

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

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on April 21, 2010, at the American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond.

Members Present

- Jeffrey Platte, *Air Force Association*
- Bruce Brown, *AMVETS*
- David Martinez, *Disabled American Veterans*
- Abe Zino, *Fleet Reserve Association*
- James Jones, *Korean War Veterans Association*
- Roger Dimsdale, *Legion of Valor*
- Bruce Steeley, *Marine Corps League*
- Robert Fairchild, *Military Order of the Purple Heart*
- Raymond Edwards, *Military Officers Association of America*
- William Townsley, *Military Order of the World Wars*
- Thomas Moran, *National Association for Uniformed Services*
- Matthew Dailey, *Non-Commissioned Officers Association*
- David Coffield, *Paralyzed Veterans of America*
- Carmen Gentile, *Reserve Officers Association*
- Nolan Jackson, *Roanoke Valley Veterans Council*
- George Corbett, *Vietnam Veterans of America*
- Daniel Boyer, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*
- Jenny Holbert, *Women Marines Association*
- Thad Jones, *Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services*
- Paul Galanti, *Commissioner of Veterans Services*

Members Absent

- George Coker, *American Ex-POWs*
- Brett Reistad, *American Legion*
- Don Kaiserman, *AUSA*
- Frank Driscoll, *Navy Seabee Veterans of America*
- Michael Coleman, *Virginia National Guard Association*
- David Richardson, *Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation*

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- Dale Chapman, *American Legion*
- Edward Dauks, *AUSA*

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- John Bonnell, *Marine Corps League*
- John Clickener, *Military Officers Association of American*
- David Ellis, *NAUS*

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Cindy Norwood, *Office of the Attorney General*
- Jon Hatfield, *Virginia War Memorial*
- John Anderson, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Anne Atkins, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Bert Boyd, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Sam Brown, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Vince Burgess, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Steven Combs, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Jack Hilgers, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Martha Mead, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Judy Reid, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Kenneth Rich, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Michael Rindorf, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Mike Rogers, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Jim Thur, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Bill Van Thiel, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Danielle Weaver, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Cathy Wilson, *Department of Veterans Services*

Others Present

- Derek Burton, *Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, Regional Coordinator for Region III – Southwest Region*
- Paul Hinkhouse, *USDOL/VETS*

Agenda Packet

- Agenda
- Changes to December 22 and January 18 Minutes (Agenda Item III)
- Review of 2010 budget and legislation (Agenda Item IV)
 - Summary of JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives
 - Summary of DVS FY11/12 Budget
 - A quick note on DVS Fund Sources
 - Copy of DVS sections from HB30
 - Copy of DVS section of Governor McDonnell's proposed changes to HB30
 - Summary of other military and veteran legislation
- Presentations (Agenda Item V)
 - DVS Benefit Services
- Reports (Agenda Item VI)
 - Board of Veterans Services Report

- Veterans Services Foundation Report
- Department of Veterans Services Report

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Dan Boyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination

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

Introductions of Guests

Chairman Boyer asked Mr. Steven Combs to introduce all non-JLC members to the Council. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chairman Boyer welcomed the guests to the meeting.

Approval of the agenda

Chairman Boyer asked for a **motion** to approve the agenda (*Attachment 1*). Mr. William Townsley made a **motion**, seconded by Mr. Jeffrey Platte, to approve the agenda as presented. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Review and Approval of December 22, 2009 and January 18, 2010 meeting minutes

Chairman Boyer asked for a motion to approve the December 22, 2009 and January 18, 2010 meeting minutes with changes submitted (*Attachment 2*). The minutes were previously distributed electronically. Mr. Platte made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. George Corbett, to approve the minutes as presented with changes. The December 22, 2009 and January 18, 2010 minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Review of 2010 budget and legislation

JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives

Chairman Boyer asked everyone to the go to summary sheet included in your packet (*Attachment 3*). Chairman Boyer then asked everyone to look at the back of this sheet that lists our 2010 objectives and to take a few minutes to review. Chairman Boyer then gave a brief review and made a few comments. He asked Mr. Combs to give a more detailed review. Chairman Boyer commented that he is some what amazed on how well we did this year considering the budget environment. This was the result of detailed research, visit with our legislators and attendance at the committee meetings. Our day on the hill was of great success. In Chairman Boyer's view the most important factor for the JLC to speak with one voice. This makes the legislator's job easier and in turn they tend to support the JLC.

