

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2014

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on October 15, 2014, at the American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond.

Members Present

- Harold Barton, Air Force Association
- Richard Mansfield, AMVETS
- Donald Kaiserman, Association of the United States Army
- Rich Rinaldo, Legion of Valor
- John Prendergast, Marine Corps League
- Stuart Williams, Military Officers Association of America
- Robert Fairchild, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Thomas Moran, National Association for Uniformed Services
- Glenn Rodriguez, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- David Coffield, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Carmen Gentile, Reserve Officers Association
- James Clem, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Thomas Gimble, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- George Corbett, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Shawn Otto, Virginia National Guard Association
- Steven Combs, representing the Board of Veterans Services
- Rich Schollmann, Chairman, Veterans Services Foundation
- John L. Newby II, Commissioner of Veterans Services

Members Absent

- George Coker, American Ex-POWs
- Brett Reistad, American Legion
- Allan McCroskey, Disabled American Veterans
- Abe Zino, Fleet Reserve Association
- John Edwards, Korean War Veterans Association
- William Barrett, Military Order of the World Wars
- Matthew Dailey, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- Robert Huffman, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
- Marie Juliano, Women Marines Association

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- Rick Oertel, American Legion
- Curtis Jennings, Disabled American Veterans
- Bill Ashton, Fleet Reserve Association

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- Vic Pena, MOAA Alternate
- Curtis Jennings, Disabled American Veterans

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- John C. Harvey, Jr., Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Leslie Frazier, Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Al Pianalto, Office of Delegate Kirk Cox
- Christina Lipin, Department of Motor Vehicles
- James Chambliss, Department of Veterans Services
- Tom Herthel, Department of Veterans Services
- Brandi Jancaitis, Department of Veterans Services
- Martina Murray, Department of Veterans Services
- Judy Reid, Department of Veterans Services
- Annie Walker, Department of Veterans Services
- Danielle Weaver, Department of Veterans Services

Others Present

- Bill Brown, Old Dominion University, Military Connection Center
- John R. Clickener, Marine Corps League
- Bob Larned, Executive Director of Military Education, ECPI
- James Mark Lynch, SVA Innsbrook, ECPI
- Jason Lister, SVA Innsbrook, ECPI
- John Smart, VFW
- Bill Whitt, Fleet Reserve Association
- Ken Wiserman, VFW

Items included in the Agenda Packet

Agenda (Agenda Item I)

Reports (Agenda Item III)

- Board of Veterans Services Report
- Veterans Services Foundation Report
- Department of Veterans Services Report

Old Business (Agenda Item IV)

- JLC 2015 Initiatives – summary

New Business (Agenda Item VI)

- JLC Appointed Officers 2014-2015
- Proposed changes to JLC ByLaws

Items distributed at the meeting

- Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) “Virginia Troops to Trucks” brochure

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Thomas “Chip” Moran called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the agenda

Mr. David Coffield made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Carmen Gentile, to approve the agenda as presented. The **motion** carried **unanimously** (see Attachment 1).

Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination

The roll was called, and 18 of the 24 veterans service organizations (VSOs) represented on the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) were recorded as being represented. A quorum was determined. Mr. Steven Combs represented the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) in Vice Chairman Johnny Johnson’s absence. Mr. Rich Schollmann, the Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF), and Commissioner John Newby of the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) were recorded as present.

Introductions of Guests

Chairman Moran asked Mr. Combs to introduce the guests. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chairman Moran welcomed them to the meeting.

Chairman Moran welcomed new DVS Commissioner John L. Newby II to the Council.

Chairman Moran introduced Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, the Honorable John C. Harvey, Jr., who outlined his primary area of focus for veterans issues in the Commonwealth, including:

- Reaching young, Post-9/11 veterans;
- Creating pathways to employment and education;
- Collaboration with other agencies and the state higher education system;
- The decline in federal defense spending;
- Governor McAuliffe’s goal of building the new Virginia economy, and the need to capture the talent, skills, and abilities that veterans will bring to the new Virginia economy;
- Urgent need to strengthen the DVS Benefits Services section;
- Request for study by the General Assembly’s Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to ensure that state veterans services are properly organized and resourced; and
- Urgent need to expand employment and transition services in DVS – Virginia Value Veterans (V3) Program and the Virginia Transition Assistance Program (VTAP).

