

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 21, 2010**

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on December 21, 2010, at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 South Belvidere Street, Richmond.

**Members Present**

- Jeffery Platte, *Air Force Association*
- George Coker, *American Ex-POWs*
- Brett Reistad, *American Legion*
- Don Kaiserman, *Association of the United States Army*
- David Martinez, *Disabled American Veterans*
- Abe Zino, *Fleet Reserve Association*
- James Jones, *Korean War Veterans Association*
- Bruce Steeley, *Marine Corps League*
- Raymond Edwards, *Military Officers Association of America*
- Robert Fairchild, *Military Order of the Purple Heart*
- William Townsley, *Military Order of the World Wars*
- Thomas Moran, *National Association for Uniformed Services*
- Matthew Dailey, *Non Commissioned Officers Association*
- Carmen Gentile, *Reserve Officers Association*
- Nolan Jackson, *Roanoke Valley Veterans Council*
- Daniel Boyer, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*
- George Corbett, *Vietnam Veterans of America*
- Jenny Holbert, *Women Marines Association*
- Thad Jones, *Chairman, Board of Veterans Services*
- Meade Spotts, *1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman, Veterans Services Foundation*
- Paul Galanti, *Commissioner of Veterans Services*

**Members Absent**

- Bruce Brown, *AMVETS*
- Roger Dimsdale, *Legion of Valor*
- Frank Driscoll, *Navy Seabee Veterans of America*
- David Coffield, *Paralyzed Veterans of America*
- Michael Coleman, *Virginia National Guard Association*

**Alternates Present (representing their VSO)**

- Terry Oglesby, *AMVETS*
- Richard Rinaldo, *Legion of Valor*

### **Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)**

- Edward Dauks, *AUSA*
- John Clickener, *Military Officers Association of America*
- Earl Johnson, *Military Order of the World Wars*
- Thomas Stephen, *Reserve Officers Association*

### **Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present**

- Al Pianalto, *Delegate Kirk Cox's Office*
- Anne Atkins, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Steven Combs, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Jack Hilgers, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Judy Reid, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Mike Rogers, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Annie Walker, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Danielle Weaver, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Cathy Wilson, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Jon Hatfield, *Virginia War Memorial*

### **Others Present**

- Chuck Reusing, *Honor Flight Historic Triangle Virginia Committee*
- Matt Hartman, *Honor Flight Historic Triangle Virginia Committee*
- Bill Haneke, *Vice Chairman, Board of Veterans Services*
- Harry Warner, *Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation*
- Sam Wilder, *Military Officers Association of America*
- Eldo Platte, *Air Force Association*
- Tom Briggs, *Disabled American Veterans*
- Roger Overstreet, *Disabled American Veterans*
- Roger Sullivan, *Disabled American Veterans*
- Tom Anderson, *Disabled American Veterans*
- Allen Murray, *Disabled American Veterans*
- Charles Lloyd, *Disabled American Veterans*
- James R. Hancock, *Disabled American Veterans*
- Danny O'Neal, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*
- James C. Day, *Disabled American Veterans*
- George Abbitt, *Disabled American Veterans*
- Zane Clark, *Disabled American Veterans*
- Joe Carr, *Disabled American Veterans*
- Robert Jelley, *Disabled American Veterans*
- Ernest B. Nichols, *Disabled American Veterans*
- Ralph Hodnett, *Disabled American Veterans*
- John Foster, *Vietnam Veterans of America*
- Herb Wright, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*
- Margie Logan, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*
- James E. Samuel, *Military Order of the Purple Heart*

- Henry Mack, *Veterans Helping Veterans*
- George Tota, Veteran

### **Agenda Packet**

- Agenda (Agenda Item II)
- Presentations (Agenda Item IV)
  - DVS Education Services (Handouts)
- Reports (Agenda Item VI)
  - Board of Veterans Services Report
  - Veterans Services Foundation Report
  - Department of Veterans Services Report
  - Report of the JLC Representative to the Virginia Military Advisory Council
  - Report on the meeting of the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives (Agenda Item VII)
  - JLC Legislative Objectives - Summary Sheet
  - Summary of Governor McDonnell's Proposed Budget Amendments
  - General Assembly Patrons and JLC Sponsors for JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives
  - JLC Legislative Objectives 2005-2011
- New Business (Agenda Item VIII)
  - Proposed JLC 2011 Meeting Schedule
  - Proposed JLC 2011 Plan of Action
  - JLC Conference at the General Assembly
    - Schedule
    - Guiding Principles
    - Coordinating Instructions
    - Sign Up Sheet

### **Opening and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Jenny Holbert called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Mr. David Martinez to lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Holbert thanked Jon Hatfield for hosting the JLC meeting at the Virginia War Memorial. She also encouraged everyone to tour the Memorial after the meeting. Mr. Harry Warner welcomed everyone to the Virginia War Memorial in Mr. Hatfield's absence.

### **Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination**

The roll was called, and 20 of the 23 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the JLC were recorded as being represented (18 by primary representative, 2 by alternates), and a quorum was determined. The Commissioner of Veterans Services, Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services and the Veterans Services Foundation Vice Chairman were recorded as present.

### **Approval of the agenda**

Chair Holbert asked for a **motion** to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Thomas Moran made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Nolan Jackson. The agenda was approved **unanimously** (*see Attachment 1*).

### **Introductions of Guests**

Chair Holbert asked that guests and staff introduce themselves. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chair Holbert welcomed them to the meeting.