1 - *Real Estate Tax Exemption*

Mr. Combs pointed out that the action taken is on the back side of the summary sheet. Two resolutions were submitted one in the house and one in the senate. This was the second year for this objective. This resolution had to be submitted the same as last year in identical form. Both resolutions passed unanimously and had three supporting bills to support these resolutions. What the bills did was to go ahead and get the resolution on the ballots. So it could approve the ballots attentive and approve the wording as the ballot will appear in November. Three bills, two in the house one in the senate, the two in the house were combined. So the house bill and the final senate bill passed unanimously which was most successful. Mr. Combs finally stated that when you do a constitutional amendment like this and a ballot, the ballot attentive has to be advertised by the State Board of Elections. This constitutional question will be listed with two others on the ballot. Mr. Combs reported that \$440,000 was appropriated to do all of the advertising by the State Board of Elections to go out and tell the voters that when they go to vote at the polls in November that there will be these constitutional questions on there. Mr. Combs reported that this was a very important part especially in this year session because when you do one of these the first one cost about \$300,000 then the second one is about \$80,000 and the third about \$60,000. Obtaining this money to do this was a major success for the JLC. Mr. Combs then explained how the bill will look on the ballot. Mr. Platte asked that all of the Veterans Organizations to focus on this bill and get the word out for the November election. Ms. Jenny Holbert asked if a fact sheet could be drawn up to distribute to the council that they can pass out to the members. Mr. Combs said that between him and Ms. Anne Atkins that they can draw up a one page fact sheet for the next meeting to be distributed. Mr. Thad Jones pointed out that there is a thing called "voter fatigue" and wanted to know if these bills are listed at the bottom of the ballot who will help push these bills thru. Some discussion with the council continued. Chairman Boyer reminded the council that we need to get the word out to the Veterans. Commissioner Galanti briefly commented as well. He stated that this bill proposes a lost in revenue for the counties. He also commented that any politician that goes against this bill will not be voted back into office in Virginia. The bill will affect approximately 7400 veterans statewide.

Chairman Boyer then introduced the new DVS Commissioner Paul Galanti to the council. Commissioner Galanti expressed that he is truly honored to fill this position. Mr. Vince Burgess is retiring after 4 years of service with DVS and as Deputy Commissioner from DMV. He has more than thirty years of government service. Commissioner Galanti has been associated with the JLC for 8 years. He has spent the last two weeks shadowing Mr. Burgess and Mr. Burgess has agreed to stay on till the end of the month as a consultant. Commissioner Galanti continued with his admiration for the JLC and the DVS.

2A - *Continue level funding for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP)*
Mr. Combs reported that we had one bill; Bill 174 submitted by Delegate Kirk Cox and which made some changes to the eligibility of the VWWP by expanding the eligibility for the program to serve more of Virginia veterans and their families. No changes were proposed to the VWWP budget and their level of funding of approximately \$2 million a year will continue.

2B - *Automated Claims Processing System*

Mr. Combs stated that this objective was to appropriate monies to continue the development of the claims processing system. One bill was submitted by Del. Cox and two budget amendment these were requested budget amendment to the Governor Kaines budget. One bill and two budget request were submitted by Del. Cox and Senator Walter Stosch. The bill passed. The budget request amendment was not acted on due to funds that were identified in the DVS budget. That initiative will continue to press forward.

2C - *Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery*

Resources were provided to open and operate the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Mr. Combs pointed to the summary sheet for amounts listed. There was no money in Governor Kaines budget. We had two budget amendment requests one by Delegate Charles Carrico and the other one by Senator John Edwards that were submitted. Those results were \$150,000 in general funds, \$15,000 in non-general funds along with three positions in FY11; \$200,000 in general funds, \$15,000 in non-general funds and four new positions in FY12. This is a little less than what the general assembly requested but some new money is included. The cemetery is on schedule to open towards the end of this year or the beginning of next year due to some delays in construction from the weather. Mr. Combs spoke with Mr. Dan Kemano in reference to the lack of money for FY10. Mr. Kemano can bring on his staff in FY11 and get them trained for the opening of the cemetery. There may be some short falls that the department will have to work on to obtain funding to operate the cemetery.

3 - *Virginia War Memorial*

This objective was in support of the Virginia War Memorial and was a two part request. The first was for new money for furniture, fixture and equipment to appropriate the \$913,000 to do this. The second part was to appropriate an additional \$623,000 to operate the Galanti Center. The \$913,000 was included in Governor Kaines budget and there was two amendments submitted by Delegate John O'Bannon to move that money to FY10 which did pass. This will allow opening of the center on time. Mr. John Hatfield will give a construction update in his report later in the meeting. One new position in FY12 was also approved. The Department of General Services will continue with providing maintenance for the Memorial and the Galanti Educational Center under what is called the "Rent Plan", which will be at no cost for the first year to the War Memorial.

4 - *Burial Vaults*

The JLC had asked for \$36,000 so that the burial vaults could be sold at cost to state veterans. No money was included in the introduced budget. One bill by Del. Carrico and three budget amendment requests to provide the \$36,000 were submitted. The bill passed allowing the department to proceed. The \$36,000 was included in the final budget that will allow in FY11 to buy special equipment to do the initial vaults purchase. Some discussion with the council continued. Mr. Combs explained the procedure for purchasing the vaults and the two different vaults that will be available. The department applied for a grant for several million dollars to retro fit the current cemeteries with these vaults which they were not eligible for this year but will try again next year.

