allis, Number 19. (Applause)  
(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE SECRETARY TOMLINSON: A few of the suggestions were to, for specific details on how the hours are spent for the breakdown because there were some that had like several hours but only had one thing stating what they did where another one had low hours but had it broke down to explaining everything.

And clarification for the rules of the individual juniors, like if pictures need to be included. And there was some confusion on some of the juniors on how they were supposed to list everything.

Also, in scoring when we go into the Committees a suggestion was that a tally sheet or a graphed sheet would be given to make it easier to tally things up.

I would like to thank everybody that was on the Committee. And that's it. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Junior Activities Convention Secretary Tomlinson withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you very much. We will now move on with Hospital and our Hospital Chairman will step forward.

(Whereupon, Hospital Convention Committee Chairman Evelyn Couture advanced to the podium.)

HOSPITAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN EVELYN COUTURE: Hi, my name is Evelyn Couture. I was the Hospital Chairman. And I want to thank the National Commanders, the National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders and delegates and guests of the 93rd Auxiliary Convention.

The National Hospital Convention Committee met in Tower Court B at 9:00 a.m. on August 9th, 2015. Our advisor was Earlene Cole. The secretary was Beth Maughan. And the Committee members, if you will please stand while I try to read your name:

Nancy Holley from District 1; District 2 was Matilda Brook; District 6, Maria Torres; District 7, Marian Rickman; District 8 is Tammy Burkhardt; District 9—okay, I'm not sure of the first name but it's Miss Smith; (Laughter) District 11, Judy Uetterling;

I, myself, was from District 12, Evelyn Couture; District 13 was Janetta Coley; District 14 was Kathy Vandrovec; District 15 was Mary Cummings; District 17 was Beth Maughan; District 18 was Annie Richardson; District 19 was Delores Kreb—

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Knapp.

HOSPITAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COUTURE: Knapp. Sorry. District 20 was Nellie Hardaway; and District 21 was Margaret Scott. (Applause) Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called and were recognized with a round of applause.)

HOSPITAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COUTURE: Okay, for the, for Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Hazard DAV Kentucky Unit 64. (Applause)

Group 2, 51 to 100 members, was Paul F. Lopez Unit 95, McAllen, Texas. (Applause)

Group 3, 101 to 200 members, was John T. Hensley Unit 96, Lake Panasoffkee, Florida. (Applause)

And Group 4, for 200 members or more, was Francis J. Beaton, Unit 1, Fargo, North Dakota. (Applause)

And a few suggestions that we have. We needed—don't try to put all of your information in that little spot on the beginning of the, the front of the page because it really doesn't have enough room for all the details.

And we need more details when you are breaking down your hours and the cost and everything so that we can make a better evaluation of who should get the award. You could always put your details on a separate sheet of paper, like someone else said, or write it on the back.

We also got three Units in one packet for a state. And I think if it wasn't for that, that Unit that we first originally thought was the winner would have been the winner. But there was two other pages attached to that with all the details of what they did. So, please, only one—excuse me—only one per state.

And if you have more than one page, please attach it with a staple so we can keep everything together.

And the other one that we had was this, on the scoring sheet the way it is laid out right now all of the group that I was in, they all had the same total scores.

So we were thinking that if maybe there was a range for detail like from one to ten instead of just ten points for filling in the detail it would make it a little bit easier when we were doing the picking of who was, should have gotten the award.

So other than that we had a great time and I want to thank everyone for participating and everyone for sending, all the states for sending in their recommendations.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you very much. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Hospital Convention Committee Chairman Couture withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, next we will go with the State Department History Books. Will the chairman of that Committee please come forward, Vicki Johnston.

(Whereupon, State Department History Books Committee Chairman Vicki Johnston advanced to the podium.)

STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOKS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VICKI JOHNSTON: National Commander—put my reading glasses on; I can't see you—National Adjutant Pat, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 93rd National Auxiliary Convention.

The State Department—the National State Department History Book Convention Committee met in the Tower Building, Mezzanine Level, Gold Room, at 9:00 o'clock on August 9th, 2015. Our advisor was Donna Henshaw and our secretary, appointed, was Brenda Lee Nielsen.

And if the following Committee members would stand up if you're able when you hear your name. It's Sharon Dufault, District 1; Dana Winston Day, District 2; Renee Blow, District 4; Barbara Forbes, District 6; our secretary, Brenda Nielsen, District 7;

Phyllis Ledbetter, District 8; Alicia Hill, District 9; myself, District 11; Shelba Hunt, District 13; Diana Peterson, District 14; Rose Miller, District 15; Cheryl Edwards, District 17; Rosie McDuffie, District 18; Elaine Moreland, District 20; and Rhonda Bower, District 21. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called and were recognized with a round of applause.)

STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOKS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON: Thank you so much. We did, indeed, have a wonderful time. Judging the history books is one of the coolest things to do. It gives you all kinds of wonderful ideas. And we learned about an awesome cake. See me later. (Laughter)

The following State Department was elected to receive the National State Department History Book Award: the State Department of Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON: The State History Book Chairman was Joyce Humes. (Applause) Excellent job. It was a beautiful book.

Our Committee submits the following recommendations. Where chronological order is required in the instructions, list dates. We can assume by the pictures that a lot of them are done chronologically, but if no dates are listed we can't be sure.

And the second recommendation is that the rules and regulations are so stringent that we get very few books submitted, that if the requirements were relaxed a little and more emphasis was placed on neatness and fun and scrapbook—have your business in there and the people identified that need to be identified but put more of an emphasis on neatness and fun reading, I think that you would find more states would actually submit history books. The requirements are just really tough.

Thank you very much. (Applause)

(Whereupon, State Department History Book Committee Chairman Johnston withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you, Vicki. We will now call on the Legislative Chairman to step forward, please.

(Whereupon, Legislative Convention Chairman Carol Parker-Park advanced to the podium.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION CHAIRMAN CAROL PARKER-PARK: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER-PARK: I'm Carol Parker-Park and I am the Legislative—yes, chairperson. Thank you. (Laughter) There we are. National Commander LeeAnn Karg, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates, and guests of this 93rd National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Legislative Convention Committee met in the Silver Room at 9:00 a.m. on August 9th, 2015. I was the Chair and Jenny Clark was my very, very good Secretary.

I would like to call upon those who were part of my Committee. From District 1, Liz Eldridge, from Massachusetts 35; District 2, Theresa Grabowski, Delegate, New York, 212; District 3, okay, Sally, I love you—Sally Campagnone;

District 6, Carol Avanzato; District 7, Jenny Clark; District 8, Winona Sepulvado; District 9, Sandra Head; District 11, myself, Carol Parker-Park; District 13, Dorothy Fivecoate; District 14, Cindy Jones; District 15, Velma Steinman;

District 17, Barbara Bruettig; District 18, Patricia Hedrick; District 19, Florence Riley; District 20, Judy Garcia; and District 21, Ernest Hauser. Thank you all for your great dedication to this and we really did a good job.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called and were recognized with a round of applause.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER-PARK: All right, in Group 1, 10 to 50 members, we selected Lafayette, Louisiana, Number 2. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER-PARK: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Louis L. Lust, Louisiana Number 17. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER-PARK: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Grand Strand, South Carolina, Number 30. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER-PARK: Group 4, 200 members or over, Westcott Houghton, Massachusetts, Number 56. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER-PARK: The Committee submitted the following recommendation: more participation on the local level. And this concludes my report. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you, Carol.

(Whereupon, Legislative Convention Committee Chairman Parker-Park withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, we will move on now to the VAVS. Who is the VAVS Chairman? Please step forward. Carol Rundell.

(Whereupon, VAVS Convention Committee Chairman Carol Rundell advanced to the podium.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAROL RUNDELL: Good morning, everybody.

(Response of "Good morning.")

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RUNDELL: Are we having fun yet?

(Response of "Yes" and cheers.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RUNDELL: National Commander Karg, National Adjutant Kemper, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests.

The National VAVS Convention Committee met in the Director's Row H at 9:05 a.m. August the 9th, 2015. Our advisor and steadfast helper was Patty Davis. And our really good secretary was Joyce Jefferson.

I would like to recognize those people who worked so hard in judging this report. If you are able to stand, please do when I call your name. Frances Costa, District 1; Lucita Christian, District 2; Linda Folcarelli, District 3; Betty Hess, District 7; Linda Bailey, District 8; Julianne Atkinson, District 9; Amanda Louise Robertson, District 11; Rodney Helgeson, Jr., District 12; Tana Penland, District 13; Joyce Jefferson, our secretary, District 14; Ardith Dillard, District 15; Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, District 16; Victoria Salazar, District 17; myself, District 18; Misty Summers, District 21; and Joanne Johnson, District 20. Thank you, guys.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called and were recognized with a round of applause.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RUNDELL: The following Units were judged to be the best in their category for the National VAVS Awards. Group 1, 10 through 50, Rowland Collin—Rowland Coe Unit 96, North Carolina. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RUNDELL: Group 2, 51 through 100 members, Raul F. Lopez Number 95, Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RUNDELL: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Allegheny Kiski Valley Number 53, Pennsylvania. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

VAVS CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RUNDRELL: Group 4, 201 members or over, there were no submissions. I would like to submit recommendations from the Committee.