### **Review and Approval of October 21, 2010 meeting minutes**

Chair Holbert stated that the minutes from the October 21, 2010 meeting had been distributed electronically. It was noted that Mr. Donald Kaiserman had been asked at the October 21 to present a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Legislative Committee at the December 21 meeting, but that was not included in the minutes. Chair Holbert asked for an amendment to add this to the October 21, 2010 minutes. Mr. Jeffrey Platte made a **motion** to accept the amendment to the minutes, **seconded** by Mr. Bill Townsley.

Chair Holbert asked for a **motion** to approve the October 21, 2010 minutes as amended. Mr. George Coker made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Townsley, and the amended October 21, 2010 minutes were approved by **unanimous consent**.

### **Presentations**

#### **Honor Flight Historic Triangle Virginia**

Mr. Chuck Reusing and Mr. Matt Hartman spoke to the Council about the Honor Flight program. They expressed the need to get the word out to as many WWII veterans as possible about the Honor Flight program, and asked for the Council's assistance in this endeavor. Chair Holbert encouraged the Council members to assist.

#### **DVS Education Services**

Ms. Annie Walker, Director of the Department of Veterans Services' State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training (SAA) briefed the Council on the DVS education services. (*See Attachment 2*).

#### **TurboVet**

Commissioner Galanti addressed the Council on the TurboVet claims processing system, explaining that DVS will serve as a "Beta Tester" at no cost to the state. He reviewed the merits of the system for veterans and for DVS claims officers. Commissioner Galanti stated that he will provide more information as he receives it.

*Chair Holbert called for a break at 10:45 am. During this break the tape was changed. Chair Holbert called the meeting back to order at 11:00 am.*

## **Reports**

### **Board of Veterans Services**

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Thad Jones delivered the BVS report (*see Attachment 3*). The next BVS meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2011.

### **Veterans Services Foundation**

Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Vice Chairman Meade Spotts delivered the VSF report (*see Attachment 4*). The next VSF meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2011.

### **Department of Veterans Services**

Commissioner Paul Galanti delivered the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) report (*see Attachment 5*). Mr. Martinez asked several questions regarding the TurboVet project and its implementation by AMVETS. Commissioner Galanti said he would get back to Mr. Martinez.

### **Virginia Wounded Warrior Program**

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) Executive Director Cathy Wilson gave an update on the VWWP.

### **Virginia Military Advisory Council**

Mr. Jeff Platte, JLC Representative to the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC), delivered the VMAC report (*see Attachment 6*).

### **Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children**

Mr. Thomas Moran gave the report on the Interstate Compact (*see Attachment 7*).

### **Virginia War Memorial**

Mr. Jon Hatfield, Virginia War Memorial (VWM) Executive Director, addressed the Council and thanked them for their support.

*Chair Holbert called for a recess for lunch at 11:45 am. During this recess the tape was changed. Chair Holbert called the meeting back to order at 12:25 pm.*

Chair Holbert addressed the Council and discussed the Constitutional Amendment providing Real Estate Tax Relief for veterans with 100% service-connected disability. She noted that the Amendment will go into effect January 1, 2011, and that the General Assembly will be required to pass enabling legislation.

## **JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives**

Chair Holbert called the Council members' attention to the 2011 Legislative Objectives Summary Sheet (*see Attachment 8*).

Mr. Steven Combs reviewed Governor McDonnell's Proposed Budget Amendments impacting the Department of Veterans Services and the JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives. The Governor's proposals are available on the Governor's website at [www.governor.virginia.gov](http://www.governor.virginia.gov).

Mr. Don Kaiserman reviewed the 2011 Legislative Objectives, including the General Assembly patrons and JLC sponsors. The JLC sponsors or their representatives provided brief updates on the individual objectives (*see Attachment 9*).

Chair Holbert called the members' attention to the summary of JLC legislative objectives from 2005 – 2011, and reviewed the objectives where the JLC has placed special or repeated emphasis (*see Attachment 10*).

## **New Business**

### **Appoint Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee**

Chair Holbert noted that the JLC Constitution and Bylaws are required to be reviewed every other year, and stated that she had asked Mr. Robert Fairchild to head up the review committee.

### **Adopt 2011 Meeting Schedule and Plan of Action**

Chair Holbert reviewed the 2011 Meeting Schedule (*see Attachment 11*).

Chair Holbert asked for a **motion** to approve the proposed schedule as submitted. Mr. Moran made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. George Corbett. The 2011 Meeting Schedule was approved **unanimously**.

Chair Holbert reviewed the Proposed JLC 2011 Plan of Action (*see Attachment 12*).

Chair Holbert asked for a **motion** to approve the Proposed JLC 2011 Plan of Action. Mr. Townsley made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Moran. The Proposed JLC 2011 Plan of Actions was approved **by a vote of 19-1**.

### **Review JLC administrative matters**

Chair Holbert briefly discussed JLC administrative matters, including meal and travel costs. It was noted that JLC members could opt to be reimbursed at a lower mileage rate, and that those wishing to do so should notify DVS.

### **Review plans for January 13 JLC Conference at the General Assembly**

Mr. Jack Hilgers discussed the plans for the upcoming JLC Conference at the General Assembly (*see Attachment 13, 14, 15 and 16*).

## **Public comment period**

Chair Holbert asked if there were any public comments.

Mr. Roger Sullivan of the Disabled American Veterans addressed the Council, covering these topics:

- His opinion of the singular role played by veterans from the South Boston area in the passage of the real estate tax exemption for 100% service-connected disabled veterans and the absence of JLC members at subcommittee meetings.
- His concerns about how the issue of Individual Unemployability (IU) had been addressed by the Department of Veterans Services, his opinion that IU shouldn't be specifically

included in the enabling legislation, discussion of his role in working with Delegate O'Bannon to write the 2009 referendum that started the constitutional amendment process, and statement that it was likely that 90% of those rated 100% disabled were IU.