5 - *Veterans and Military Court Programs*

Mr. Combs reported that Ms. Cathy Wilson and her team are pursuing federal grants for this objective. Two bills were submitted with Delegate Thomas Gear and a senate bill with Senator John Miller. Those bills produced a lot of discussion within the House. The bills were left in committee for this year. The council further discussed this objective. Chairman Boyer tabled any further discussion to the July meeting to further discuss whether or not we will continue with this issue as a legislation objective for the JLC.

6 - *Military Family Relief Fund*

The JLC objective was to look for administration and/or legislation solutions to grant that this objective would not be treated as taxable income. Two house bills were submitted by Delegate Christopher Stolle and Delegate Joseph Johnson, and one senate bill. Both of these bills were combined and passed. These grants will be treated as non-taxable income.

HB29/HB20, as passed by the General Assembly

Mr. Combs asked that the council turn to the page titled "Summary of DVS FY11/12 Budget" which is included in your packet (*Attachment 4*). He then pointed out to where our base budget starts and reviewed the information listed. The JLC members can really see their impact on the budget. The 2011 budget has passed the General Assembly. Governor McDonnell has proposed a budget that will be decided on today that the DVS budget be reduced by \$75,000. This reduction would impact our benefits section. Savings were realized by the closing of our Washington field office in December. The department had all ready reallocated those funds for other purposes. The General Assembly could accept or change these proposals. Mr. Combs acknowledge that House Bill 30 has passed and Bill 29 had no changes.

Ms. Holbert asked if all of this activity in the General Assembly will effect what will happen between now and July 1st. Mr. Combs explained that between now and July 1st we will finish out the FY10 budget year. If the General Assembly passes the budget as proposed by Governor McDonnell today that money becomes available on July 1. Mr. Combs continued with further explanation.

Mr. Combs directed to council to the next page which explains the difference between General Funds and Non-General Funds, (*Attachment 5*). Mr. Abe Zino then asked a question in reference to the amount of veterans that are entering Virginia. He wanted to know if projections have been done to accommodate these veterans with these budget numbers. Mr. Combs went over some data that he has reviewed with Ms. Atkins. The Governor's goal is to make Virginia a Veteran friendly state.

Also, included in your packets is an attachment titled "DVS sections from HB30 (FY11/12)". Mr. Combs asked that the council review these papers which includes further information, (*Attachment 6*).

Governor McDonnell's proposed budget amendments and the reconvened ("veto") session

Mr. Combs then pointed out the attachment for the governor's proposed amendments and asked the council to review, (*Attachment 7*).

Other military and veteran legislation

Mr. Combs then reported on some of the other military and veteran legislation (*Attachment 8*) that may be of interest to the JLC. These bills will have an impact on the military community. He asked the council to please review this list.

Lessons Learned

Chairman Boyer asked everyone to give themselves a pat on the back for a job well done and to also note that the council will have to work harder next year. The council will have to do the ground work for the legislations we want to accomplish. The commissioner pointed out today that the JLC has become the voice of Virginia veterans. JLC has achieved that position by being responsible and reasonable in the legislative issues we pursue. Laying the ground work prior to the General Assembly and speaking with one voice has also helped us achieve this position. Chairman Boyer shared a personal experience with the council that reflects his experience with the legislation process. "We have to speak with one voice".

Chairman Boyer reemphasized that we will continue to be successful as long as we are responsible and reasonable. Within the Veterans community there are some things that we are passionate about and we would all like to be successful. We have to consider what we want as veterans and what the political and financial environments are. We also have to practice the art of the possible. Position papers need to be completed on time with the facts to back up the objective. You need to be available for the committee meetings during the General Assembly, you may be asked to make remarks. The legislators will look for you to support them during these meetings. It's important to establish a relationship with your local delegate and/or senator and make this something you do on a regular basis. Personal thank your patron for their support.

The council discussed drawing up a resolution to thank the patrons from all of the JLC members. The resolution will be presented at the next board meeting for signature by each member.

Chairman Boyer called for a five minute break. During this recess the tape was changed. Chairman Boyer called the meeting back to order at 11:28 am.

Chairman Boyer asked for a **motion** to approve a resolution thanking our patrons for the last legislation session. Mr. Thomas Moran made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Townsley, to approve the resolution. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Announcements

Mr. Combs asked the council to please sign their travel vouchers. The dollar amount is in error and will be corrected.

For those of you that are interested the Homeless Veteran study being conducted by the Joint Legislative Auditor the commission will meet on June 14th at 10:00 am in senate room A and present the findings. The presentation and report will be released later that day. Mr. Combs will send out a link to the website. Mr. Erik Messick will attend the July 21st meeting to brief the council on the study.

Next Thursday, April 29th at 1:30 pm will be a Military/veteran bill ceremony signing by Governor McDonnell. Everyone is invited. The signing will be on the south portico of the Capitol. Mr. Combs will send out an announcement later today to the council. As soon as Mr. Combs receives the final list of bills he will forward that as well.