Number one, they said legible reports. It is very important to print neatly with dark black ink or, if available, typed reports are more legible when copied.

To ensure legibility sight on the form, send original and one copy on the form. Sometimes copies are faint and hard to read.

Remember that explanations for items for \$1,000 are reported on the back or should be firmly attached because there were some pages we found that didn't have the itemized list on the back or an attachment, but might have gotten lost in transport. Not sure.

Be careful when sending in winning reports because we received two reports for the same category from one state.

And I checked the manual just to make sure I was correct on this. It says, "Clearly designate each tie to be considered for judging." So we were confused on that issue.

Recruit. Recruit. Recruit volunteers and encourage junior members to participate.

And that's the end of my report. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you.

(Whereupon, VAVS Convention Committee Chairman Rundell withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, now we will go into the Mae Holmes Award. Will the Mae Holmes Chairman please step forward – Azzie Lee Hill.

(Whereupon, Mae Holmes Convention Committee Chairman Azzie Lee Hill advanced to the podium.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AZZIE LEE HILL: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HILL: As has been stated, I am Azzie Lee Hill, Department of South Carolina Commander. And I am the Chair or Chairman of the National Mae Holmes Committee.

National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 93rd National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Mae Holmes Convention met in the Tower Court D at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 9th, 2015. Our advisor was Linda Stake. And Christina Alexander was appointed secretary.

The members of the Committee are—and as I call your name would you please stand and remain standing until I have called the last name: District 1, Sheila McGowan of Massachusetts; District 2, Josephine Rivera of New York; District 3, AuraLee Nicodemus from Vermont; District 6, Carol Reding, Maryland; District 7, Delphia Bare, Florida; District 8, Donald Harris, Alabama; I represented District 9 of South Carolina; District 10, Christina Alexander, Michigan; Darlene Hanneman, District 11, Darlene Hanneman, Ohio; District 13, Linda Bratcher, Indiana; District 14, Marilyn Hardt, Minnesota; District 15, Janet Reed, Missouri; District 17, Anneliese Rauber, New Mexico; District 18, Robin Linton, Arizona; District 19, Barbara Redding, Washington; District 20, Anita Cox, Texas; and District 21, Lillie Williams, Arkansas. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were read and were recognized with a round of applause.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HILL: The following Units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Mae Holmes Awards. Category or Group 1, 10 to 50 members, the State is Indiana, Unit 27. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HILL: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, State of Maryland, Unit 26. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HILL: From 101 to 200 members, Unit 6, of Georgia. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HILL: And 200plus members, Unit 1 of North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HILL: Our recommendations regarding the Mae Holmes report on the, regarding the Number 2 item on the report, on the form, rather, there needs to be a clarification regarding "parade support."

In other words, differentiate or distinguish or whatever word you want to use among whether or not you participated or you donated to the parade or you sponsored the parade.

If you just leave it blank—or, not blank but in a broad category or sense then we are not able to determine whether it was you simply participated in it or donated.

And our rationale there is that no one Unit can take credit for sponsoring an entire parade. It would take a lot of units and chapter help and community, your city, so you couldn't take the full credit unless you could show you sponsored that parade from the grand marshal to the tail end. Okay. (Laughter)

All right, and remember that even if you have, you don't have a number or an answer to put in a blank space, fill it in with a zero. I think you get points if you fill in everything.

(Response of "No.")

MAE HOLMES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HILL: Well, we're going to turn it to the National Committee and they will figure out what we meant by that. (Laughter)

All right, another recommendation is detailed information on your programs. Don't just say we did this and not give some detailed information regarding it.

Our general recommendation is that members should be more involved on state-level judging before they come to national committees to take part in judging.

Now, I can understand that one, to me, would be a little difficult to just execute to the point because you will always have first-time people coming to the Convention. And they are needed to be on Committees to judge, so. That was what the Committee recommended and that's what I'm submitting. (Applause)

This concludes my report.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, Mae Holmes Convention Committee Chairman Hill withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: I now call on National Membership Chairman Frances Costa for the Membership Awards.

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice Commander and National Membership Committee Chairman Frances J. Costa advanced to the podium.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FRANCES J. COSTA: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COSTA: National Commander, National Adjutant, Line Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 93rd National Convention. I am pleased to be standing here in this position today to give the Membership Report.

Before we announce the winners, I would like to thank all of the recruiters who worked so hard for our Units, Departments and national quotas. How many members do we have in this audience this morning who have joined this past year? Please stand.

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

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COSTA: Thank you. Would you stand if you have recruited at least one member this year.

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

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COSTA: Thank you. Please stand if you have recruited five new members and received the membership pin.

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

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COSTA: Thank you. And, last but not least, please stand if you have received a \$30 gift card for sales for recruiting 20 new members.

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

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COSTA: Please continue to recruit. Recruit. Recruit. We need new members and retention of older members if we are to have a future. We cannot continue to grow without your help.

And now for the Awards. In Category 1, 10 to 50, Lance Corporal C. Roberts Number 102, Tennessee, with a 13-member increase. (Applause) Anyone here from Tennessee? Oh, she's working her way up here. Thank you.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
COSTA: Group 2, Charles E. Wright Number 42, Arkansas, with 25-member increase over quota.  
(Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
COSTA: Group 3, Randolph Area Number 17, Texas, with 30-member increase over quota. (Applause)  
(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
COSTA: And Group 4, 201 and over, Marathon Number 122, Florida, 156-member increase. (Applause)  
(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
COSTA: Okay, Group 5, new Units, Most New Members, Tewksbury, Number 110, Massachusetts,  
with 37 new members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
COSTA: Group 6, the Department with the largest percentage increase over quota is the State  
Department of Louisiana with 103.53-percent increase over quota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
COSTA: Group 7 is the Department with the largest numerical increase over quota and that goes to  
the State Department of Florida with a 165-member increase over quota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
COSTA: And now, for the top membership recruiter, goes to Amie Raber, Florida Number 18, with 64  
new senior members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
COSTA: And that concludes my Membership report. I would like to congratulate all the winning Units  
and Departments and recruiters. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice Commander and National Membership Committee Chairman  
Costa withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Fran, please step over. We're going to have our National Membership  
Chairman stand over for a photo op so if you wanted to step forward and take a photo of Fran with  
the winning Membership Award recipients. I will go through a few announcements while they are  
doing that to keep things rolling.

Last night a pearl bracelet was lost. They think it was lost in the Fun Night room so if you or if you  
hear of anyone who has found that bracelet, it does belong to Renee Jones back here, Past National  
Commander. Renee, do you want to stand in case there might be one or two people that don't know  
who you are?

(Whereupon, Past National Commander R. Renee Jones stood.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay. Linda Oliver.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OLIVER: Yes.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Please come up here. If you were in the room right before we started,  
the reason we got a little bit of a late start was due to the Junior Crazy Hat contest Linda wanted  
to do for the Juniors.

So the panel up here made a decision. So the votes have been tallied and Linda will make that  
announcement.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OLIVER: Can I call Connor  
Lindeman for the Most Patriotic. (Applause) Ashton Johniken, Most Original. (Applause)

Clark Chandler for the largest. (Applause) Tavish and Calvin Richards for the smallest but they  
had to go take a nap. (Laughter) Each of our winners will receive \$20. (Applause)

I'd like to thank all our Juniors. It's been a pleasure working with them. And Units, please keep  
your Juniors involved.

And whoever the next Junior Activities person is, please, adjutants, pass on to all your Units any  
information from National regarding the Juniors so all the Juniors can get the information to enter any  
type of contest or any activities that might be happening at National. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Junior Activities Convention Committee Chairman Oliver withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: Didn't these kids just do a fantastic job? (Applause) They are awesome.

Pat says we still have some time so if you want to caucus or the Districts will caucus and then we will have the second reading of the proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. So if you would like to go to your Districts and then talk about the changes we talked about just a little while ago.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed to caucus at 10:31 o'clock, a.m. on August 10, 2015; the meeting reconvened at 10:38 o'clock, a.m. August 10, 2015.)

COMMANDER KARG: Okay, five minutes is up. All right, we've got these changes to go through so everybody please take your seat. We will get started.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Please take your seats. We are ready to get this started.

COMMANDER KARG: Okay, everybody, one quick announcement. The Juniors are to meet—and their parents—are supposed to meet Linda Oliver at 2:30 in the Plaza, the lobby. I couldn't think of the word.

All right, let's get this session back in order. I would call on Judy Steinhouse, our Chairman for the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, to come for the second reading.

(Whereupon, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman and Past National Commander Steinhouse advanced to the podium.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: All right, copies in hand. Here we go.

Pages N37 and 38, Article IX, State Departments, Section 5, second sentence: Add "on junior memberships" after "state per capita." This sentence would then read:

"Such bylaws shall not prohibit a state Department from designating the number of state Junior Vice Commanders, appointed state officers and committees, state per capita on junior membership, and/or state mandates."

Rationale: State per capitae are no longer needed as we do not have annual senior memberships. So this will allow a state to start or continue assessing a state per capita on junior memberships.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER KARG: Do I hear a second? Go to a microphone, please, and be recognized by the chair. Thank you.