Chairman Chip Moran stated that it is clearly evident that the Secretary and Commissioner are headed in a new direction and that the JLC will support the Secretary and Commissioner every step of the way. He added that the JLC has the respect of the Governor and General Assembly and we can work together to make a difference.

Approve July 16, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Mr. James Clem made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Carmen Gentile, to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2014 JLC meeting as drafted. The **motion** carried **unanimously**.

Reports

Board of Veterans Services

Mr. Combs gave the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) report (see *Attachment 2*).

Veterans Services Foundation

Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Chairman Rich Schollmann gave the VSF report (see *Attachment 3*).

Department of Veterans Services

Commissioner Newby delivered the report of the Department of Veterans Services (see *Attachment 4*).

Commissioner Newby recognized Ms. Christina Lipin of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and all that she has done in support of Virginia's military service members and veterans. He singled out the *Troops To Trucks* program. He noted that Ms. Lipin was leaving her job at DMV and that her last day would be October 31.

Commissioner Newby introduced Mr. Tom Herthel, the new DVS Director of Benefits, noting that he had already identified ways to strengthen the Benefit Services section. Commissioner Newby also announced the hiring of Ms. Victoria Baldwin as the new training coordinator.

Chairman Moran called for a break at 11:05 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:16 a.m.

Old Business

JLC 2015 Initiatives

The JLC reviewed the six JLC 2015 Initiatives adopted at the July 16 meeting. After extensive discussion, it was the consensus of the members that the initiatives would stand as adopted and prioritized at the July meeting. The summary of initiatives is included as *Attachment 5*.

Presentation, Guest Speakers, and Discussion

Ms. Annie Walker, Director of the DVS Veterans Education, Training, and Employment (VETE) section, led the presentation on the structure and mission of the VETE section:

- Ms. Martina Murray covered the State Approving Agency and the history of the G.I. Bill;
- Mr. James Chambliss covered OJT and Apprenticeship Programs;
- Ms. Walker covered the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP).

The VETE presentation is not included in these minutes, but is available from DVS upon request.

Mr. Bob Larned, Executive Director of Military Education, ECPI, covered ECPI programs for military and veteran students, highlighting the special focus placed on their success. He was joined by Mr. Jason Lister and Mr. James Lynch, SVA Innsbrook ECPI, who gave an overview of student veterans programs and issues.

The ECPI presentation is included as part of the VETE presentation and is available upon request from DVS.

Mr. Bill Brown, Old Dominion University (ODU), covered ODU programs and services for student veterans. He was joined by Mr. Ken Wiseman, a VFW member, who shared his perspective on student veterans issues, noting that he thought that work study programs were very successful.

Chairman Moran stated that there is a lot more that Virginia can do for student veterans and that ODU was the best college for veterans. He thanked all the presenters for sharing their valuable experience and expertise with the Council.

New business and open discussion

Approve JLC Appointed Officers for 2104-2015

Chairman Moran asked for a motion to approve the JLC appointed officers for 2014-2015. Mr. David Coffield made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Clem, that the JLC appointed officers for 2014-2015 be approved as presented. The **motion** carried **unanimously**. The list of appointed officers is included as *Attachment 6*.

JLC Constitution and ByLaws Review

Mr. Pete Fairchild, Chairman of the JLC Constitution & ByLaws Committee, stated that the Committee recommended three changes to the JLC ByLaws:

1. Article 1, Paragraph 1a.: delete “ and with the approval of the Commissioner,”
2. Article 1, Paragraph 1g.: add, at the end of the paragraph: “The Chair shall appoint a JLC member as acting chair to preside at any JLC meeting from which both the Chair and Vice-Chair anticipate that they will be absent.”
3. Article IV, add the words “or the appointed acting chair” after “including an elected officer.”

Mr. Fairchild stated that the proposed changes had been distributed in advance of the meeting and made a **motion** to adopt the revised ByLaws as presented. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Coffield and **carried unanimously**.

Public Comment

Mr. Al Pianalto reminded everyone that the election will be held on November 4 and there will be a referendum to change the Virginia Constitution to provide a property tax exemption for the

surviving spouses of military service members killed in action. He asked all members to support the proposed change and noted that he had brought information from the Virginia Department of Elections about the proposal.

Closing Remarks and Preparation for Next Meeting

Mr. Combs stated that Mr. Jack Hilgers sends his regrets that he was not able to attend today's meeting, but that he wanted to remind all members that the next JLC 2015 Conference at the General Assembly will be on Thursday, January 15.