Presentations

DVS Benefit Services

Mr. John Anderson and Mr. Sam Brown addressed the council and gave a brief bio on themselves. Mr. Anderson then directed the council to the presentation on DVS Benefit Services that is included in your packets. Mr. Anderson then proceeded to review the Power Point presentation and explain what they do and why they do it. We presently have offices thru three districts within our commonwealth. Each office has at the minimum one veteran service representative and one administrative assistant. Some of our offices due to their size and quantity of work may only have a veteran service representative. Our busiest office is our Tidewater office, with six veteran service representatives.

Mr. Brown pointed out that he has been doing training off and on for several years. One of the misconceptions with the VA is that they have a system to process claims and that is not the case. Claims are general filed thru service officers with different Veteran organizations. Most claims go thru the state agencies and then to the VA. Our staff is in need of more office space to help these veterans file their claims. We could put more staff into these offices if there was more space. Of course funding does not allow for the space. If some of these other organizations could share some of there space that is not being used this would be helpful.

Mr. Anderson continued with his presentation he also stated that they are very compassionate about their work and veterans. He continued with explaining the staffing for benefit services and reemphasized the need for more staff to provide adequate service to the veterans. Mr. Anderson then reviewed their accomplishments and explained what a retroactive award means to a veteran. All DD214's nationwide for veterans stating that they will be going to Virginia once they are discharged filters thru our office. Mr. Brown explained how some of these figures were established. With the Iraq veterans coming back you will see these numbers go up. If we don't have qualified trained staff to process theses claims appropriately then they don't get processed correctly. Mr. Brown stated that 20% of the appeals are going to get granted and 80% will be denied thru the VA. This is also same with the board that comes down out of Washington. These approval numbers will go up with the appropriately trained staff. Mr. Brown then pointed out on page 4 that the guy in the picture recently left DVS to take a job with the VA.

Mr. Anderson followed up on the retro claims by stating that VA will process the claims and if they deny a claim DVS will then do a lot of work in the appeal process for the veteran. Some appeals can take up to five years and this is were the retro money builds up. During this time a veteran does not receive any money. Claimants are claiming more conditions it used to be 3 or 4 conditions and is now around 25 different conditions. This takes a lot more time and effort on the representative and takes a well trained staff person to appropriately process the claim. Mr. Burgess added that this is a paper process within the VA. Currently all claims that goes thru a state office and then reaches the VA goes back to a paper process. Mr. Anderson stated that our

department wants to do the best it can to give the veteran the best claims process available thru DVS so that when it reaches the VA it is “ready to rate”, which is a terminology that the VA uses. Chairman Boyer commented that there is a lot of pressure on the VA to move forward with electronic data processing. Ms. Holbert reported that the VA has also just released their 13 greatest challenges on that list is included automating of data processing. If a veteran has special medial needs then the VA will hire a contractor to review and process the claim which can cause the claim to be delayed time wise.

Mr. Anderson reported that we have sufficient funding to continue with the development of the automated claims processing system for DVS. We currently have an outdated program that is being used called Record Management Data (RMD) and are working diligently with VITA on a new program that Mr. Anderson will get to view in the next couple of weeks and hopes to get it installed in our benefit offices. The automated claims processing has been a slow, slow, expensive process. Commissioner Galanti explained that one of the reasons that this is coming about is that one of the VA techs lost a laptop with Veteran personal information on it, the tech did get the laptop back and the information was not compromised. So, that is why we are working on this external storage with VITA at one of their servers down in Chesterfield to store this information. Commissioner Galanti then commented that Mr. Anderson and Mr. Brown are leading the way with this.

Mr. Anderson then commented on their budget reduction. The DC office that was closed was to afford us the opportunity to use those resources to better handle the claims processing. Mr. Anderson then reviewed the next to the last slide in the power point presentation and discussed the Needs of Benefit Section. This is were Mr. Anderson hopes to gain support thru the JLC and does understand that they can not get all of these needs granted. The starting salary for a VA claim agent is significantly higher than the starting salary for a DVS claim agent. We would like to close this gap. We are losing good trained agents thru our department to the VA. Chairman Boyer did ask if Mr. Anderson could produce a priority list of these needs.

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program

Ms. Catherine Wilson, Executive Director of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, gave a quick update on VWWP activities. She stated that they had a very successful statewide conference back in February. The five regional areas broke off into smaller groups to better focus on their region. They were also able to list the top three issues for their regions which were talked thru. Ms. Wilson stated that a comprehensive report should be available which was paid for with grant money and she will let the council know when it is available.

Ms. Wilson did make one announcement, Mr. Kenneth Rich, Regional Director for region IV and V, has accepted a job with Fort Eustis and will be leaving us a week from this Friday, April 30th will be his last day. He will continue to volunteer in our program.

Ms. Wilson then introduced Mr. Michael Rindorf who was one of the presenters at our conference and the Regional Director for the Southwestern region. Mr. Rindorf greeted the council and thanked the council for support of the VWWP. Mr. Rindorf discussed his region and the services they have in place for veterans. Mr. Rindorf also commented on the assistance he

receives from Mr. Derek Burton, the Regional Coordinator. Mr. Rindorf stated that there will be a “Wounded Hero Outdoor Event” hosted by Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation on April 29th.