- His concerns over the lack of funding in the Governor's introduced budget for additional claims agents, questions about how additional agents will be funded, questions about what the JLC will do to achieve its objective for additional claims agents, and criticism of the JLC for not being at the General Assembly to support other veterans bills.
- His concerns over the lack of claims agents in Virginia, and a comparison to the number of claims agents in North Carolina and Wisconsin to the number in Virginia.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Holbert adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

**Agenda - Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations Meeting  
Virginia War Memorial  
621 S. Belvidere St., Richmond  
December 21, 2010  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Jenny Holbert, JLC Chair* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda and introduction of guests – *Jenny Holbert, Chair* (10:05 – 10:10)
- III. Review and approval of October 21, 2010, meeting minutes – *Jenny Holbert, Chair* (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Presentations (10:15 – 10:50)
  - a. Honor Flight Historic, Triangle, Virginia – *Chuck Reusing, Honor Flight Committee* (10 minutes)
  - b. DVS Education Services – *Annie Walker, Director, State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training* (10 minutes)
  - c. TurboVet – *Paul Galanti, Commissioner of Veterans Services* (15 minutes)
- Break (10:50 – 11:00)
- V. Reports (11:00 – 11:40)
  - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (5 minutes)
  - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *David Richardson, VSF Chairman* (5 minutes)
  - c. Department of Veterans Services – *Paul Galanti, Commissioner* (10 minutes)
  - d. Virginia Wounded Warrior Program – *Cathy Wilson, Executive Director* (5 minutes)
  - e. Virginia Military Advisory Council – *Jeff Platte, JLC Representative* (5 minutes)
  - f. Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children – *Chip Moran* (5 minutes)
  - g. Virginia War Memorial – *Jon Hatfield, Executive Director* (5 minutes)
- VI. Break/working lunch (11:40 – 12:10)
- VII. JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Vice Chair and Steven Combs, DVS Director of Policy & Planning* (12:10 – 1:10)
- Break (1:10 – 1:15)
- VIII. New business – *Jenny Holbert, Chair* (1:15 – 1:45)
  - a. Appoint Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee
  - b. Adopt 2011 Meeting Schedule and 2011 Plan of Action



- c. Review JLC administrative matters (meal costs, name tags, business cards, etc.)
- d. Review plans for January 13 JLC Conference at the General Assembly
- e. Other matters requested by JLC members

IX. Public comment period (1:45 – 1:55)

X. Closing remarks – *Jenny Holbert, Chair* (1:55 – 2:00)

XI. Adjourn (2:00)

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

### **JLC Briefing – State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training**

Thank you for the opportunity to brief you on the State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training; otherwise known as the SAA.

Operating under a contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training (SAA) reviews, evaluates, and approves post-secondary education and training programs offered by educational institutions, businesses, and industries in the Commonwealth of Virginia. After a program has been approved, veterans and other persons eligible for benefits under Titles 38 and 10 of the U.S. Code may enroll and receive financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The SAA ensures compliance with state and federal regulations through on-site visits to active institutions and establishments.

The SAA has a secondary mission of making veterans and eligible family members aware of veteran's education and training programs. Outreach activities are conducted at job fairs, military bases in the Commonwealth, high schools, and at veterans events hosted by DVS and VSOs.

With just seven full-time employees, the SAA has responsibility for providing supervision and support for 926 education and training institutions with 31 pending approval. While some institutions only offer one program, in many cases an institution offers multiple programs, each requiring separate approval. The institution with the most approved programs is George Mason University with 518 programs.

In FY 2009, Virginia had 21,000 veterans and dependents receiving approximately \$131 million in benefits. Compared to FY 2010 and the enactment of the Post 9/11 GI Bill; Virginia is ranked number 5 with approximately 42, 000 veterans and dependents receiving benefits.

Individual states breakout is not available but nationally, total dollars paid for all education programs for FY2010 is \$7.9 billion dollars. \$5.1 billion dollars were paid to beneficiaries for The Post-9/11GI Bill (This includes basic housing allowances and stipend for books and supplies). There were a total of 800,369 beneficiaries who used education benefits (247,105 individuals used MGIB-AD and 30,269 used REAP).

With this in mind, I would like to thank you for including the objective of making in state tuition more accessible to our veterans and dependents as one of your 2011 objectives. Especially, with the recent passing of S3447; this bill includes non college degree, OJT/APP, and flight programs and national tests and licensure/certification tests. This short term expense of offering in state tuition to more veterans will yield a long term investment with better educated, better trained citizens who attracts industry and better jobs and who eventually pay more or higher taxes.

Questions

**Fiscal Year 2010**  
**Beneficiaries by State and Education Program**

LOCATION/BENEFIT	MGIB-AD	Post-9/11	MGIB-SR	DEA	REAP	VEAP	TOTAL Ranking %
CALIFORNIA	20,642	44,906	2,977	7,283	800	31	76,639 9.35%
TEXAS	19,027	35,596	3,244	8,041	1,089	18	67,015 8.18%
FLORIDA	20,414	28,292	2,986	6,582	1,227	18	59,519 7.26%
ARIZONA	21,012	18,588	2,132	3,571	1,433	7	46,743 5.71%
VIRGINIA	10,092	26,426	1,549	3,322	693	10	42,092 5.14%

**Note:** State statistics may include individuals who used their education benefits in more than one state, therefore the total within this table should not be used to reflect the total number of beneficiaries during the fiscal year.

**ATTACHMENT 3**  
**BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES**  
**REPORT TO**  
**JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**  
**December 21, 2010**

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on September 30, 2010.