Chairman Moran gave a brief overview of a proposal, made by Senator John Miller, related to the creation of a mechanism for school systems to identify military children. He stated that this was an issue reviewed and endorsed by the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunity for Military Children, and that Senator Miler had requested the JLC's endorsement of this issue. Chairman Moran noted that the JLC was a strong advocate for Virginia becoming a signatory to the Compact.

Chairman Moran asked for a motion to support Senator Miller's proposed legislation. Mr. Coffield made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Clem, that JLC endorse Senator Miller's proposal. The **motion** carried **unanimously**.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Chairman Moran called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Stu Williams made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Thomas Gimble, to adjourn. The **motion** carried **unanimously** and the meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m. A lunch was served after the meeting.

ATTACHMENT 1

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
American Legion Building
1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond
October 15, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.**

AGENDA

- I. Opening, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call and Quorum Determination, Approval of Agenda, and Introduction of Guests – *Chip Moran, JLC Chairman* (10:00 – 10:10)
 - II. Approve July 16, 2014 meeting minutes – *Chip Moran, JLC Chairman* (10:10 – 10:15)
 - III. Reports (10:15 – 10:35)
 - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Johnny Johnson, BVS Vice Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Rich Schollmann, VSF Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - c. Department of Veterans Services – *John Newby, Commissioner* (10 minutes)
 - IV. Old business – JLC 2015 Initiatives (10:35 – 10:55)
- BREAK (10:55 – 11:00)
- V. Presentation, Guest Speakers, and Discussion (11:00 – 12:15)
 - a. Presentation: Veterans Education, Training, and Employment (VETE) programs, Department of Veterans Services (DVS) – *Annie Walker, Director, VETE, DVS*
 - b. Guest speakers
 - c. Discussion
 - VI. New business and open discussion – *Chip Moran, JLC Chairman* (12:15 – 12:25)
 - VII. Public comment period (12:25 – 12:30)
 - VIII. Closing remarks and preparation for next meeting – *Chip Moran, JLC Chairman* (12:30 – 12:35)
 - IX. Adjourn (12:35)

ATTACHMENT 2

REPORT TO THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (JLC) OF VETERANS SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS October 15, 2014

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on July 22 and October 7.

At the July 22 meeting, the BVS:

- Adopted two BVS 2015 initiatives (see attached summary). The top BVS recommendation is directly aligned with the JLC's top priority;
- Voted unanimously to endorse and support the six JLC 2015 initiatives;
- Elected new officers for 2014-2016:
 - Chairman: Don Kaiserman
 - Vice Chairman: Johnny Johnson
 - Secretary: Susan Hippen
- Recognized outgoing Chairman Thad Jones for over four years of outstanding service as BVS Chairman.

At the October 7 meeting, the BVS:

- Received an overview of current operations and projects at the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) from Bill Van Thiel, Administrator;
- Received an overview of current operations and projects at Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC) from Sandra Ranicki, Administrator;
- Toured SBVCC (led by SBVCC Administrator Sandra Ranicki);
- Reviewed the status of the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center projects;
- Adopted the BVS 2015 meeting schedule/action plan (see attached).

I know I speak for all of the Board when I say how much we look forward to our continued partnership with the JLC in 2014-2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Johnny G. Johnson
Vice Chairman

ATTACHMENT 3
VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION
REPORT TO
Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations
October 15, 2014

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees has held one meeting since the last JLC meeting. A meeting was held on August 6, 2014 with a quorum present and the Development and Finance Committees met before the Board meeting. The following events occurred and actions taken at the meeting, in addition to the usual reports and updates on VWWP and V3.

- (1) Reviewed Foundation income, expenses, and fundraising events conducted during FY14;
- (2) Approved the 4th Quarter FY14 VSF Financial Reports;
- (3) Approved VSF FY15 Goals and Objectives;
- (4) Approved changes to VSF-DVS Joint Policies #1, 2, 3, 4, and 5;
- (5) Approved appointing new members John Lesinski to the Development Committee and Matice Wright to the Finance Committee;
- (6) Approved Brad Antle and Pat Webb as Development Committee Chair and Vice Chair; and
- (7) Approved Jack Kavanaugh and Frank Driscoll as Finance Committee Chair and Vice Chair.