MS. JOYCE STUBER: Joyce Stuber, District 14, North Dakota, I so second it.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. The motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion?

MS. LAURIE PEKARIK: Laurie Pekarik, Department Commander for the State of Minnesota, I believe we are talking about two different things in this sentence.

We are talking first about designating the number of state Junior Vice Commanders, appointed state officers, or committee members; then we go on to talk about state per capita on junior membership and state mandates. That's money.

I would propose that the sentence should read: "Following appointed state officers—slash—committees and—comma—the state per capita on junior memberships and/or state mandates" because that provides us with a definition or a differentiation between numbers of people and money. Thank you.

COMMANDER KARG: Laurie, are you moving to amend this, then?

MS. PEKARIK: Yes.

COMMANDER KARG: Please make that motion.

MS. PEKARIK: I'd like to amend the motion as read—or do you want me to read it over again?

COMMANDER KARG: Read it again.

MS. PEKARIK: Okay. Following "appointed state officers" put in a forward slash, delete the word "and" followed by committees, comma, and the, insert "and" and the word "the" state per capita on junior memberships and/or state mandates."

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Would you repeat that?

MS. PEKARIK: Sure, I'd be glad to repeat it. In the sentence following "appointed state officers" insert a forward slash, delete the word "and" followed by the word committees, then a comma and insert "and the state per capita on junior membership and/or state mandates" because that would differentiate between money and numbers of people. Is that clarified?

COMMANDER KARG: Okay, there is a motion to amend the change to the amendment. Is there a second to that?

MS. JOYCE JEFFERSON: Joyce Jefferson, Rapid City Number 3, District 14 NEC, I second.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. We have a motion and a second. We will be voting on the amendment first and then we will go back and read it as amended. All right?

So any more discussion? All those in favor say aye of the amendment; all those opposed say no. All right, will you read it as it will be amended? Oh, passed.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: The amended statement now reads:

"Such bylaws shall not prohibit a state department from designating the number of state junior vice commanders, appointed state officers—slash—committees, and the state per capita on junior membership, and/or state mandates."

I move for the passage of this amendment as amended.

COMMANDER KARG: Is there a second to that?

MS. JANICE HOWARD: Janice Howard, District 15, I second it.

COMMANDER KARG: Is there any other discussion? All those in favor of the amended change please say aye; all those opposed say no. The change is amended.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Page S5, Article 3, State Officers, Section 3, Eligibility for State Office, Paragraph 4, the last sentence. Bold the last sentence which reads:

"Any elected state officers who serve on the state executive committee and are entitled to vote shall not serve as the state Executive Committee member of the unit."

The rationale is to emphasize that SECs cannot be line officers and vice versa.

I move for the—I make a motion to accept this amendment, Madame Commander.

COMMANDER KARG: Is there a second to that motion?

MS. JUNE SCHOW: June Schow, Unit 4, Utah, I second the motion.

COMMANDER KARG: The motion has been made and seconded. I open it up for discussion.

Hearing none, all those in favor say aye; all those opposed say no. Carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Page S18, Article VIII, Finances. Add new section. New Section 7 shall read as follows:

"Section 7. Accumulation of Funds

"State Departments may not accumulate funds, whether for service purposes or otherwise, in excess of three—3 in parentheses—times the expenses of their last fiscal year. State Departments whose accumulated funds exceed this amount must comply with this section by expending such excess within a reasonable time.

"The expenditure of the excess accumulated funds must be for service purposes."

Rationale: This new section is to comply with the DAV Bylaws restricting the National Office and its subordinate units from accumulating funds, excess unrestricted funds that are not being spent on current or future needs and resources in planning service-related programs.

Madame Commander, I move for the passage of this amendment.

COMMANDER KARG: A motion has been made. Is there a second?

MS. BETH MAUGHAN: Beth Maughan, District 17, Unit 4, I second the motion.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. The motion has been made and seconded. Open for discussion.

MS. DOROTHY ROBINSON: Dorothy Robinson, Tennessee 116, could you please define the "reasonable time"?

MS. PEKARIK: Laurie Pekarik—

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Just a moment.

MS. PEKARIK: Oh, sorry.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Someone just did present a question and with regard to a reasonable time. Again, this wording was taken from the DAV National Constitution and Bylaws and it was determined that it needed to be included in our Constitution and Bylaws since not many of us carry the DAV Bylaws and read the information that pertains to the Auxiliary.

So, I did speak with the DAV Inspector General. I inquired about a reasonable time. He said they use a rule of thumb as five years—a five-year plan. And along that line you need to revisit this business plan, this spend-down plan annually because it could change.

So it is something that needs to be on your agenda every year as you consider your finances and you adjust your spend-down plan accordingly.

MS. PEKARIK: Laurie Pekarik, (undistinguishable) Unit 39, could we please have a definition of "service"?

COMMANDER KARG: What was it again? I'm sorry.

MS. PEKARIK: Could we have a definition for service?

COMMANDER KARG: Of service? Okay.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: We could possibly get a clarification on that from DAV. That is a good question. I mean we do perform service. We perform service in the community in non-VA hospitals and VA facilities. So—and then we do help veterans and their families in our communities.

So I really cannot give you a detailed list of the service but I could get a clarification from DAV since this wording is just taken exactly word-for-word from their Constitution and Bylaws.

So maybe that's something in a future newsletter that we put out we could apply that definition so everybody is aware. And then we may touch on this a little more at the National Fall Conference as well. But we will get that information publicized.

COMMANDER KARG: Okay, any other discussion? All right, all those in favor of this amendment change please answer by saying yes; all those say no. Carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Page S18, Article IX, Supplement to State Bylaws, State Standing Rules, Section 1, Paragraph 2. Delete the words "during the first business session" and substitute with "a business session of the state convention." This paragraph would then read:

"The state Standing Rules may be amended by a majority vote of those registered and voting during a business session of the state convention."

The rationale: Due to the starting times of many state conventions, it is not possible to read and vote on proposed changes to state Standing Rules at the first business session.

Many conventions start with a joint session with the DAV and this may not allow adequate time to read/vote on these changes at the first business session. Even the National Convention does not read and adopt bylaw changes at the first business session of the convention.

Madame Commander, I move for the approval of this amendment.

COMMANDER KARG: Do we have a second?

MS. CAROL ANN CHAPMAN: Carol Ann Chapman, Clyde Seller Unit 21, Aurora, Colorado, I second the motion.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. There has been a motion and a second. Is there any discussion?

MS. LINDA SPURGEON: This is going to end up being repetitive if you delete only "during the first business session" and replace it with "a business session of the state convention" it would say: "During a business session of the state convention of the state convention". You need to strike—in the replacement you need to strike "of the state convention".

(Responses of "No.")

COMMANDER KARG: They're looking.

MS. SPURGEON: Okay.

COMMANDER KARG: Could you state your name and Unit, please?

MS. SPURGEON: I'm sorry. I just realized I didn't do that. Linda Spurgeon, Unit 46, Arkansas.

COMMANDER KARG: Okay.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: The way it is stated currently in the Constitution and Bylaws says "The state Standing Rules may be amended by a majority vote to those, of those registered and voting during the first business session." We're going to take out—we are proposing to take out the words "during the first business session."

MS. SPURGEON: Right.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: And all the words "a business session of the state convention." That does not duplicate the words state convention.

MS. SPURGEON: You didn't take out, though, of the state convention in what you're taking out.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: It wasn't there to begin with.

MS. SPURGEON: You're putting it in and it's already in there. You haven't taken it out. Am I making myself clear?

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: I think you're looking at the wrong paragraph—

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER R. RENEE JONES: Madam Commander—

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: I think you are looking at the wrong paragraph.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JONES: Madam Commander, Renee Jones, Past National Commander.

COMMANDER KARG: Yes.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JONES: Unless the delegate standing proposed to amend this section we should not be talking about it.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Thank you.

MS. SPURGEON: Okay.

IMMEDIATE PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SUSAN K. MILLER: Susan Miller, Past National Commander, I call for the vote.

COMMANDER KARG: All right, the vote has been called for so all those in favor say aye; all those opposed say no. Carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Okay, Page U15, Article XV, Unit Finances and Dues. Add new Section. New Section 5 shall read as follows:

“Section 5: Accumulation of Funds

“Units may not accumulate funds, whether for service purposes or otherwise, in excess of three—3 in parentheses—times the expenses of their last fiscal year. Units whose accumulated funds exceed this amount must comply with this Section of expending such excess within a reasonable time.

“The expenditure of the excess accumulated funds must be for service purposes.”

Rationale: This new section is to comply with the DAV bylaws restricting the National Office and its subordinate units from accumulating excess unrestricted funds that are not being spent on current or future needs and resources in planning service-related programs.

Madame Commander, I move for the acceptance of this amendment.

COMMANDER KARG: A motion has been made. Is there a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: Donna Adams, PNC, I second the motion.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. The motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Be sure to state your name and what district you are from or state or unit.

MR. DANNY DOSS: Danny Doss, Unit 94, Ozark, Alabama. Clarify “otherwise”.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Clarify what? I’m sorry.

MR. DOSS: Clarify the “otherwise”. You had—let’s see, otherwise. Let me see where it is at there again. “Service purposes or otherwise.” We wanted a clarification on “services.” Now we need a clarification on “otherwise.”