Mr. Rindorf then introduced Mr. Burton who thanked the council for inviting him to the meeting and for their support of the VWWP. He briefly described his region and different services available. Mr. Burton reviewed some of the upcoming family events for their region and a program named VAPAWS which is a program with local dogs for therapy. Ms. Wilson was truly amazed by these service dogs.

Ms. Wilson hopes to hear on the results of the Needs Assessment finalized report from Virginia Tech by the time JLAC meets on July 21st. The preliminary results were discussed at our conference. She also brought ambassador pins to present to the council and distributed. These pins have the VWWP logo on it.

Commissioner Galanti briefly reviewed Ms. Wilson’s background for some of the new members.

Mr. Anderson reviewed a priority list for their needs that they would like the council to address:
1. Funding for their computer needs; 2. Funding for one claim examiner; 3. Funding for one training coordinator; 4. Funding for two claim representatives.

The Council took a lunch break between 12:25 p.m. and 12:45 p.m.

Reports

Board of Veterans Services

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Thad Jones reported that the BVS report is included in your packets see (*Attachment 9*). Mr. Jones commented on how hard everyone is working for Veterans. He briefly commented on HB1331 which has to do with the new governor who is a veteran and wanting to make Virginia a Veteran Friendly State. The BVS is going thru a transformation due to Mr. Burgess’s retirement. Commissioner Galanti has been appointed as the new commissioner. The BVS has four members that will be appointed or reappointed later this year along with elections of officers. The next BVS meeting will be May 12, 2010 at SBVCC.

Veterans Services Foundation

Mr. Jack Hilgers delivered the VSF report in Mr. Meade Spotts absence see (*Attachment 10*). He reported that we have had a 100% participation in the Honor Brick program and have received about \$6500. Fundraising is moving along. The foundation did receive a unique donation of a truck load of furniture which the value of this donation has yet to be determined. Mr. Vince Burgess and Mr. Mike Rogers went up to Northern Virginia to pick up the furniture and placed it in storage here in Richmond. The next VSF meeting will be May 5, 2010 at SBVCC.

Department of Veterans Services

Commissioner Galanti delivered the report see (*Attachment 11*) for the Department of Veterans Services (DVS). The commissioner stated that he took office on April 15 and spent the first two

days christening a ship in Gulf Port, Mississippi. All three bottles broke at the same time. He has been shadowing Mr. Burgess for the last two weeks and Mr. Burgess has agreed to stay on till the end of April as a consultant. The commissioner is honored to fill this position. Chairman Boyer Welcomed Commissioner Galanti on board as the new commissioner.

Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council

Mr. Carmen Gentile, JLC Representative to the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council (VCSSC), did not have a report. The VCSSC has not met since October 2009.

Virginia Military Advisory Council

Mr. Jeff Platte, JLC Representative to the VMAC, reported that the VMAC met on Tuesday, April 20th. (*Attachment 14*). He also reported that Fort Lee is picking up more military and that Fort Eustis plans to use trains to transport between the two bases. Mr. Platte briefly reviewed the agenda from the meeting. Mr. Platte stated that in your local community make sure you have a dialog between the Veterans organizations, Military organizations and State organizations. Also, just because a law is passed does not make it happen you do have to follow up on it.

Virginia War Memorial

Mr. Jon Hatfield reported on the VWM and noted that the JLC is responsible for a lot of their success. He also thanked the JLC for their work with the General Assembly to help obtain funds to obtain fixtures, furniture and to staff the Memorial seven days a week. Mr. Hatfield also thanked Mr. Hilgers for his efforts with the Honor Brick Program. The construction is moving along well about 70% of the stone cladding is on and the roof is on. Mr. Hatfield invited anyone who wanted to stop by and take a hard hat tour of the construction site to come on by. Our education program has continued forward. They had one student seminar last week that was well attended. The second Volume of our documentary has gone out to every middle and high school. These films are produced at no cost to the taxpayers and are given to the schools free of charge. PBS thought this film was worth while to show on their station. He continued to report on the educational programs.

Mr. Hatfield then addressed the council on how names are placed on the wall at the Virginia War Memorial. There was a difference in some Veterans organizations in their interpretation of how the names are to be placed on the wall. Mr. Hatfield stated that there is a policy in place since the opening of the War Memorial. He briefly reviewed some of the issues that lead up to this difference of opinion. The General Assembly in their session last year in '09 asked the board of trustees at the Memorial to review the policy and restate it. The board of trustees adopted a policy that was more inclusive than the original one. They wanted to honor all veterans that were killed during active duty. The different location of the names at the Memorial did not make all parties happy. During this year the General Assembly was presented with two different bills, one in the house that validated the policy adopted by the board of trustees and one in the senate that all veterans that were killed should be honored in one location. Both bills passed but did not make it to combining the two bills into one that both sides could agree on. This issue has been tabled till next year. In the past no new names were added to the Wall until after a War was over and the troops returned home.