As of 3 October, the Foundation has received donations during FY15 of about \$162,000, of which over \$130,000 is for VWWP. This does not include significant funds for V3; \$100,000 from Altria and \$10,000 from Dominion Resources. As always, the Foundation extends its sincere congratulations to the outstanding outreach of all DVS activities to realize this significant fundraising level. It could not have been accomplished without the dedication of all DVS personnel.

The Board has a new member appointed by the Governor in September to take James Schenck's place. She is Dr. Kathleen Levingston who is the Director of the Military Connection Center and an Associate Professor of Counseling and Human Services at Old Dominion University.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2014 at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the First Quarter FY15 Financial Statement; (2) approval of the review and updates of VSF-DVS Joint Policies #6, 7, 8, 9 and 10; (3) refine a new draft policy on charitable bequests/planned giving; (4) review VSF FY15 fundraising program and projections; (5) and new member appointment to a Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Schollmann
VSF Chairman

ATTACHMENT 4



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Veterans Services

John L. Newby II
Commissioner

Telephone: (804) 786-0286
Fax: (804) 786-0302

Memorandum for: Chairman Chip Moran
Members, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

From: John L. Newby II, Commissioner

Date: October 15, 2014

Subject: Department of Veterans Services report

I am honored to join the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) as your Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services (DVS). I look forward to continuing the legacy of service that Commissioner Paul Galanti instilled here and to building on the outstanding partnership he established with the JLC. I have already met many of you, and look forward to personally talking with those I have not yet had the pleasure to meet.

I cannot promise that future DVS reports to the JLC will be as extensive, but there are a number of key issues I wished to cover with you. I will work hard to keep the lines of communication open with you, and look forward to receiving your feedback in return.

Budget

State revenue shortfalls are impacting all state agencies, DVS included. The General Assembly met in special session in September, and passed legislation requiring significant spending reductions. As part of the budget he introduces in December, Governor McAuliffe is required to present savings strategies totaling \$272 million in FY2016. The Governor is also required to reduce state agency spending by \$102 million in FY2015.

To meet these requirements, all state agencies were required to submit budget reduction

strategies totaling 5% of the General Fund appropriation in FY2015 and 7% in FY2016. The FY2016 reductions will form the “base” – i.e. the starting point – for the FY2017 appropriation. In other words, these likely will be permanent cuts. The Governor, the Cabinet, and state budget officials are carefully reviewing each proposal. I do not know yet what the final outcome will be, but I will communicate this to you as soon as I know.

State agencies have also been directed to look for one-time savings and Nongeneral Fund (NGF) cash balances that can be applied towards closing the budget gap. DVS will do our part, but we are facing some very difficult decisions to balance service delivery with fiscal stewardship. Again, all of this is currently under review, and I will inform you as soon as I know for certain what we are facing.

In all of this, my first priority is protecting our core services and our DVS employees – they are at the heart of all that we do. Governor McAuliffe and Secretary Harvey are committed to delivering excellent services to Virginia’s veterans, military, and their families.

Governor’s support of veterans issues

Governor McAuliffe has made *Veterans and Military Families* one of his nine 2014 Governor’s Enterprise Strategic Priorities. Key priorities for the Governor include:

- Workforce Development (employment and education);
- Ending veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 (achieve functional zero); and
- Family Support.

On August 13, Governor McAuliffe signed Executive Order 23 (EO23), *Establishing the New Virginia Economy Workforce Initiative*. Virginia’s veterans are a central focus of EO23:

2. Create seamless transitions for Virginia’s veterans by providing high quality education and workforce services that accelerate career opportunities.

At present, over 840,000 veterans reside in Virginia. Since 2000, Virginia has had high growth in its veteran population, and, more specifically, those veterans under the age of 25. With a strong military presence, defense activities, and civilian contractors, Virginia is a leader of veteran employment strategies through the Department of Veteran Services’ Virginia Values Veterans (V3) program. V3 educates employers to recruit, hire, and retain veterans. However, more resources and services are needed to enhance this program. In addition, actual skill sets and academic transcripts must be quickly evaluated for transferability. Virginia must take a multifaceted approach to building a comprehensive veteran workforce services initiative.