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: This is coming directly out of the DAV Constitution and Bylaws. And as of right now this is also something that we will probably have to contact the DAV and work with them to see what they are meaning by these words.

We have taken this right out of theirs to put into ours. And this is—so we’re going to have to find, talk with the DAV and see what they mean by these.

MR. DOSS: So we have more clarification on the previous amendment. Also, this here is consistent with that one.

(Response of “Yes.”)

MR. DOSS: Okay.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Right. Correct.

MR. DOSS: Thank you.

COMMANDER KARG: All right, hearing no other discussion, all those in favor say aye; all those opposed say no. Carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Page U25, Membership Initiation Ceremony, last paragraph. Delete the sentence which reads: “You are now entitled to all the rights and privileges of this organization.”

Rationale: The Membership Initiation Ceremony is no longer a required ceremony for a member to be considered in good standing; therefore, this sentence is no longer necessary.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER KARG: Do I have a second?

MS. DIANA PETERSON: Diana Peterson, Department of South Dakota. I second that motion.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. Is there any discussion?

MS. PEKARIK: Laurie Pekarik, (undistinguishable) Unit 39. I personally do not agree with having the initiation ceremony be considered something not required.

Our officers are required to attest and take a vow of their responsibilities as officers to our organization and I think our membership needs to assume that same responsibility as far as being a member in our organization.

I consider it a privilege and an honor to be a member of the DAV and I would feel highly offended if I was not initiated in the ceremony.

MS. KATHY VANDROVEC: Madame Commander, Kathy Vandrovec, Unit Number 1, Fargo, North Dakota, I believe the reason they were doing this is because there is no way to go back and prove that you were ever initiated if you've been in this organization for 40, 30-40-50 years.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you.

MS. VANDROVEC: Where are they going to get the proof?

ADJUTANT KEMPER: At the 2014 National Convention the Convention delegates approved the rewording of a definition of a member in good standing.

It used to state in there that the membership initiation was a requirement. So last year the delegates approved removing that from Page N26, Article VII, Section 1.

In the course of the changes—if you were here last year, we had over 50 amendments to propose to the delegates.

And in the course of that huge job by the Interim Committee this one section that we are discussing now, that was overlooked. So we are just kind of cleaning up and following up from what the delegates voted on and approved last year.

COMMANDER KARG: All right, hearing no other discussion we will call for the vote. All those in favor say aye; all those opposed say no. Carried.

(Whereupon, Convention Constitution and Bylaws Chairman and Past National Commander Steinhouse withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: We will now call on National—oh, I have one thing I want to do. Real quickly, today is Barbara Edmonson's birthday. She is from District 20. So everybody say happy birthday.

(Response of "Happy Birthday" and applause.)

COMMANDER KARG: Now we will have National Adjutant Pat Kemper with announcements.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: The Forget-Me-Not Luncheon is at 12:30. It is in the room next-door over here. Be sure to show your ticket at the door.

History Books, if they have not been picked up yet please do so. They are in the office. And that's all I've got.

MS. NICODEMUS: Madame Commander, AuraLee Nicodemus, Department of Vermont.

COMMANDER KARG: Yes.

MS. NICODEMUS: In light of your celebration of a great year and also in light of the fact that we have a lot of programs in desperate need of money I would like to ask the Juniors to stand at the back door and anyone who wishes can donate money into their hats—we've got to recycle them—and we could use that money for whichever of our programs you choose today.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. Did everybody understand? The Juniors' hat is going to be at the back of the room you said?

MS. NICODEMUS: Yes.

COMMANDER KARG: The hats that they wore this morning will be at the back of the room. If you would like to make a donation you can drop it in the hat as you exit.

MS. NICODEMUS: And, Commander, you can choose which of our many programs in need of funds that you would like that to go to. You can choose one or more.

COMMANDER KARG: The general consensus up here is the general fund. Okay, we will call on Chaplain Judy Uetterling for the closing prayer.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Uetterling advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN UETTERLING: Let's pray. Lord, thank you for your help in our meeting and our discussions. Be with us and help us safe (sic) the rest of the day. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER KARG: Okay, we will do some door prizes and then we will stand in recess until—we will start again at 9:00 tomorrow morning.

(Whereupon, the meeting was recessed at 11:05 o'clock, p.m., on Monday, August 10, 2015.)

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**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY HELD IN  
DENVER, COLORADO**

**AUGUST 10, 2015**

**Final Business Session**

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The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Grand Ballroom 2, on the Second Level of the Tower of the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, Colorado, on Tuesday morning, August 11, 2015, and was called to order at 9:00 a.m., by National Commander LeeAnn B. Karg.

COMMANDER LEEANN B. KARG: If everybody is ready, please, I would call on our National Chaplain Judy Uetterling for prayer.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Uetterling advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN UETTERLING: Let's pray. Dear Lord, we would like you to please—there is so much going on in this world as I watched the TV this morning so please help everybody that is in need.

And we want to thank you for giving us the knowledge and the great times that we've had this week. This is our last time. We ask you for your guidance to finish a great year. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," whereupon, Chaplain Uetterling withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you, Chaplain. We will now have the Pledge of Allegiance led by Americanism Chairman Ellen Timmerman.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and National Americanism Chairman Timmerman advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: Free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart or render the appropriate salute and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman Timmerman led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which she withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: Just a reminder before we get underway that if you approach the podium we are having it recorded over here. Please state your name clearly, tell us which state Department or Unit that you are a delegate for. So check your badge, see how you registered, and then state your information. All right?

I will now have Pat Kemper come up with the totals for the donations. Oh, you want me to do it? Okay. She doesn't want to stand up.

The Scholarship Fund got \$2,475. The Service Support Fund got \$1,567. The Winter Sports Clinic got \$744.96. Camp Corral got \$1,000. And the General Fund got \$350.75. So give yourselves a round of applause. (Applause)

And first off we will have our Credentials Report, please.

(Whereupon, Credentials Committee Chairman Walker advanced to the podium.)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WALKER: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WALKER: Madam Commander, National Officers, delegates and guests, the Credentials report is as follows and this is the final business session.

Total Units registered, 153; total Departments registered, 40; National Officers registered, 7; Past National Commanders registered, 8; total guests registered, 129; total delegates, 308; total alternates, 27; total vote count, 1,105; and total registered, 479.

Madame Commander, I move that we accept this Credentials Report.

COMMANDER KARG: There has been a motion. Do I have a second?

MS. NICODEMUS: AuraLee Nicodemus, Department of Vermont, I second that.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. There is a motion and a second. Is there any discussion?

All those in favor say aye; all those opposed say no. Carried.

(Whereupon, Credentials Committee Chairman Walker withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: We're both thinking the same thing: cross out the Constitution and Bylaws. (Laughter)

The National Adjutant will now call the roll of the newly-elected National Executive Committee members and their alternates. And as your name is called, please come forward for the purpose of installation.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper advanced to the podium and the newly-elected National Executive Committee members and alternates advanced to the front of the room as the National Adjutant called their names.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: District 1, Lillian Halpin; District 3, Sylvia Heath; District 5, Loretta Nosko; please come forward; District 7, Delphia Marie Bare; District 9, Shirley Hill; District 11, Denise Proffitt; District 13, Linda Bratcher; District 15, Breanne Chandler; District 17, Beth Maughan; District 19, Delores Knapp; District 21, Kim Stake.

Now I will call the alternates, the newly-elected alternates: District 1, Elizabeth Eldridge; District 3, Donna Folcarelli; District 5, Diane Freeman; District 7, Delores Roussey; District 9, Evelyn Bryant; District 10, Regina Fortner; District 11, Judith Hezlep; District 13, Dorothy Fivecoate; District 15, Veronica Bergquist; District 17, Brenda Moore; District 19, Sienna Stewart; District 21, Mary Reese Roden.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: You are requested to remain silent during the ceremony of installation.

As newly-elected National Executive Committee members and alternates are you willing to assume the oath of your office?

(Response of "I am.")

COMMANDER KARG: Please place your right hand over your heart and pronounce your name and repeat after me the oath of your office.

"I, LeeAnn Karg, having been selected as National Executive Committee member or alternate of this Auxiliary, do most solemnly pledge myself to faithfully and impartially perform in letter and spirit all duties of the office I am about to enter.

"I promise to obey the lawful orders of my superior officers and exact the obedience of others thereto to the best of my ability and means.

"When my successor has been duly selected and installed I promise to surrender all the property of the organization in my possession, all of which I now affirm."

You may lower your hands. Delegates, members and guests, I now present to you the National Executive Committee members and alternates of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

I trust you will aid them in the performance of their duties. And with your help their term of office will be highly successful. NECs and alternates, please turn around. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the newly-installed members of the National Executive Committee turned to face the membership and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER KARG: You may take your seats.

(Whereupon, the newly-elected NEC members assumed their appropriate seats.)

COMMANDER KARG: Okay, next will the Chairman of the Nominating Committee please come forward to give the Committee report? Here she comes.

(Whereupon, the Nominating Committee Chairman advanced to the podium to give her report.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: National Commander, National Adjutant, line officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests.