Governor McDonnell has appointed four new members to the Board of Veterans Services, bringing the Board to its full complement of 19 members.

- New to the Board are:
  - Mr. William Haneke
  - Mr. Donald Kaiserman
  - Ms. Kate Kohler
  - Mr. George Melnyk
- Leaving the Board are:
  - Mr. Paris Davis
  - Mr. J. Pat Green
  - Mr. Judson Stanley

Elections were held for BVS Chairman and Vice Chairman. Mr. Thad Jones was elected Chairman, and Mr. William Haneke the Vice Chairman.

The Board is organized into three standing committees – Benefits, Care Centers, and Cemeteries. There is also an *ad hoc* Bylaws Committee. Board members have been assigned to a committee and have been asked to focus on a particular aspect of veterans benefits. Guidance has been given to all Board members to promote unity and focus of effort.

The BVS voted at the September 30 meeting to endorse the JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives, and we look forward to working closely with the JLC and the Department to establish and implement the Compact with Virginia's Veterans to make Virginia "*America's most veteran-friendly state.*"

The next BVS meeting will be held on January 10, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Thad A. Jones  
Chairman

**ATTACHMENT 4**  
**VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION**  
**REPORT TO**  
**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**  
**December 21, 2010**

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees met on November 3, 2010. A quorum was present. The following actions were taken.

- (1) Received Board of Veterans Services Chairman's, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) Chairman's, and the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Commissioner's and VSF Committee Reports;
- (2) Received a Demonstration of the new VSF Website which is nearing completion;
- (3) Reviewed Foundation fundraising conducted to date during FY11;
- (4) Approved VSF FY11 1st Quarter Financial Report
- (5) Updated FY11 Goals and Objectives;
- (6) Approved updated VSD-DVS Joint Policy #6 and new Policies 6A and 9;

The Finance Committee met on October 27, 2010 and the Development Committee on November 3, 2010. The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting are posted on the Commonwealth Calendar as are the VSF Development Committee minutes and those of the full VSF board.

The Board welcomed three new members: James Cuthbertson of Glen Allen, Richard Schollmann of Richmond, and Peter Trainer of Alexandria.

The Board Executive Committee was to meet on December 17, 2010, however, the meeting was postponed due to the weather. We are working on rescheduling it for the first week in January 2011.

The Foundation raised about \$63,000, of which over \$55,600 is for VWWP, during FY11. This is about \$4,000 over its fundraising during FY10 to date. However, VWWP fundraising is at the same level as last year. There has been only one new VSO contributions this quarter for VWWP since the last report to the JLC. The Amelia Cemetery fundraising for their avenue of flags by VSOs has been going very well, but they still are short \$800 of their goal..

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2011. It will be held at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) ratifying Executive Committee actions; (2) approval of the 2nd Quarter FY11 Fund Statement; (3) review VSF FY11 fundraising program; (4) refinement of FY11 Goals and Objectives; and (5) approving the updates of the Joint VSF-DVS Policies yet to be reviewed. There will be Finance and Development Committee meetings before the next Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

David Richardson  
VSF Chairman

**ATTACHMENT 5**  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES**  
**REPORT TO**  
**JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**  
**December 21, 2010**

I'd like to highlight some of things that have happened since the last JLC meeting:

- I had the honor of attending the Paralyzed Veterans of America Gala on October 19 in Washington, D.C. and accepting, on behalf of Governor McDonnell and the Commonwealth of Virginia, the EMPLOYABLE Award for leadership in providing employment opportunities for veterans with disabilities.
- The final completion date of the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin has now slipped to late January. The cemetery grounds manager and the burial operations manager will begin training in early January, and we expect to begin burial operations in March. A Grand Opening Ceremony is planned for April.
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recently released the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2010 list of Education Beneficiaries by State and Education Program. Virginia ranked #5 in the nation in the number of veterans and dependents receiving education benefits, behind California, Texas, Florida, and Arizona. The high numbers for Arizona are due in large measure to students registered through the University of Phoenix, an on-line education program.

42,092 veterans and dependents used their education benefits in Virginia in FFY10, double FFY09's total of 20,530.

While the doubling of the number of beneficiaries can be attributed to the significant expansion of benefits available under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, DVS is proud of the role it has played in enabling these 42,092 students to use their education benefits. Operating under a federal contract, the DVS State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training (SAA) certifies that post-secondary education programs (including colleges, universities, technical training programs, and OJT training programs) meet certain requirements. Over 900 post-secondary education programs are certified in Virginia, giving veterans and their dependents a wide variety of choice and unprecedented access to educational opportunities.

- The cremated remains (cremains) of ten forgotten heroes were buried with military honors at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk on November 11. This was the first such ceremony at one of Virginia's state veterans cemeteries. The cremains have been stored, unclaimed, at the Sturtevant funeral home in Portsmouth. The ceremony was a joint effort of DVS, the Sturtevant Funeral Home, the Marine Corps League, the Virginia National Guard Funeral Honors Program, and the Patriot Guard Riders and other motorcycle clubs. An estimated 400 people attended the ceremony.

Kudos to the JLC, and especially to former JLC member John Bonnell, for helping to make all this happen.

- On Thursday, November 18, I was the keynote speaker at the 6th Annual Crisis Intervention Team Awards Banquet of the New River Valley Crisis Intervention Team (NRV CIT). DVS and the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) have partnered with the NRV CIT to develop an educational training program, as described below. VWWP Executive Director Cathy Wilson also attended.

In support of the JLC 2010 Legislative Objective, the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) applied for a grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services for the development and implementation of a targeted educational program for judges, court personnel, community corrections and other criminal justice partners across the state. A \$72,000 grant was awarded in July.