- *“Our Patriot Pledge” - Virginia will request that 10,000 businesses sign pledges of commitment for hiring our veterans. In addition, by the end of the administration, Virginia will double the number of veterans hired through the V3 program.*

- *Action Item: By November 30, 2014, the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, in consultation with Virginia’s Workforce System, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, the Department of Veterans Services, and each of the education and workforce development agencies and programs within Virginia’s Workforce System will present a plan to the Governor on how to recruit and retain veterans in Virginia. The plan will outline how Virginia will convert military experience and training into academic or workforce credentials, simplify and accelerate the education and workforce credentialing process toward a career, create online portals with information and services that support the transition process, and build an awareness of careers and services that Virginia offers as the preeminent state for veterans.*

We need your help to ensure our veterans can secure employment. Please encourage Virginia businesses – large and small – to take the “Our Patriot Pledge” to hire veterans by visiting the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) website at <http://www.dvsv3.com/>.

I will keep you updated on the progress of these and other initiatives – please be sure to visit the DVS website regularly for updates on state veterans initiatives.

DVS – current services, construction projects, and new initiatives

In spite the looming budget reductions facing all state agencies, the men and women of your Department of Veterans Services continue to provide outstanding service. Listed below are just a few highlights of current services, construction projects, and new initiatives:

- **Veterans Benefits:**
 - Tom Herthel joined the DVS Executive Leadership Team last month as the Director of Veterans Benefits. Tom brings a wealth of leadership and management experience to the DVS team. He has already visited many of the DVS field offices, has met with representatives of several VSOs, and established a working relationship with senior leaders at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) regional office in Roanoke. In an effort to better assess the status of DVS Benefits’ facilities, processes, and policies, Mr. Herthel intends to visit all benefits field offices by December 5.
 - Victoria Baldwin has joined the DVS team as the new training coordinator. She will provide support to all agency sections.
 - Getting our Benefits section “healthy” is a priority for me and the Secretary. I look forward to working with you to find solutions to ensure that DVS continues to deliver top-notch claims and benefits services for our veterans.
- **Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP):**
 - VWWP continues to assist Virginia communities in their efforts to start veteran treatment dockets to address mental health and substance abuse concerns among

- veterans in the criminal justice system. VWWP has partnered with courts in Hampton and Fairfax.
- VWWP Executive Director Brandi Jancaitis presented at the Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference hosted by the Department of Social Services Office of Volunteerism and Community Service on September 12. The panel, which also included LT Nicholas Jancaitis (Mrs. Jancaitis' spouse), focused on engaging service members and veterans in voluntary service. She provided an overview of the VWWP's AmeriCorps program – Virginia Veterans Corps (VVC) – which includes 28 volunteer Navigator positions serving military, veterans, and their families in the Greater Hampton Roads area.
 - Homeless Veteran Boot Camp (September 23-24, Richmond): Community partners from Roanoke, Richmond and Hampton Roads teamed up for two days to create local goals based on increasing coordination among community partners and housing homeless veterans faster. Participating were six Continua of Care (CoCs) and the Hampton, Salem, and McGuire VA Medical Centers (VAMCs). Members from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the USDVA, DVS, and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH) were also present to help provide policy guidance and support to the teams in their efforts to improve their systems. The end goal: end veterans' homelessness in the Commonwealth by the end of 2015.
- Veterans care centers:
 - Construction continues on the 40-bed addition to the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC). The expected completion date has been pushed back to early 2015 due to weather and several small change orders. The first new residents are expected to be admitted in early-mid 2015.
 - Veterans cemeteries:
 - Virginia's state veterans cemeteries performed 369 interments in the first quarter of FY2015. Almost 11,000 interments have been formed to date at the three cemeteries.
 - Please help us spread the word about this wonderful benefit that veterans have earned through their military service.
 - Virginia War Memorial:
 - Design work continues on the 19,500 square foot addition to the Virginia War Memorial. Though the design phase could last another year, DVS is in the process of hiring a construction firm to assist in design and planning efforts. Tentatively scheduled to be completed in late 2016, it appears that mid to late 2017 is a more realistic timeframe. DVS will keep the JLC updated as the project moves forward.
 - The Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony will be held at the Virginia War Memorial on November 11 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. We honor all veterans who served our country and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Governor Terry McAuliffe is the invited speaker. This event coincides with the signing of the WWI Armistice on November 11, 1918, with the playing of Taps at the conclusion of the ceremony. The 100th Anniversary of WWI is also commemorated. Co-hosted with the 11th District American Legion.