Mr. Hatfield personal Thanked Mr. Burgess for his support of the Memorial and the Educational Center. Mr. Hatfield then official welcomed Commissioner Galanti as the new commissioner.

Mr. Hatfield discussed the new parking deck's layout and how many spaces the Memorial will have. The parking deck will be a three level deck with two underground and the ability to lock off the lower decks when not in use. The council did acknowledge that the funding for this issue could become a legislative objective.

Chairman Boyer commented on the placing of the names on the wall at the Memorial. He reminded everyone that the JLC decided to support the Memorial on this issue. As we prepare for our next meeting we will consider legislative issues. Chairman Boyer asked the council to think about this issue. He also stated that personal he feels this is an issue that should not be listed as a legislative objective. The council asked if Mr. Hatfield could send out a list of all the options listed that the veteran would be listed under. Mr. Hatfield said that he would provide this information and pass on to Mr. Combs for distribution.

New Business

Guidelines/process for preparing 2011 JLC Legislative Objectives

Chairman Boyer stated that we have to prepare thoroughly factual point papers to back up those legislative issues we choose to present. We have to meet with our legislators either individually or in a group forum and pick our patrons to sponsor our legislative objectives that are on committees that will support this process. Chairman Boyer described a different way of approaching the legislators this year. He stated that Mr. Don Kaiserman is our legislator chairman up until now and is going to ask Mr. Kaiserman to play a bigger role for our upcoming session. Mr. Kaiserman has become an expert in this area and he lives in the Richmond area. He can be our "field general" though out the legislative process and help coordinate the process to make it easier for these individual sponsors on issues. Mr. Kaiserman will be working with the DVS, General Assembly and the Governors office to insure that the JLC continues to provide active timely information on matters of concerns to veterans across the state. Mr. Kaiserman will present his plan at the July meeting. Chairman Boyer asked that all VSO's that propose a legislative objective for 2011 to prepare a short position paper to present at the July 24th session and forwarded a copy to Mr. Kaiserman or Mr. Combs by July 14th.

Potential legislative objectives for 2011

Chairman Boyer proposed the first legislative objective: to take on sales tax exemption for Veteran Service Organizations in Virginia. He explained that North Carolina has a sales tax exemption for their VSO's, Virginia does not and Maryland is pursuing this as well with their legislators. Chairman Boyer has done research into this objective. Some discussion continued with the council. This issue will be further discussed at length at the July meeting.

Chairman Boyer proposed another objective that he has been discussing with Mr. Combs. Mr. Combs explained that this objective would be the next logical step for what the state has been doing for Veterans education. Our Service Members that are stationed in Virginia would qualify for in-state tuition even though the Service Member kept his residence in another state for tax purposes. When a Service Members is currently discharged from the service he loses that. Mr.

Combs went into further explanation of this objective. The council continued some discussion. Mr. Brown gave his personal experiences with the educational benefits and his residence. He also offered to help with this objective.

Chairman Boyer quickly summarized that if you have an issue that you are passionate about and this is an issue that the General Assembly can act on please prepare a position paper and forward it to Mr. Combs by July 14th. These positions will then be debated at the July meeting.

Appointment of Nominating Committee

Chairman Boyer appointed a nominating committee who will present a slate of officers to vote on at the July meeting. During the July meeting we will accept nominations and vote on these nominations. Chairman Boyer appointed Mr. Corbett, Mr. Zino and Mr. Peter Fairchild who gracefully accepted. Mr. Combs will assist with the nominating committee. With no further comments the nominating committee was accepted as presented.

Open Discussion

Mr. Wes Edwards addressed the council on two issues. The first issue was on the placement of names on the wall at the VWM. Mr. Edwards's organization has received correspondence from legislators. These legislators stated in the letter that they are looking for assistance from Mr. Edward's organization with this issue. The council briefly discussed this issue and Chairman Boyer reported that we did not take a stand on the wall during this pass General Assembly. Now the legislators are asking us to help. Chairman Boyer stated that the War Memorial trustees have a policy in place and that some people do not agree with the policy and have contacted their legislators to make changes to the policy. The legislators proceed to make changes and were unable to agree on these changes so they have forward this issue back to the JLC. The JLC stands behind the Virginia War Memorial policy.

Mr. Edwards's second issue is in reference to the legislators that have put out some data that the JLC needs to find ways to support these different programs that they are coming up with because there is not enough money in the budget to support these programs. Chairman Boyer commented that the Legislators want us to go out and raise about \$250,000 a year for these programs. The council briefly discussed this.

Ms. Cindy Norwood, from the Attorney General office, announced that there will be a Wall of Honor Ceremony on May 27th at 3:00 pm and everyone is invited. The ceremony will be at the State Capitol South Portico and the Public Viewing will follow at 4:00 pm at the Wall of Honor.

Public comment period

No public comments were made.

Mr. Hilgers thanked the AMVETS for they \$1000 donation to the VWWP. Mr. Hilgers stated that there still is some time before the end of the year to make donations.