The training will focus on the unique characteristics, symptoms and options for addressing the needs of active duty military personnel, Guardsmen, Reservists, and veterans affected by the spectrum of combat stress, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and the veterans who are at risk for involvement or involved in the criminal justice system.

The curriculum will be developed and tested in FY11. Subsequent funding is available for three additional years to implement the training across the Commonwealth.

- In November, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) released the Federal Fiscal Year 2011 (FFY11) State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program Priority List. Three Virginia projects are ranked on the FFY11 list:
  - Richmond, #42: Construct 40-bed addition to the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (ranked #45 in FFY10)
  - Hampton, #43: Construct new 240-bed veterans care center (ranked #46 in FFY10)
  - Fairfax, #49: Construct new 240-bed veterans care center (ranked #53 in FFY10)

However, DVS was also notified by the USDVA that the three Virginia projects will not receive federal funding in FFY11 because all available grant funds will be awarded to higher priority projects.

- DVS was notified in November that Virginia will not receive federal funding in FFY11 to retrofit the Amelia and Suffolk cemeteries with pre-placed outer burial containers.
- DVS held a public “Rollout Demonstration” for the TurboVet system on December 1 at the Virginia War Memorial. The system is being rolled out nationwide by AMVETS, and DVS will serve as a “Beta Tester” at the state veterans service level.
- Evergreen wreaths honoring Virginia’s veterans were placed on all gravesites in the Albert G. Horton, Jr., Memorial Veterans Cemetery on Saturday, December 11, 2010, as

part of the national Wreaths Across America observance. The ceremony concluded with active duty service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard placing wreaths on the final row of graves, playing of TAPS, and a flyover. Nearly 3,000 wreaths were provided by the Horton Wreath Society, an organization in Suffolk that, for the past three years, has raised money to purchase an evergreen wreath for every gravesite.

A similar ceremony was held at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery on December 11. The local National Association of Military Retirees donated 150 wreaths to the Cemetery, and the wreaths were placed at the cemetery front entrance, along the fence line, flag pole, office, and chapel. The National Association of Military Retirees started out two years ago with a donation of 60 wreaths and this year the number of wreaths increased to 150. A private citizen, Matthew McCartney, also donated 10 wreaths.

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program Executive Director Cathy Wilson was the guest speaker at the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Richmond National Cemetery on December 11.

- In November, the USDVA made 228 retroactive payments in excess of \$5,000 to veterans and eligible dependents assisted by VDVS. Many of the November payments were based on new conditions associated with Agent Orange that have been recently determined by the USDVA to be service-connected conditions.

The 228 retroactive payments made in November 2010 totaled \$8,106,851, and included:

- \$635,789 – to a claimant in Stephens City
- \$463,603 – to a claimant in Purcellville
- \$458,745 – to a claimant in Bristol
- \$359,999 – to a claimant in Catlett
- \$281,706 – to a claimant in Charlotte, NC – handled by our Hampton Office
- \$246,552 – to a claimant in Raven
- \$230,056 – to a claimant in Norfolk
- \$221,556 – to a claimant in Richlands
- \$204,023 – to a claimant in College Park, GA – handled by our Fairfax Office
- \$176,623 – to a claimant in Saltville
- \$159,367 – to a claimant in Woodbridge
- \$150,183 – to a claimant in Bristol
- \$137,018 – to a claimant in Marion
- \$131,495 – to a claimant in Bristol
- \$110,840 – to a claimant in Abingdon
- \$106,501 – to a claimant in Virginia Beach
- \$105,928 – to a claimant in Hampton

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Galanti  
Commissioner



## **ATTACHMENT 6**

**Jeffrey L. Platte**

109 Colonels Way  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

December 20, 2010

**To:** Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

**Subject:** Virginia Military Advisory Council Meeting, November 9, 2010

1. The meeting was held at the USCG Base in Portsmouth. Major General Karl R. Horst chaired the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1 PM. The agenda is attached.
2. Briefings were presented by several installation commanders to review Mutual Aid Agreements between the installation and the civil communities. Most mutual aid agreements deal with public safety issues such as police and EMT services. There was significant discussion surrounding military resources available on the installations which could be made available to localities in the event of a major manmade disaster. Installations should develop an inventory of such resources.
3. The Police Chief, City of Virginia Beach, is working with installations in Hampton Roads to develop regional mutual aid agreements. The advantage of such agreements is installations would all agree to the same thing and it would alleviate the need to modify mutual aid agreements whenever the installation commander changes.
4. There was a presentation by the FBI Special Agent in Charge of Norfolk Field Office. His presentation was to share how the FBI needs to enter into mutual aid agreements with installations in the event of incidents similar to the Fort Hood shootings. The agreements would provide for better communication during the early stages of such events.
5. The VMAC approved a new subcommittee, Citizen Soldier Support Subcommittee. The Executive Order which established the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council expired in July 2010. Instead of creating a new Council the Adjutant General of Virginia, working through the Secretary of Public Safety and the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness, suggested the work be done through the VMAC.
6. VMAC agreed to accept the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on Child Custody. The Ad Hoc Committee is working with the Family Law Committee of the Virginia Bar to enhance Virginia's statutes on protecting deployed service members in child custody issues.
7. MG Horst adjourned the Council at 3:30 p.m., announcing the next meeting will be March 9, 2011, at a location to be determined.

Respectively Submitted,



Jeffrey L. Platte

JLC VSO Representative

Atch: VMAC Agenda



# **VIRGINIA MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**NOVEMBER 9, 2010 \*\* UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

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1:00 p.m.