The Nominating Committee met at the Tower Court C beginning on Monday afternoon and continued into Tuesday afternoon. We worked for a total of about 9.5 hours. And I want to commend the Committee for the hard work that they did.

We think that we came up with a good slate but I do want to thank everybody for working on this Committee.

The Nominating Committee of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary held their first meeting on Sunday, August the 9th, 2015. We are pleased to submit the following slate for your consideration to serve as the 2015–2016 officers:

Commander Linda Stake; Senior Vice Commander Fran Costa; First Junior Vice Commander Craig Johniken; Second Junior Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman; Third Junior Vice Commander Diane Franz; Fourth Junior Vice Commander Lynn Prosser; and Judge Advocate Donna Adams.

The secretary that served on this Committee was Carla Schwarz. As I call your name please stand and be recognized: District 1, Nancy Mooney; District 2, Marian Sawdey; District 3, Donna Folcarelli; District 4, Linda Applegate; District 5, Loretta Nosko; District 6, Carol Simmons; District 7, Jean Sursely; District 8, Carolyn Sensat; District 9, Jane Troutman; District 10, Tess Morey; District 11, Joyce Hutchinson; District 12, Carrie Willems; District 13, Carla Schwarz; District 14, Darlene R. Hopper; District 15, Bonita Mitchell; District 16, Samantha Galliher; 17, Jean Schow; District 18, Diane Stein;

District 19, Jerald Royse and his dog Teddy; (Laughter) District 20, Betty Hall; District 21, Mary Reese Roden. The advisor was Susan Miller and I was the chairman. (Applause)

(Whereupon, as the Nominating Committee Chairman withdrew from the podium Adjutant Kemper advanced to the podium.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: When two or more candidates are nominated for any one office roll calls shall continue until completed unless a candidate or candidates withdraws. The person receiving the majority of the roll call votes shall be elected.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: I would like to thank the members of the Nominating Committee for their time and their efforts. They have a huge job to do and we really appreciate it.

I am now discharging the Nominating Committee and all other Convention Committees. You are free. (Laughter)

Now I ask all the officers to please leave the podium and go to your respective Districts for the purpose of nomination and election. NECs, please join your District as well.

(Whereupon, the National Officers withdrew from the podium and, along with the NECs, joined their respective Districts.)

COMMANDER KARG: I need to appoint three tellers so if we could just have a moment of silence, a little bit. I'd like to appoint Bunny Clos and Camille Remus and Breanne Chandler. Would you be willing to be tellers? Please come up here to the table and take a seat.

(Whereupon, the tellers advanced to the table at the front of the room.)

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. Let's get—let's get seated so we can get this started. You have heard the report of the Committee on Nominations. Oops, I need my list. Linda Stake has been nominated for the Committee for the office of National Commander. Are there any other nominations?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Madame Commander, Kim Stake, 57, Arkansas, permission to approach the dais.

COMMANDER KARG: You may.

(Whereupon, Sergeant-at-Arms Stake advanced to the podium.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Thank you. Based on the four principles of our organization—devotion, service, loyalty and comradeship—Linda Stake has grown way past expectations of our District and our State, fulfilling our obligation to disabled veterans and their families. You couldn't ask for anybody, I don't think, better to represent this organization.

It is an honor, a pleasure, to make a motion to second this nomination. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Sergeant-at-Arms Stake withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: All those in favor of Linda Stake for the office of National Commander signify by saying aye; all those opposed.

(Whereupon, someone in the membership said, "Shut up," followed by laughter.)

COMMANDER KARG: They ayes have it, sorry. And Linda Stake has been elected to the office of National Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER KARG: Fran Costa has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Senior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of Senior Vice Commander.

All those in favor of Fran Costa for the office of Senior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed say no. (Applause) The ayes have it and Fran Costa has been elected to the office of Senior Vice Commander. (Applause)

Craig Johniken has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander.

All those in favor of Craig Johniken for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; all those opposed. (Applause)

Ellen Timmerman has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander.

All those in favor of Ellen Timmerman for Second Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; all those opposed. (Applause) Where is Ellen?

(Whereupon, Ellen Timmerman stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER KARG: There you are. The ayes have it and Ellen Timmerman has been elected to the office of Second Junior Vice Commander.

Diane Franz has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations?

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER DOROTHY REESE: I know that it's inappropriate for me to nominate myself but I would like to nominate myself as Third Junior Vice.

COMMANDER KARG: Would you state your name and your—

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER REESE: Dorothy Reese, Fourth Junior Vice, National, State of Georgia. Dorothy Reese.

COMMANDER KARG: Okay. Dorothy Reese. We will prepare for a roll call vote. Are there any other nominations before we do that?

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER REESE: Do you want me to read the report?

COMMANDER KARG: We don't do that. Sorry.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER REESE: Okay. That's fine.

COMMANDER KARG: Okay, we will get prepared and then we will start the roll call vote.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER REESE: Thank you.

COMMANDER KARG: Okay, five minutes. Can we do that so you can caucus a little bit?

Everybody, I have just been informed by our National Judge Advocate and one of our esteemed Past National Commanders that Dorothy does have the right to have a seconding speech so if you will all settle down. And we will have Dorothy come to a microphone and she will give that speech. Okay? Thank you very much. Dorothy, you may give your seconding speech.

(Whereupon, Fourth Junior Vice Commander Reese advanced to a microphone as the membership began murmuring loudly.)

COMMANDER KARG: Please, please.

(Whereupon, the membership quieted down.)

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER REESE: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER REESE: My name is Dorothy Reese and I served as your National Fourth Junior Vice this year. I completed all my assignments that I was given. But I will give you some information about myself.

I've been a member of the Auxiliary for 19 years. And I have served as an officer at the Unit level from the very beginning. I became a state officer within three years and became state Commander in three years.

And through the—it was from 1999 through 2001. I served both Unit and state line all of the 19 years as a member, also several—also served as the Ninth District NEC.

I attended all national conventions except one and all the national fall conferences except one.

I have leadership qualities and represent the Auxiliary well. I have been serving our veterans and their families and have been humbled and yet proud to serve them.

I am active in my church as being on the Constitution Committee, the Stewardship Committee. I sing in the choir and I help with bible studies.

I am married to Ned Reese for over 11 years. He is a Vietnam veteran, served in the Army for over 30 years. And I am able to travel at any time and can travel on my own with my own funds.

I would consider it an honor and a privilege to serve you as National Third Junior Vice.

I make a motion to accept the motion of Dorothy, or myself, to the Third Junior Vice Commander. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: What state?

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER REESE: Georgia.

COMMANDER KARG: Are you all ready for the roll call?

(Whereupon, there was some discussion away from a microphone.)

COMMANDER KARG: Okay, hold on. Diane Franz has a speech, too. Thank you.

MRS. JEAN SURSELY: This is Jean Sursely.

(Response of "Hi, Jean.")

MRS. SURSELY: The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, Department of Florida, is proud to present Diane Franz as a candidate for National DAVA office 2015–2016.

Diane is eligible for the DAVA membership through her father, a 100 percent disabled veteran who served in the United States Army, stationed in Washington, D.C., as an M.P., attached to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Diane's parents are both active DAV and DAVA members, both serving in elected and appointed offices.

Diane was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, the youngest of three daughters. She graduated from Fairview High School. During her junior and senior years she participated in research projects conducted by Gannon University in Erie.

Upon graduation from high school Diane attended Edinboro University. Diane married her late husband, Paul, in 1972. Paul passed away from cancer in 2004. They have a son, Mark Ryan, and a grandson, Owen.

Diane is a very active volunteering—is very active volunteering at her sons school and serving as a member of the PTA. She was active in scouting, serving as her son's den leader.

She has also been involved in her church and her community. After moving to Orlando in 1995, Diane became involved in the National Junior ROTC Program at Cypress Creek High School. She began serving as the Coordinator of the Annual Awards for the school's ROTC Military Ball in 1995 and continues to do so today.

Diane first became active in the DAVA as a junior member in Erie, Pennsylvania. She became a life member of DAVA Unit 16 in Orlando, Florida, in 1995. She has served as our Commander, in addition to all the other elective offices.

She has served the Unit as chairman of the Ways and Means, Members, VAVS, and Legislative Committees. Diane has also served as the Unit Adjutant and is currently our Treasurer.

She also coordinates the monthly bingo party/birthday party that we have—it's a double party—sponsored by the DAVA Unit 16 and DAV Chapter 16 at the Orlando VA Community Living Center at Lake Nona. Diane also volunteers for DAV Chapter 16 fundraisers and special projects.

Diane was elected to the DAVA Department of Florida State Commander in 2009. And prior to serving as the state DAVA Commander she was elected to all the state office vice commander positions.

She has also been chairman of the Department Membership, Mae Holmes, Community Service, Standing Rules and Legislative Committees. Diane continues to serve as DAVA Department of Florida Adjutant, after being appointed in 2010.

Presently Diane is the VAVS rep at the Orlando VA Medical Center. She has served as the DAVA National Level as District 7 alternate NEC in 2008 and 2009 and 2010 and 2011.

As a member of the National Executive Committee in 2011 to 2013 she also served on the National Finance Committee. She was a member of the Communications and Technology Committee of the DAVA National Strategic Planning.