- Veterans Education, Training and Employment (VETE):
 - Virginia Transition Assistance Program (VTAP): Mr. Allen Fryman has joined DVS as the VTAP Coordinator. VTAP “assists transitioning veterans connect with employment, education, entrepreneurial, and supportive services, and helps educate participating veterans and veteran services providers on available resources and opportunities.” Visit the VTAP page on the V3 website to learn more: <http://www.dvsv3.com/vtap/>.
 - Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program: The V3 2nd Annual Summit was held on August 28 at the Westin Hotel, Richmond. Guest Speakers included Governor Terry McAuliffe, Attorney General Mark Herring, Senator Toddy Puller, Delegate Rich Anderson, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs John Harvey, CEO of Northern Virginia Technology Council Bobbie Kilberg, Dominion Vice President Mark Webb, DMV Assistant Commissioner for Finance Jeff Ryan; and Warrior to Workforce Program Manager David Sella. Both Governor McAuliffe and Attorney General Herring committed to signing the Our Patriot Pledge. Over 160 representatives of private sector companies, military installations, and government agencies were in attendance.

- Other accomplishments and new initiatives:
 - The Commonwealth of Virginia was one of two states (Alaska being the other) recognized by TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) “*for offering outstanding state benefits for surviving military families.*” Then-DVS Commissioner Paul Galanti accepted the recognition at an event at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. on September 30. At the event, TAPS unveiled a new program known as the *Military Survivor Education Support Services Program*.
 - Deputy Commissioner Cathy Wilson represented DVS at the National Governors Association (NGA) Licensure and Certification Policy Academy, September 22 – 24. Other Virginia representatives included Commissioner Brown and Dr. Carter (Virginia Department of Health Professions) and Dr. Jennifer Lee (Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources). DVS will work with agency partners to determine if part of the U.S. Department of Labor grant may be used to sustain the work of the policy academy.

Even in the face of austerity, DVS marches on. We could not ask for better partners in these and all times than the JLC. Thank you all that you do.

ATTACHMENT 5
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF
VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
Summary of 2015 Initiatives

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
JLC 2015-01	That the Governor and General Assembly support the hiring, training, and retention of Department of Veterans Services (DVS) claims agents by approving additional funding in FY16.
JLC 2015-02	That the Governor and General Assembly support the delivery of mental health and rehabilitative services for Virginia veterans, Guardsmen, Reservists, and family members through continued and increased funding for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) in the FY16 budget
JLC 2015-03	That the Governor and General Assembly authorize five additional positions for the Virginia War Memorial in FY16 and appropriate the necessary funding for these positions.
JLC 2015-04	That the Governor and the General Assembly support the further reduction of veteran homelessness by approving additional funding in FY16 for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to support increases in general statewide homeless prevention, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing funding to help veterans living in rural areas and/or ineligible for VA services. b. DHCD for development of a statewide homeless data warehouse system to permit a better understanding of the needs of veterans accessing mainstream homeless services. c. DVS/VWWP to add three new Housing Resource Specialist (HRS) positions in order to expand coverage to Roanoke and Northern Virginia, and to add a second HRS position in Hampton Roads. d. DVS/VWWP to add one position to work with the criminal justice system to facilitate statewide coordination of federal, state, and community resources.
JLC 2015-05	That the General Assembly and the Governor approve the establishment of a veterans' lottery as part of the Compact with Virginia's Veterans to supplement the General Fund's support of approved veteran's requirements, with any residual lottery funding reverting back to Education.
JLC 2015-06	That the Governor and General Assembly continue state support for the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia veterans care center construction projects and continue certification of the availability of 35% state funding to match the federal grant funds, thereby maintaining both projects on the VA Priority List Group 1.

ATTACHMENT 6
JLC Appointed Officers: 2014-2015

- Legislative Officer: Abe Zino
- Assistant Legislative Officer: Tom Gimble
- Chaplain: George Corbett
- Constitution & ByLaws Committee:
 - Chairman: Pete Fairchild
 - Members: Allan McCroskey and John Prendergast
- Nominating Committee:
 - Chairman: Carmen Gentile
 - Members: Don Kaiserman, Bill Barrett, and Glenn Rodriguez
- JLC Representative to the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC):
 - Primary: Chip Moran
 - Alternate: Harold Barton
- JLC Representative to the State Board of Elections (SBE) Electronic Ballot return working group: Stu Williams