Mr. Brown addressed the flag issue for the VWM and stated that this will be discussed at the next AMVET meeting. Mr. Brown hopes to have their money for Mr. Hilgers at the next JLC meeting for the Honor Brick program.

Preparation for upcoming meetings

Chairman Boyer reminded the Council that the next meeting is scheduled for July 21.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
American Legion Department of Virginia Building
1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond
April 21, 2010
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Dan Boyer, JLC Chairman* (5 minutes)
- II. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda, and introduction of guests – *Dan Boyer* (5 minutes)
- III. Review and approval of December 22, 2009 and January 18, 2010 meeting minutes – *Dan Boyer* (5 minutes)
- IV. Review of 2010 budget and legislation
 - a. JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives – *Dan Boyer, JLC members* (20 minutes)
 - b. HB29/HB30, as passed by the General Assembly – *Steve Combs* (5 minutes)
 - c. Governor McDonnell’s proposed budget amendments and the reconvened (“veto”) session – *Steve Combs* (5 minutes)
 - d. Other military and veteran legislation – *Steve Combs* (10 minutes)
 - e. Lessons learned – *Dan Boyer, JLC members* (5 minutes)
- V. Presentations
 - a. DVS Benefit Services – *John Anderson and Sam Brown* (15 minutes)
 - b. Virginia Wounded Warrior Program – *Cathy Wilson, Michael Rindorf, and Derek Burton* (15 minutes)
- VI. Reports
 - 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 Citizen-Soldier Support Council – *Carmen Gentile, JLC Representative* (5 minutes)
 - e. Virginia Military Advisory Council – *Jeff Platte, JLC Representative* (5 minutes)
 - f. Virginia War Memorial – *Jon Hatfield, Executive Director* (5 minutes)
- VII. Break/working lunch (30 minutes)
- VIII. New business
 - a. Guidelines/process for preparing 2011 JLC Legislative Objectives – *Dan Boyer* (10 minutes)
 - b. Potential legislative objectives for 2011 – *Dan Boyer* (20 minutes)
 - c. Appointment of Nominating Committee – *Dan Boyer* (5 minutes)
 - d. Open discussion (10 minutes)

IX. Public comment period (5 minutes)

X. Prepare for upcoming meetings – *Dan Boyer* (5 minutes)

XI. Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Changes to minutes from December 22 meeting

1. Page 11 – “Mr. George Corbett said that Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 227, has asked Delegate David Bulova and Senator Chap Peterson to introduce a joint resolution recognizing the “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.” Mr. Corbett said this event is generally held at the end of May each year.”
 - a. Should be “...is generally held at the end of March each year.”

Changes to minutes from January 18 meeting

1. Page 1. Under “Members and Alternate Members Present”
 - a. Add Bruce Brown, AMVETS
 - b. Delete Ed Dauksz, Association of the US Army (AUSA)

ATTACHMENT 3

Summary of JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives as of April 21, 2010

JLC Objective	Action Taken	Result
1 – Real Estate Tax Exemption	Two resolutions (HJ31 and SJ13) and three supporting bills (HB149, HB1270, and SB31) submitted. Budget amendment request submitted to pay for ballot initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HJ31, SJ13, HB149, and SB31 passed unanimously • \$440,200 included for ballot initiatives • Measure will be on the ballot in November
2A – Continue level funding for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program	One bill (HB174) submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB174 passed unanimously • Level funding of just under \$2 million/year will continue
2B – Automated Claims Processing System	One bill (HB419) and two budget amendment requests submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB419 passed unanimously • Funds identified in DVS budget to continue development
2C – Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery	Two budget amendment requests submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$150,000 GF and \$15,000 NGF and 3 new positions in FY11 • \$200,000 GF and \$15,000 NGF and 4 new positions in FY12
3 – Virginia War Memorial	\$913,000 for FF&E included in FY11 introduced budget. Four budget amendment requests submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$913,000 in FF&E moved to FY10 • \$150,000 GF in FY11 for operations • \$400,000 GF and 1 new position in FY12 for operations • Department of General Services to provide maintenance under existing rent plan
4 – Burial Vaults	One bill (HB479) and three budget amendment requests submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB479 passed unanimously • \$36,000 GF provided in FY11 for equipment and initial vault purchase
5 – Veterans and Military Court Programs	Two bills (HB663 and SB592) submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB663 left in committee • SB592 incorporated into SB158, which failed to pass

		the Senate
6 – Military Family Relief Fund	Three bills (HB1118, HB1231, and SB619) submitted	• HB1118 and SB619 passed unanimously

2010 LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES

The following legislative objectives were adopted by the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) on August 12, 2009 and revised on December 22, 2009. These are the prioritized objectives of the 23 Veterans Service Organizations represented on the JLC.

1. **Real Estate Tax Exemption for 100% Disabled Veterans.** The JLC requests that the General Assembly enact legislation to amend the Virginia Constitution to require local governments to grant real estate tax exemptions for 100% service-connected disabled veterans without regards to means testing. Identical legislation passed the 2009 General Assembly and must also pass the 2010 General Assembly.