She has been actively involved at the national conventions, serving on the State History Book, Legislative, Community Service and Mae Holmes Convention Committees.

As a wife, mother, community volunteer, and devoted Disabled American Veterans' Auxiliary member, leader and volunteer, Diane Franz has all the abilities necessary to be an effective, respected DAVA national officer.

The DAVA of the Department of Florida respectfully asks for your support in electing Diane Franz as a Disabled American Veterans national officer for 2015–2016. Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Could we ask her to stand up so people know who she is?

COMMANDER KARG: Sure.

(Whereupon, Diane Franz stood to be recognized.)

COMMANDER KARG: There's Diane.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: There she is.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper advanced to the podium to conduct the roll call vote.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, what we will do, I will call out first—we will go, of course, by state, starting with Alabama. The Department delegate will come to the mic first and then the Units line up. That way we will get our procession going more quickly.

As a reminder, delegates and alternates, delegates may cast a vote; an alternate may cast a vote in the absence of the delegate. If your ribbon is green, you do not have permission to vote because you are registered as a guest.

And, also, when you do get up to cast your vote, you state your name clearly and the capacity in which you are voting. So if could all just please start lining up. So we have Alabama, please come up to the front so we can get the line.

Following them will be Arizona, then Arkansas, then California. So if you can kind of follow that flow. (Whereupon, delegate began lining up according to Adjutant Kemper's directions.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, when you do cast your vote, we don't have room on the sides for you to walk back so you will cast your vote and you will turn back around and go back down the aisle you came in.

One more thing, these reports were printed as of first thing this morning—

(Whereupon, as Adjutant Kemper was speaking the delegation murmuring increased in volume.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Please. Please. Please.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Come on now. This is serious.

(Whereupon, the delegation settled down.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: The report I will be reading from was printed first thing this morning.

We have had some registration changes but those are reflected in that final Credentials Report.

So there may be two or three whose Unit or state Department or Past National Commander or national office that will not be on this list so please get in line and if I don't call you, then you announce to me who you are and we will note it in the official records.

There was just no time to go back and try to print x number of copies on a small little printer in the office. So are we all ready?

(Response of "Yes.")

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, Department of Alabama, one vote.

MR. DOSS: Danny Doss, Department of Alabama Commander, Frances—

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Who was that?

MR. DOSS: Diane Franz.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Diane Franz.

MR. DOSS: Franz, excuse me.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay. One vote, Diane Franz. Okay. Alabama 70, two votes. Is Alabama 70 here? She is coming.

MS. CAROLYN HARRIS: Carolyn Harris, Unit 70, Alabama, we cast two votes for Diane Franz.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Two votes, Diane Franz. Okay. Arizona 1.

(Whereupon, a person called out from the delegation.)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Nobody is registered from the Department, unless that was changed this morning. Where is your badge? Everybody has to have a badge to cast a vote.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Oh, it's in my room.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: If you want to get it, we can come back to you. Okay? Is the Department alternate here?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I am Department.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Who is the delegate?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I am the Department delegate for Arizona.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: So you're the delegate and for the Unit. So we need either the Department delegate or alternate to cast the vote but you have to have your badge. So if you want to go get it and come back we will come back to you. Arizona Unit 1, 21 votes.

MS. AMBER LINTON: Amber Linton for Unit 1, Phoenix, we cast 21 votes to Diane Franz.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: I'm sorry. How many votes? All 21?

MS. LINTON: All 21.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Twenty-one votes, Diane Franz. What? Arizona 2, you get 16 votes.

MS. CAROL RUNDELL: Carol Rundell, Unit 2, casts all votes to—

ADJUTANT KEMPER: We have Dorothy Reese and we have Diane Franz.

MS. RUNDELL: Diane Franz.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Sixteen votes, Diane Franz.

MS. RUNDELL: That's correct.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay. Thank you. Arizona 20, that's Glendale Unit 20, you get 24 votes.

MS. DIANE STONE: Diane Stone, Arizona Unit 20, we cast all votes to Diane Franz, 24 votes.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Twenty-four votes for Diane Franz. Thank you. The State Department of Arkansas. One vote.

MS. LILLIE WILLIAMS: Lillie Williams, State of Arkansas, cast one vote for Diane Franz.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: One vote, Diane Franz. Okay. Greater Little Rock, Arkansas Unit Number 7, you get nine votes. Is that you?

MS. MARY REESE RODEN: Mary Reese Roden, Unit 7, I cast nine votes for Diane Franz.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Nine votes, Diane Franz. Arkansas Unit Number 46, two votes. Following Arkansas will be California if you want to get in line, then Colorado.

MS. MARGARET SCOTT: Margaret Scott, Unit 46, for Diane.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, two votes for Diane Franz.

MS. SCOTT: Right.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: From Unit 46, Arkansas. Okay. Thank you. Arkansas Unit Number 57, you get nine votes.

MS. CAROL STAKE: Carol Stake, Unit 57, we cast our vote for Diane Franz.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Nine votes, Diane Franz.

MS. STAKE: Yes, ma'am.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Thank you. The Department of California, State Department of California. One vote.

MS. SAMANTHA GALLIHER: Samantha Galliher, Commander, State Department of California, we cast our vote for Diane Franz.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: One vote for Diane Franz. Now we go to Oakland, California, Unit Number 7. Are they in the room? California Unit Number 7.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: She is coming.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay. They're indebted? I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Julie, you won't be able to cast the vote. There seems to be an issue with the Unit. Julie, if you would step over here to Melody and sign a paper then we can get you back in line to cast your vote.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER REESE: Adjutant.

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Yes, Dorothy.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER REESE: I, Dorothy Reese, remove my name from the nomination. (Applause)

ADJUTANT KEMPER: Dorothy Reese has announced that she is withdrawing her nomination from this election.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Kemper withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: All those in favor of Diane Franz for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; all those opposed. The ayes have it and Diane Franz has been elected to the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

Lynn Prosser has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander. Lynn, would you stand.

(Whereupon, Lynn Prosser stood to be recognized.)

COMMANDER KARG: Okay. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander.

All those in favor of Lynn Prosser for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; all those opposed. Lynn Prosser. (Applause) Lynn Prosser has been elected to the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander.

Donna Adams has been nominated for the Committee for the office of—by the Committee for the office of National Judge Advocate. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Judge Advocate.

All those in favor Donna Adams for the office of National Judge Advocate signify by saying aye; all those opposed. (Applause) The ayes have it and Donna Adams has been elected to the office of National Judge Advocate.

I would like to dismiss the tellers and thank you very much for putting your time in with us. We appreciate it.

(Whereupon, the tellers returned to their seats.)

COMMANDER KARG: Okay, will the current National Officers—current, please return to their seats for the head table.

(Whereupon, the National Officers assumed their stations at the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: All right, the election having been completed, I now ask for the National Sergeant-at-Arms to come to the podium for the purpose of introducing the National Executive Committee members and those members that served as pages. Didn't our Juniors do a wonderful job? (Applause)

(Whereupon, Sergeant-at-Arms Stake advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER KARG: Oh, National Color Bearers, I'd like to recognize the National Color Bearers that I had for the Convention. They are from my State of Minnesota. And they are Cindy Jones and Marilyn Hardt.

Are you in the room? Oh, well, please give them a round of applause. (Applause) They couldn't get into the hotel here so they are staying out at a Super 8 out by the airport so. Kim.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: First of all, I'd like to say, Commander LeeAnn, it's been an honor and a privilege.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: I would like to say a special—a special, special thank you for all the members that helped me in a bind. I've served with these ladies for, most of them, four years. So we're like this. And I'm going to ask them, as I call their name, please line up here in the front.

District 1, Sandy Fincel; District 2, Josephine Riveras; Number 3, Sylvia Heath; 4, Sarah Kashner; 5, Laurie Stopyra; 6, Carol Simmons; 7, Debbera McLaughlin; 8, Linda Bailey; 9, Lynn Prosser; 10, Carol Lee; 11, Deborah Hall; 12, Rose Williams; 13, Mabeline Stevens; 14, Joyce Jefferson; 15, Linda Gerke; 16, Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh; 17, Earnestine Bennett; 18, Rose McDuffie; 19, Barbara Reddin—

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: She had to leave. Family emergency.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: I still want to thank Mary for being part of this and for her support for my situation, because they helped me a lot. Linda Oliver, District 21.

(Whereupon, the members lined up as their names were called.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: A special group that I worked with this convention, a bunch of them had to leave, but I would like to call to the stage Katie from Missouri; Cody and Parker from Minnesota; Dominic from Texas; Conner, Clark, Olivia, Jeffrey. You guys all come up here. Could somebody tap him? Carla, tap him and tell him to come here.

(Whereupon, the juniors called advanced to the front.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Ashton Johniken, is she here? Ashton, Texas. Alyssa Smith. That's Jeffrey coming.

(Whereupon, the juniors called advanced to the front.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: I think the rest of them that helped me had to leave. And if your junior from your state had to leave please see Linda Oliver to get, so she would have a place to send something.

Here they are, Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER KARG: Everybody, everybody did a super, super job. Thank you all so much. There will be a little gift for the Juniors. They don't have it here right now so Linda Oliver will see that you get it.