## **WELCOMING REMARKS**

Major General Karl R. Horst, Chairman

1:10 p.m.

## **INSTALLATION MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS**

Colonel Mike Morrow, Fort Lee

Colonel John Strycula, Fort Belvoir

Mr. Sean Strate, Fort A.P. Hill

Captain John Fristachi, Navy Mid-Atlantic Region

2:10 p.m.

## **REGIONALIZATION TO SUPPORT MULTIPLE INSTALLATIONS IN SAME AREA**

Jim Cervera, Chief of Police, City of Virginia Beach

2:40 p.m.

## **FEDERAL SUPPORT TO INSTALLATIONS**

Alex Turner, Special Agent in Charge, Norfolk Field Office

3:00 p.m.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Formation of New Subcommittee – Citizen Soldier Support**

Terrie L. Suit, Vice-Chair

### **Quality of Life: Child Custody, School Liaison Notification, and Spousal Professional Licenses**

Julie Gifford, Mid-Atlantic Region State Liaison, Office of the Deputy Under  
Secretary of Defense

3:30 p.m.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Major General Karl R. Horst, Chairman

## **ATTACHMENT 7**

**To:** Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC)

**Subject:** Virginia Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Meeting

**Date:** 10 November 2010

**Location:** Newport News Public Schools Main Administration Building, 12465 Warwick Blvd., Newport News, Virginia

1. Council Members in Attendance:

Senator John C. Miller, Chairman  
Dr. Patricia I. Wright  
Mr. James S. Lander  
Dr. James G. Merrill,  
Dr. Winston O. Odom  
Dr. William C. Bosher, Jr.

2. Council Members Not in Attendance:

The Honorable M. Kirkland Cox, House of Delegates

3. Department of Education Staff in Attendance:

Anne Wescott, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications,  
Virginia Department of Education  
Michelle Vucci, Director of Policy, Virginia Department of Education

4. Senator Miller opened the meeting by welcoming the Council members and guests. Major General Frank Faykes (USAF Ret.) presented information on a report issued by Mission: Readiness – Military Leaders titled “*Too Fat to Fight*”. This report focuses on recommendations that Congress pass new child nutrition legislation to eliminate junk foods from schools, to support increasing nutritional standards for schools, and to provide children with access to programs that reduce obesity. General Faykes indicated that research shows that children suffering most are from low income families and consume 80 percent of their food at schools.

5. Mr. Patrick Finneran, Director of Corporate and Government Relations for Newport News Public Schools, provided information to the members on the efforts of Newport News schools to assist military families transferring in and out of the school system.

6. Ms. Vucci provided information to the members about how Virginia Interstate Compact Law compares to other Virginia laws and regulations. The members asked general questions regarding how academic work done at Department of Defense schools would be transferred into Virginia public schools. Ms. Vucci also indicated that more clarification would be sought from the offices of the national interstate compact on this issue and issues related to kindergarten

enrollment and the acceptance of tests administered in other states.

7. Ms. Wescott provided general background information to the members regarding current efforts to publicize the work of the Compact. Ms. Wescott discussed the comprehensive web site developed by the Department to provide information on the Compact and discussed the level of service provided by the Department to address all questions related to the Compact. She also discussed the agenda for the national interstate compact meeting, which took place in mid-November.

8. The Council then received public comment from one member of the audience, who indicated that the information provided in the crosstalk of the Virginia Compact Law to the existing law and regulations was very much needed by military school liaison officers working with parents and school divisions.

9. Senator Miller closed the meeting by thanking the Council members. He stated that the next Council meeting date will be on January 5, 2011 in Richmond.

10. The Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Virginia Council) was formed to assist in easing the transition of the children of military families into school as a result of frequent moves and deployment of their parents. Created by the 2009 General Assembly, Virginia joins other states participating in the compact. I was honored to represent the JLC at this meeting at the request of JLC Chair Jenny Holbert.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas "Chip" Moran  
JLC – NAUS Representative

## **ATTACHMENT 8**

### **2011 LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES**

The following legislative objectives were adopted by the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) on July 21, 2010. These are the prioritized objectives of the 23 Veterans Service Organizations represented on the JLC.

1. **Alternate Dedicated Revenue Sources for Veterans Programs.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly provide some of the resources required to implement the Compact with Virginia's Veterans by creating alternate dedicated revenue sources for veterans programs.
2. **DVS Benefit Services Program.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly improve services to Virginia veterans by restoring staffing for the DVS Benefits Services Program. An additional \$402,400 (GF) per fiscal year is needed.
3. **State Veterans Cemeteries.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly ensure that state veterans cemeteries operate in a safe, efficient manner and meet national shrine standards by filling vacant positions, replacing worn out equipment, and purchasing necessary supplies. An additional **\$387,100** (GF) per fiscal year is needed.
4. **Special Judicial Procedures for Veterans and Military Service Members.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly help veterans and military service members who have been charged with a crime by allowing localities to establish special judicial procedures. These procedures would emphasize use of available treatment options as an alternative to incarceration and would benefit veterans, military service members, and the community.
5. **Virginia War Memorial.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly ensure Virginians who have given their lives in battle, as well as all military veterans, are honored by optimizing the operations, maintenance, and program delivery at the Virginia War Memorial and its new Paul & Phyllis Galanti Education Center. An additional **\$255,000** (GF) per fiscal year is needed.
6. **In-state Tuition for Veterans.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly increase educational opportunities for recently-discharged veterans by waiving the one-year residency requirement needed to qualify for in-state tuition rates, provided all other domiciliary requirements are met.

