

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations  
and Board of Veterans Services  
Veterans Roundtable with Governor McDonnell  
August 14, 2013**

The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) and the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) held a Veterans Roundtable with Governor Bob McDonnell on Wednesday, August 14, 2013 at VFW Post 1503, 14631 Minnieville Rd, Woodbridge. No business was conducted and no roll was called.

**JLC Members and Alternate Members Present**

- Donald Kaiserman, *Association of the United States Army, JLC Chairman*
- Brett Reistad, *American Legion*
- Richard Mansfield, *AMVETS*
- John Sabatini, *AMVETS*
- Jeff Gilmartin, *Fleet Reserve Association*
- Tim Whitmore, *Korean War Veterans Association*
- Thomas Richards, *Legion of Valor of the U.S., Inc.*
- Vic Pena, *Military Officers Association of America*
- William Barrett, *Military Order of the World Wars*
- Dan Dennison, *National Association for Uniformed Services*
- Frank Driscoll, *Navy Seabee Veterans of America*
- Carmen Gentile, *Reserve Officers Association*
- Kelly Niernberger, *Reserve Officers Association*
- Thomas Gimble, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*
- Thad Jones, *Chairman, Board of Veterans Services*
- Richard Schollmann, *Chairman, Veterans Services Foundation*
- Paul Galanti, *Commissioner, Department of Veterans Services*

**BVS Members Present**

- Thad Jones, *BVS Chairman*
- L. Max Beyer
- Donald Kaiserman
- Kate Kohler
- Senator Toddy Puller
- Brett Reistad, *representing the JLC*
- Richard Schollmann, *Chairman, Veterans Services Foundation*
- Paul Galanti, *Commissioner, Department of Veterans Services*

**Elected Officials Present**

- Governor Bob McDonnell
- Senator Charles Colgan, *Senate of Virginia*
- Senator Toddy Puller, *Senate of Virginia*

- Delegate Mark Dudenhefer, *Virginia House of Delegates*
- Delegate Scott Lingamfelter, *Virginia House of Delegates*
- Delegate David Ramadan, *Virginia House of Delegates*
- Supervisor Michael May, *Prince William County Board of County Supervisors*

### **State Officials Present**

- Terrie L. Suit, *Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security*
- James Hopper, *Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security*
- Adam Smith, *Defense Research Analyst, Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security*
- Paul Galanti, *Commissioner, Department of Veterans Services*
- Catherine Wilson, *Deputy Commissioner, Department of Veterans Services*
- Steven Combs, *Director of Policy & Planning, Department of Veterans Services*
- Tina Parlett-Calhoun, *Director of Communications, Department of Veterans Services*
- Jason Williams, *Benefits District Manager, Department of Veterans Services*
- Members of the Governor's office traveling with him as part of the Governor's "This Commonwealth of Opportunity" Statewide Tour

### **Others Present included**

- Representatives of the *Washington Post* and *NBC 4 Washington*
- Veterans and honored guests

### **Materials Distributed**

- JLC 2014 Position Papers and Summary
- BVS 2014 Position Papers and Summary

JLC Chairman Don Kaiserman called the Veterans Roundtable to order at 4:15 p.m. Governor McDonnell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

JLC Chairman Donald Kaiserman covered the seven initiatives proposed by the JLC for the 2014 General Assembly session, noting that the proposals came from the 24 veterans service organizations represented on the JLC.

BVS Chairman Thad Jones covered the three initiatives proposed by the BVS for the 2014 General Assembly session, noting that the BVS was organized into three committees, and that the three initiatives represented the detailed work done by the committees.

Governor McDonnell thanked the members of the JLC and BVS, the elected and state officials present, and the members of the audience for their service and sacrifice. He reviewed the many programs and services Virginia offers to veterans, military service members, and their families. Governor McDonnell emphasized the great strides that have been made over the past four years in making Virginia the most veteran-friendly state in the nation, especially in the areas of education, employment, and wounded warrior care. He underscored that the progress made was a result of the combined efforts of the veterans, veterans service organizations, the JLC and BVS,

the General Assembly, and the Governor's office. He thanked the JLC and BVS for putting together a comprehensive set of budget and policy recommendations, noting that he and his staff would give the recommendations full consideration as part of the budget and policy development process, which commences in September.

The floor was opened to questions from the BVS and JLC members and from members of the audience, with JLC Chairman Kaiserman moderating. Questions were asked related to veterans education, wounded warrior care (post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury), funding for veterans programs, and disability claims processing at the federal level. The questions were answered by Governor McDonnell, Secretary Suit, Commissioner Galanti, or Deputy Commissioner Wilson.

Governor McDonnell thanked the members of the JLC and BVS, the elected and state officials, and the members of the audience for participating in the veterans roundtable, noting the great value of this type of forum in getting direct input to state officials on budget and policy issues. He asked Secretary Suit and Commissioner Galanti to take the lead in researching the issues presented at the roundtable.

The roundtable ended at 5:15 p.m.