So thank you very much, kids, for your time. And thank your parents for letting you be a part of our convention. We appreciate it. Thank you. (Applause)

All the pages are dismissed. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Sergeant-at-Arms Stake and the pages withdrew.)

COMMANDER KARG: All right, if there is no further business to come before this convention— hearing none, I declare the 93rd National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary hereby adjourned. We will—(Applause)

We will immediately go into our National Executive Committee meeting so officers if you would retire to the back of the room—newly-elected, sorry.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Commander?

COMMANDER KARG: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Could I make some remarks for the good of the order?

COMMANDER KARG: Yes, you may.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I would just like to say this voting strength that we were doing is very important. There was so much talk. We were asked I don't know how many times to be quiet. And that is not conducive to everyone else who is trying to listen.

Also, it is very inappropriate to clap when someone resigns, gives up their office. That's very—it's just not right. That is my remarks. Thank you.

COMMANDER KARG: Thank you. Okay, I now ask all NECs and alternates to take their seats in the designated areas in the front of the room. NECs to my right; alternates to my left and new officers to the rear.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:56 o'clock, a.m., on Tuesday, August 11, 2015.)

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# Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters

Financial Statements as of and for the  
Year Ended December 31, 2014, and  
Independent Auditors' Report



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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the National Finance Committee of  
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters (the "Auxiliary"), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2014, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Auxiliary's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Auxiliary's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Member of  
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Auxiliary as of December 31, 2014, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Deloitte + Touche LLP*

April 10, 2015

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014**

<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
<b>GENERAL ASSETS:</b>		<b>LIABILITIES:</b>	
Cash	\$ 764,031	Accounts payable and other liabilities	\$ 1,766,896
Investments	7,421,766	Contributions distributable to state departments	432,298
Accrued interest receivable	5,550	Deferred membership fees	<u>266,041</u>
Prepaid expenses	1,520		
Office equipment	4,368	Total liabilities	<u>2,465,235</u>
<b>SERVICE PROGRAM ASSETS:</b>		<b>LIFE MEMBERSHIP—Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues</b>	
Cash	11,609		<u>6,279,544</u>
Investments	323,886		
Accrued interest receivable	2,024		
Receivable from General fund	34,816		
<b>DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM ASSETS—Cash</b>		<b>NET ASSETS:</b>	
	4,018	Unrestricted	5,732,000
		Temporarily restricted:	
		Service Program	372,335
		Disaster Relief Program	4,018
		Education Loan/Scholarship Program	<u>1,266,726</u>
		Total net assets	7,375,079
<b>EDUCATION LOAN/SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ASSETS:</b>			
Cash	245,322		
Investments	495,991		
Accrued interest receivable	478		
Loans receivable (less reserve of \$10,675)	156,306		
Receivable from General fund	368,629		
<b>LIFE MEMBERSHIP ASSETS:</b>			
Investments	5,026,894		
Accrued interest receivable	3,557		
Receivable from General fund	1,249,093		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 16,119,858</u>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 16,119,858</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	Unrestricted General	Temporarily Restricted			Total
		Service Program	Disaster Relief Program	Education Loan/ Scholarship Program	
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE:</b>					
Membership fees and mandates	\$ 84,485	\$ 904	\$ -	\$ 765	\$ 86,154
Life membership distributions	457,712				457,712
Contributions	243,780	8,370		8,340	260,490
Contributed facilities	11,100				11,100
Conference and meetings	23,022				23,022
National convention	27,469				27,469
Interest and dividends	259,502	6,523		13,288	279,313
Realized investment gains	85,359	1,626		4,702	91,687
Net assets released from restrictions	58,895	(11,395)		(47,500)	-
Other	33,976				33,976
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>1,285,300</b>	<b>6,028</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(20,405)</b>	<b>1,270,923</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>					
Program services	826,247	4,721		11,582	842,550
Fundraising costs	164,431				164,431
General and administrative	225,220				225,220
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>1,215,898</b>	<b>4,721</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,582</b>	<b>1,232,201</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) OF INVESTMENTS</b>					
	69,402	1,307	-	(31,987)	38,722
<b>CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) OF INVESTMENTS</b>					
	(3,859)	5,492		(1,505)	128
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>65,543</b>	<b>6,799</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(33,492)</b>	<b>38,850</b>
<b>NET ASSETS—Beginning of year</b>	<b>5,666,457</b>	<b>365,536</b>	<b>4,018</b>	<b>1,300,218</b>	<b>7,336,229</b>
<b>NET ASSETS—End of year</b>	<b>\$5,732,000</b>	<b>\$372,335</b>	<b>\$4,018</b>	<b>\$1,266,726</b>	<b>\$7,375,079</b>

See notes to financial statements.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	<b>Program Services</b>	<b>Fund Raising Costs</b>	<b>General and Administrative</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>
Salaries and wages	\$ 264,173	\$ 16,204	\$ 84,108	\$ 364,485
Employee benefits	108,456	4,834	29,303	142,593
Distributions to state departments	107,517			107,517
Fundraising expenses		136,263		136,263
Payroll taxes	21,902	1,278	6,753	29,933
Conferences and meetings	74,007			74,007
Expenses of national convention	84,477			84,477
Printing, stationery and office supplies	23,895	2,945	2,224	29,064
Expenses of national commander and officers	55,995			55,995
Contributed facilities	7,026	2,256	1,818	11,100
Postage			24,500	24,500
Travel	10,559		91	10,650
Professional fees			31,812	31,812
Service program benefits	11,395			11,395
Scholarship program benefits	47,500			47,500
Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services, memberships, and other awards	6,821			6,821
Other	<u>18,827</u>	<u>651</u>	<u>44,611</u>	<u>64,089</u>
Total	<u>\$ 842,550</u>	<u>\$ 164,431</u>	<u>\$ 225,220</u>	<u>\$ 1,232,201</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

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CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Change in net assets	\$ 38,850
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:	
Change in unrealized appreciation in investments	68,672
Realized investment gains	(226,602)
Changes in assets and liabilities:	
Accrued interest receivable	2,120
Materials and supplies	3,736
Prepaid expenses	59,507
Receivable from General Fund	(494,686)
Accounts payable and other liabilities	(21,470)
Contributions distributable to state departments	30,393
Deferred membership fees	12,054
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	<u>124,040</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(403,386)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Purchases of investments	(4,954,544)
Proceeds from sale of investments	5,428,281
Collections from repayment of education loans	48,483
Proceeds on disposal of software development in process	<u>144,118</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>666,338</u>
NET INCREASE IN CASH	262,952
CASH:	
Beginning of year	<u>762,028</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 1,024,980</u>

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

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### 1. ORGANIZATION

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

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Financial Statements**—The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

**New Accounting Standards**—In October 2012, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2012-05, *Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230), Not-for-Profit Entities: Classification of the Sale Proceeds of Donated Financial Assets in the Statement of Cash Flows*. The ASU requires a Not-for-Profit to classify cash receipts from the sale of donated financial assets consistently with cash donations received in the statement of cash flows if those receipts were from the sale of donated financial assets that upon receipt were directed without any Not-for-Profit-imposed limitations for sale and were converted nearly immediately to cash. Accordingly, the cash receipts from the sale of those financial assets should be classified as cash inflows from operating activities, unless the donor restricted the use of contributed resources to long-term purposes, in which case those receipts should be classified as cash flows from financing activities. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after June 15, 2013 and should be applied prospectively. DAVA has adopted the ASU and it did not have a material impact on DAVA's presentation of cash flows.

**Cash**—DAVA maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts, which, at times, exceed federally insured limits. DAVA has not experienced any losses in such accounts.

**Education Loan Receivable**—Students who receive education loans are required to begin repayment six months after completion of their educational programs. DAVA maintains a reserve for uncollectible loans. The amount of the reserve is equal to 100% of all loans for which no payments were received in the last twelve months.

**Contributions**—Contributions received are recorded at their fair value and are classified as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted support. All contributions are considered available for unrestricted use, unless specifically restricted by the donor. Support that is restricted by the donor is reported as an increase in unrestricted net assets if the restriction expires in the reporting period in which the support is recognized.

**Deferred Membership Fees**—DAVA accounts for membership fees by deferring fees received in advance of the membership year (July 1 to June 30) and amortizing them to revenue ratably during the

membership year for which they apply. Effective with the membership year beginning July 1, 2015, the DAVA will no longer offer annual senior and annual junior memberships. The only memberships available will be life memberships.

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

**Use of Estimates**—The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual amounts could differ from those estimates.

### 3. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Under the bylaws of DAVA, any eligible person may become a life member. Amounts paid for membership are placed in separate life membership accounts and invested; the only withdrawals permitted from these accounts are amounts required to pay local units, state departments, and National Headquarters (DAVA) per capita dues for services to be provided to the life members. Generally, life membership assets for National Headquarters per capita dues are transferred to the general assets of DAVA at the beginning of the membership year (July 1) and deferred and recognized as revenue in the statement of activities over the course of the membership year. The per capita chapter and department dues are distributed at the beginning of the membership year. The reserve for future distribution of membership dues represents the liability for the future life membership distributions to DAVA, departments, and units to assist with providing member services.