## **ATTACHMENT 9**

### General Assembly Patrons and JLC Sponsors for JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives

<b>Objective</b>	<b>House Patron(s)</b>	<b>Senate Patron</b>	<b>JLC Sponsor</b>
#1 Alternate Dedicated Revenue Source	Lingamfelter	Colgan	MOAA
#2 DVS Benefit Services Program	K. Cox	Stosch	DAV
#3 State Veterans Cemeteries	Jones	Reynolds	VVA
#4 Special Judicial Procedures for Veterans	Stolle	J. Miller	AFA
#5 Virginia War Memorial	O'Bannon	Colgan	AL
#6 In-state Tuition	Anderson and Stolle	Edwards	VFW

## **ATTACHMENT 10**

### **JLC Legislative Objectives 2005–2011**

The table below provides a “snapshot” of the JLC Legislative Objectives from 2005 – 2011. Where possible, objectives are “grouped” to categorize initiatives by functional area or theme.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
State Veterans Cemeteries (including operational funding, establishing the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, and Burial Vaults)	√	√	√		√	√	√
Virginia War Memorial (including Education Center, Programs, and Security)	√	√	√	√		√	√
DVS Benefits Services Program (including Claims Agents and TurboVet)	√		√	√	√	√	√
Guard and Reserve Programs (including recognition for service and Military Family Relief Fund)	√		√	√	√	√	
Veterans Care Centers (establishing Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center)	√	√	√				
Veterans Preference in State Government	√		√				
DMV issues (including drivers license renewal and vehicle registration)	√	√					
Education Programs for active duty, families, veterans, survivors and dependents (including in-state tuition and Interstate Compact)		√	√		√		√
Alternate Revenue Source for Veterans Programs		√					√

State funding for Fisher House at McGuire VA Medical Center		√					
State Tax Exemption for Active Duty or Guard/Reserve serving overseas			√	√			
Credit/financial issues (including PayDay Lending and Credit Freezes)			√	√			
Virginia Wounded Warrior Program				√		√	
Tax Relief for 100% disabled veterans				√	√	√	
Homeless Veterans Study					√		
Special Judicial Procedures for Veterans and Military						√	√

### **Non-Legislative Initiatives**

- Establish Program for Unclaimed Veterans Cremains
- Construct Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center



## **ATTACHMENT 11**

### **Proposed JLC 2011 Meeting Schedule**

- Thursday, January 13: JLC Conference at the General Assembly
- Wednesday, March 23
- Wednesday, May 18
- Wednesday, July 13
- Wednesday, October 5
- Tuesday, December 20
- Thursday, January 12, 2012: JLC Conference at the General Assembly

## **ATTACHMENT 12**

### **Proposed JLC 2011 Plan of Action**

#### January Conference at the General Assembly

- Advocate for 2011 Legislative Objectives
- Promote role of JLC, DVS, etc.

#### March meeting

- 2011 General Assembly review
- Finalize “game plan” for 2012 Legislative Process, including: role of JLC Chair/Vice Chair, JLC Legislative Officer and Committee, JLC Sponsors, DVS Advisors
- Look ahead to 2012 General Assembly: initial review of potential 2012 Legislative Objectives
- Report of the Constitution and ByLaws Review Committee. If necessary, adopt changes to Constitution and ByLaws

#### May meeting

- Review potential 2012 Legislative Objectives
- Review draft Position Papers and FAQ Sheets
- Appoint Nominating Committee for Chair and Vice Chair

#### July meeting

- Consider all potential 2012 Legislative Objectives
- Review draft Position Papers and FAQ Sheets
- Vote and prioritize 2012 Legislative Objectives, appoint JLC Sponsors
- Elect Chair and Vice Chair
- Appoint Legislative Officer, form Legislative Committee

#### August/September

- Legislative Committee meets to finalize Position Papers and FAQ Sheets
- Distribute Position Papers and FAQ Sheets to JLC and post on JLC website
- Chair and Vice Chair meet with Governor
- Legislative Committee secures General Assembly Patrons

#### October meeting

- Report on the meeting with the Governor
- Report on General Assembly Patrons
- Prepare for meetings with General Assembly members (how to schedule a meeting, presenting JLC Objectives, responding to questions, feedback to the JLC sponsor, etc.)

#### October/November

- Hold legislative forums
- Meet with General Assembly members

#### December meeting

- Review Governor’s Proposed Budget
- Plan for 2012 Conference at the General Assembly

**ATTACHMENT 13**  
**JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

**DRAFT**

13 January 2011

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
0800	Arrival/Check In/Coffee, Tea, Muffins, Juice – 4 West Conference Room, General Assembly Bldg (GAB); Co-Patron Sheets Available
0815	Visit General Assembly Members/Aides in their offices
0900	Start Conference and note those present – JLC Chair
0910	Welcome by General Assembly Sponsors – Senators Stosch and Puller, Delegates BaCote and Anderson for 5 minutes each
0930	Remarks by Lt.Gov. Bolling – Introduced by Commissioner Galanti
0940	Remarks by Senate President Pro-Tem, Senator Colgan – Introduced by Senator Stosch
0950	Remarks by House Speaker, W. Howell – Introduced by Delegate Anderson
1000	Remarks by Delegates Jones, Lingamfelter, and Stolle (5 minutes each) –Introduced by JLC Chair
1015	Remarks by House Majority Leader Delegate K. Cox – Introduced by JLC Chair
1020	Remarks by House Minority Leader Delegate Armstrong – Introduced by JLC Chair
1025	Remarks by Senators Edwards and J. Miller (5 minute each) – Introduced by JLC Chair
1035	Visit General Assembly Members/Aides in their offices
1115	Free Time or Visit the Capitol and Move to View Session
1130-1220	View General Assembly Session-Group split and attendees recognized during the “Morning Hour” by Senator Puller and Delegate Anderson in their respective houses
1230	Lunch–On Own–Capitol or General Assembly Cafeteria
1330	Reconvene in House Room 3, Capitol Bldg Review of Morning Activities–Open Forum-JLC Chair and Commissioner Galanti
1400	Remarks by the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness The Honorable Terrie Suit – Introduced by Commissioner Galanti
1420	Remarks by Attorney General Cuccinelli–Introduced by Commissioner Galanti
1440	Remarks by Governor McDonnell–Introduced by Commissioner Galanti
1500	Conclusion of Conference–JLC Chair

**ATTACHMENT 14**  
**JLC GUIDING PRINCIPLES**  
**For**  
**JLC GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE**  
**13 January 2011**

**CONFERENCE PURPOSES**

- Increase visibility of the JLC and its role in Virginia Government.
- Generate support for JLC annual legislative objectives.
- Promote the role of the Department of Veterans Services.
- Augment what individual Veterans Service Organizations are doing.
- Recognize and appreciate legislators.

**SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE**

- All JLC members need to be advocating for the exact same agenda or effectiveness is lost.
- Have written point papers and FAQs the same as JLC's agenda.
- Do not add on VSO "pet projects." You represent the JLC.

**ARTICULATE OBJECTIVES CLEARLY AND SPECIFICALLY**

- Clearly specify who, what, where, when.
- Have the facts/cost data to justify.
- Speak clearly avoiding jargon.

**DURING THE CONFERENCE**

- The JLC Chair is in charge and will moderate the conference.
- Don't offer personal opinions.
- Keep all comments and questions brief and limit them to JLC Objectives, not other legislation.
- Limit the number of questions, but have a few relevant JLC questions available.
- Respect the time allocated to legislators for speaking.
- Be prepared for the Chair to limit the speaking time available.

**ATTACHMENT 15**  
**JLC GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE**  
**COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS**  
**13 January 2011**

**Attendance:** Attendance by JLC members and alternates and other interested VSO members must be confirmed by 7 January 2011, so that adequate refreshments can be ordered. Please confirm your attendance by e-mail to Jack Hilgers (jackhilgers@earthlink.net). The conference is open to the public, however, space is limited to about 35 participants.

**Location:** The General Assembly Building (GAB) is located at 9<sup>th</sup> and Broad streets in Richmond. It is on the southeast corner, across the street from the City Hall and catty-corner across the street from the Library of Virginia. The Capitol building is about 50 yards southeast of the GAB.

**Entry to GAB:** The main entrance to the GAB is on the south side facing the Capitol. You must use the right-hand entrance for visitors. Be prepared to show a picture ID and have handbags etc. checked through a scanner. The line can be long, so **we suggest you arrive early (closer to 0800 than 0900)**. Handicapped may enter through the 9<sup>th</sup> Street entrance. Inside, you must walk around the center structure to reach the elevators on the opposite side. Take the elevator to the fifth floor. Conference Room 4 West is next to the elevators. **Senator and Delegate office numbers are posted next to the elevator buttons. Check them, because many have changed from last year.**

**Sign-in:** Upon arrival at Conference Room 4 West, please take a minute to sign-in so that there is a list of participants.

**Legislators' Availability:** Due to committee meetings, some Senators probably will not be in their offices at 0830: Senators Barker, Blevins, Edwards, Houck, Howell, Locke, Lucas, Martin, J. Miller, Newman, Quayle, Ruff, Saslaw, and Wipple. However, visits to their legislative assistants/aids are encouraged.

**Entry to the Capitol:** You must use the Bank Street entrance to the Capitol. It is located down the hill from the Capitol building on the south side. Again, you must pass through a scanner and the line could be long. To get to the Galleries, take the elevator or stairs to the Mezzanine Floor. The House and Senate Galleries are at the east and west ends of the passageway. A JLC member will be at the Senate to check you off the entry list. Entries to the House gallery are by special pass. **You must be in the Gallery by 11:30 to be assured a seat.** After being recognized during the "Morning Hour" you may depart for lunch. You can eat in the Capitol restaurant. You may exit the Capitol building by the north door.

**Reentry to the Capitol:** Reentry must again be made via the Bank Street entrance. Proceed to the elevators and go to the first floor. **House Room 3**, where we will meet is located **on the right (east) side of the south main passageway, which extends from the Bank Street entrance.**

**Capitol Tour:** For those desiring a tour at the conclusion of the conference, tours are available about every 15 minutes from the tour desk located at the Bank Street entrance. Tours take one hour.

**Name Tags:** Please remember to bring your JLC nametag and wear it.

**Cameras:** You are welcome to bring cameras.

**Coordination:** During the event, please call Jack Hilgers (804-786-0220 before 13 Jan and 804-382-3715 on 13 Jan) or Steve Combs (804-221-3602).

**ATTACHMENT 16**  
**JLC GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE**  
13 January 2011

**SIGN UP SHEET**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list names and affiliations of persons accompanying you if they are not JLC members or alternates.

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I will attend on 13 January 2011 \_\_\_\_ I cannot attend. \_\_\_\_ I have a parking diagram Y \_\_N\_\_  
(Only those responding as attending will be sent coordinating instructions.)

I wish to visit the following Delegates' Offices:

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I wish to visit the following Senators' Offices:

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During the above visits, I plan to cover the following JLC objectives (indicate those that apply):

1   2   3   4   5   6      Other issues/legislation to be discussed: (list on an addition to this sheet).

During the session, I wish to visit the House Gallery \_\_\_\_ Senate Gallery \_\_\_\_ (Check one only)