The changes during 2014 in the reserve for future distribution of life membership dues are as follows:

Balance—January 1, 2014	\$ 6,155,504
Additions:	
Membership dues received	422,440
Earnings on invested assets	179,656
Gain on sale of investments	<u>138,234</u>
Total additions	<u>740,330</u>
Deductions:	
Dues to National Headquarters	459,176
Dues to local units	24,522
Dues to State Departments	52,276
Investment fee	<u>11,516</u>
Total deductions	<u>547,490</u>
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>(68,800)</u>
Balance—December 31, 2014	<u>\$ 6,279,544</u>

### 4. INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES

Investments are recorded at fair value. The fair value of DAVA's investments is determined based on the quoted market prices of the related securities or quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are

observable in active markets. Gains and losses on the sale of investment securities are recognized based upon the specific identification method and are reflected as a separate component of revenue for the investments. DAVA's policy is to report cash equivalents, which includes money market funds, within its trust accounts as investments.

The cost and fair value of investments in securities and the net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2014, are summarized below:

<b>2014</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)</b>
<b>General fund:</b>			
Cash equivalents	\$ 204,160	\$ 204,160	\$ -
Mutual funds/ETFs—domestic equity	582,561	821,256	238,695
Mutual funds—international equity	249,660	276,189	26,529
Mutual funds—domestic fixed income	5,533,935	5,533,832	(103)
Mutual funds—international fixed income	<u>658,805</u>	<u>586,329</u>	<u>(72,476)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$7,229,121</u></b>	<b><u>\$7,421,766</u></b>	<b><u>\$192,645</u></b>
<b>Service Program:</b>			
Cash equivalents	\$ 8,285	\$ 8,285	\$ -
US government securities	32,120	32,027	(93)
US government agency notes	41,937	41,862	(75)
Municipal bonds	18,612	18,783	171
Corporate bonds	94,803	94,963	160
Common stocks	59,193	70,618	11,425
Mutual funds/ETFs—domestic equity	42,912	43,169	257
Mutual funds/ETFs—domestic fixed income	<u>14,180</u>	<u>14,179</u>	<u>(1)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 312,042</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 323,886</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 11,844</u></b>
<b>Education Loan Program:</b>			
Cash equivalents	\$ 8,725	\$ 8,725	\$ -
US government securities	13,152	13,082	(70)
US government agency notes	4,336	4,319	(17)
Corporate bonds	25,571	25,627	56
Common stocks	67,542	80,372	12,830
Mutual funds/ETFs—domestic equity	63,262	63,517	255
Mutual funds/ETFs—domestic fixed income	<u>311,309</u>	<u>300,349</u>	<u>(10,960)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 493,897</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 495,991</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 2,094</u></b>
<b>Life membership:</b>			
Cash equivalents	\$ 97,370	\$ 97,370	\$ -
Mutual funds/ETFs—domestic equity	404,526	573,015	168,489
Mutual funds—international equity	201,159	187,196	(13,963)
Mutual funds—domestic fixed income	3,772,892	3,774,864	1,972
Mutual funds—international fixed income	<u>443,323</u>	<u>394,449</u>	<u>(48,874)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$4,919,270</u></b>	<b><u>\$5,026,894</u></b>	<b><u>\$107,624</u></b>

As of December 31, 2014, the amount of securities in a continuous unrealized loss position for a duration of greater than twelve months is not material.

## 5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value, as follows: Level 1, which refers to securities valued using unadjusted quoted prices from active markets for identical assets; Level 2, which refers to securities not traded on an active market but for which observable market inputs are readily available; and Level 3, which refers to securities valued based on significant unobservable inputs. Assets are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The DAVA did not hold any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement (Level 3) during 2014.

The DAVA's policy is to recognize transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no transfers between Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3 during 2014.

**Asset Valuation Techniques**—Valuation techniques used maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets recorded at fair value. There has been no change in the methodologies used at December 31, 2014.

Cash equivalents, composed of money market funds, are categorized as Level 1. Such investments are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The money market fund represents DAVA's shares in a registered investment company's fund.

Corporate bonds, municipal bonds and U.S. Government agency notes held are categorized as Level 2. They are valued using third-party pricing services. These services may use, for example, model-based pricing methods that utilize observable market data as inputs. Broker dealer bids or quotes of securities with similar characteristics may also be used.

Common stocks and U.S. Government securities (U.S. Treasury Notes) held are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the individual security is traded.

Shares of registered investment companies (mutual funds) are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at quoted market prices that represent the net asset value of shares held at year-end.

The major categories of financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2014, are as follows:

Asset Category	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
General fund			
Cash equivalents	\$ 204,160	\$ -	\$ 204,160
Mutual funds/ETFs:			
Domestic equity funds	821,256		821,256
International equity funds	276,189		276,189
Domestic fixed income funds	5,533,832		5,533,832
International fixed income funds	586,329		586,329
Total mutual funds	<u>7,217,606</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,217,606</u>
Total	<u>\$ 7,421,766</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 7,421,766</u>
Service Program:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 8,285	\$ -	\$ 8,285
US government securities	32,027		32,027
US government agency notes		41,862	41,862
Municipal bonds		18,783	18,783
Corporate bonds		94,963	94,963
Common stocks	70,618		70,618
Mutual funds/ETFs—domestic equity funds	43,169		43,169
Mutual funds/ETFs—domestic fixed income	14,179		14,179
Total	<u>\$ 168,278</u>	<u>\$ 155,608</u>	<u>\$ 323,886</u>
Education Loan Program:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 8,725	\$ -	\$ 8,725
US government securities	13,082		13,082
US government agency notes		4,319	4,319
Corporate bonds		25,627	25,627
Common stocks	80,372		80,372
Mutual funds/ETFs—domestic equity funds	63,517		63,517
Mutual funds/ETFs—domestic fixed income funds	300,349		300,349
Total	<u>\$ 466,045</u>	<u>\$ 29,946</u>	<u>\$ 495,991</u>
Life membership			
Cash equivalents	\$ 97,370	\$ -	\$ 97,370
Mutual funds/ETFs:			
Domestic equity funds	573,015		573,015
International equity funds	187,196		187,196
Domestic fixed income funds	3,774,864		3,774,864
International fixed-income funds	394,449		394,449
Total mutual funds	<u>4,929,524</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,929,524</u>
Total	<u>\$ 5,026,894</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,026,894</u>

## 6. FREEDOMS FOUNDATION

DAVA has designated \$4,491 of unrestricted funds for the purpose of providing financial aid to elementary and secondary school teachers attending annual summer teaching seminars held at the Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. This amount is included in Other Liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

## 7. DONOR RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

**Service Program**—Donations from individuals and amounts received from each unit as a mandate for the Service Program are recorded as temporarily restricted net assets, which are used for persons eligible for DAVA who are in need of temporary financial assistance in accordance with the bylaws of DAVA. The total amount of assistance is limited to \$1,000 per individual and in the aggregate is limited to total temporarily restricted net assets. Benefits are paid directly to the service provider and not to the individual.

**Disaster Relief Program**—Donations from units and individuals for disaster relief are recorded as temporarily restricted net assets, which are used for members of DAV and DAVA who are in need of temporary financial assistance due to natural disaster, such as flood, earthquake, etc. Donations from this fund are made to DAV and benefits are paid by DAV directly to the individual.

**Education Loan/Scholarship Program**—Effective in 2011, the Education Loan Program was discontinued and replaced with a scholarship program. Donations from individuals and amounts received from each unit as a mandate for scholarships are recorded as temporarily restricted assets from which scholarships are awarded to students in accordance with the by-laws of DAVA. In 2014, there were 36 scholarships in amounts ranging from \$250 to \$1,500 issued to selected Auxiliary member applicants for a total of \$47,500. The existing education loans are still required to be repaid in accordance with the terms of the original loan agreements, which includes full repayment within 7 years of graduation or withdrawal from school. At December 31, 2014, the total amount of loans outstanding was \$156,306, net of reserve.

## 8. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Certain employees of DAVA are covered by the Disabled American Veterans Retirement Plan, a defined benefit pension plan. The benefits are based on years of service and the employee's compensation. Contributions are intended to provide not only for benefits attributed to service to-date, but also for those expected in the future. In 2014, DAV charged DAVA \$142,593 for its share of the retirement plan cost, as well as other benefits for employees, including health and life insurance and contributions to a defined contribution plan.

DAV provides certain health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees and their spouses. All employees of DAVA may become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for DAVA. In 2014, DAV did not charge DAVA for these benefits. Such amounts are immaterial.

## 9. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

DAV provides services to the DAVA, which puts DAV in the position to influence operating policies of DAVA.

DAVA occupies space in the DAV National Headquarters' building and also uses certain office equipment owned by DAV. No fees are charged for such usage. The value of these contributed facilities is estimated to be \$11,100 in 2014 and is included as revenue and expense on the accompanying statement of activities.

Certain costs are paid by DAV National Headquarters on behalf of DAVA. Such costs are reimbursed by DAVA. As of December 31, 2014, DAVA owed approximately \$58,575 for such costs, which is recorded as an accounts payable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

#### **10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

No events have occurred after December 31, 2014, but before April 10, 2015, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

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