2. **Support the Department of Veterans Services FY11-FY12 Budget.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly:
 - a. Continue level funding for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) at \$2 million per year (GF); and
 - b. Appropriate \$100,000 (GF) in FY11 to continue development of the Automated Claims Processing System for veterans disability claims; and
 - c. Provide the necessary resources to open and operate the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery: \$40,000 (GF) in FY10, \$285,000 (GF) and \$15,000 (NGF) in FY11 and ongoing, and five positions.

3. **Virginia War Memorial Operating Funds and FFE Funds.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly:
 - a. Appropriate \$913,000 (GF) in FY11 to purchase furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FFE) for the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center; and
 - b. Appropriate an additional \$623,100 (GF) per year, over and above current funding levels, to operate the Center.

4. **Burial Vaults for Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly appropriate \$36,000 (GF) in FY11 so that burial vaults may be sold at cost at Virginia state veterans cemeteries.

5. **Military and Veteran Court Programs: The JLC requests that:**
 - a. The General Assembly enact legislation that would authorize localities to establish special court programs for veterans and military personnel; and

- b. An educational program be established to educate judges, attorneys, first responders, and others on the unique challenges faced by combat veterans and the treatment options available to them; and
 - c. A study be conducted to identify further ways of helping combat veterans who come in contact with the legal and criminal justice systems.
6. **Military Family Relief Fund**: The JLC requests that an administrative or legislative solution be found so that grants from the Military Family Relief Fund are not treated as taxable income.

ATTACHMENT 4

	General Fund	Non-General Fund	Total
<u>FY11</u>			
2011 Base Budget (2010 Base Budget)	\$7,551,661	\$35,409,719	\$42,961,380
Continuation of FY10 Budget Reductions and new reductions	(\$533,043)	\$395,366	(\$137,677)
2011 Budget - As Introduced	\$7,018,618	\$35,805,085	\$42,823,703
Changes made by 2010 General Assembly			
Virginia War Memorial	\$150,000		\$150,000
Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery	\$150,000	\$15,000	\$165,000
Burial Vaults	\$36,000		\$36,000
Total - Changes made by 2010 General Assembly	\$336,000	\$15,000	\$351,000
2011 Budget - as passed by the 2010 General Assembly	\$7,354,618	\$35,820,085	\$43,174,703
Governor McDonnell's Proposed Changes	(\$74,500)	\$0	(\$74,500)
2011 Budget - as proposed by Governor McDonnell	\$7,280,118	\$35,820,085	\$43,100,203
<u>FY12</u>			
2012 Base Budget (2010 Base Budget)	\$7,551,661	\$35,409,719	\$42,961,380
Continuation of FY10 Budget Reductions and new reductions	(\$533,043)	\$395,366	(\$137,677)
2012 Budget - As Introduced	\$7,018,618	\$35,805,085	\$42,823,703
Changes made by 2010 General Assembly			
Virginia War Memorial	\$400,000		\$400,000
Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery	\$200,000	\$15,000	\$215,000
Total - Changes made by 2010 General Assembly	\$600,000	\$15,000	\$615,000
2012 Budget - as passed by the 2010 General Assembly	\$7,618,618	\$35,820,085	\$43,438,703
Governor McDonnell's Proposed Changes	(\$74,500)	\$0	(\$74,500)
2012 Budget - as proposed by Governor McDonnell	\$7,544,118	\$35,820,085	\$43,364,203

ATTACHMENT 5

A quick note on DVS Fund Sources

General Funds:

- Mostly derived from direct general taxes paid by citizens and businesses in Virginia
- Can be used for a variety of government programs
- Governor and the General Assembly have the most discretion to spend
- In DVS, general fund monies are used for Benefit Services, Cemetery Services, the Virginia War Memorial, the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, and for administration

Nongeneral Funds: receipts set aside for specific purposes

Special Funds (nongeneral): for DVS, these are monies “earned” for delivering a service. In DVS, almost all special funds come from monies received for resident care at the veterans care centers.

Dedicated Special Funds (nongeneral): for DVS, these are monies donated to the Department (for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, the cemeteries, etc.)

Federal Trust (nongeneral): for DVS, these are monies received from the Federal Government for a specific purpose. Uses at DVS include:

- Resident care at the care centers
- Plot allowance at the cemeteries
- State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training

Source: Virginia Department of Planning & Budget website – “*Frequently asked Questions and Answers about Virginia’s Budget*,” <http://dpb.virginia.gov/budget/faq.cfm>

ATTACHMENT 6

DVS sections from HB30 (FY11/12)

Department of Veterans Services – Total

	FY11	FY12
Total for Department of Veterans Services	43,174,703	43,438,703
General Fund Positions	103.00	104.00
Nongeneral Fund Positions	509.00	509.00
Position Level	612.00	613.00
Fund Sources: General	7,354,618	7,618,618
Special	27,503,748	27,503,748
Dedicated Special Revenue	265,000	265,000
Federal Trust	8,051,337	8,051,337

Education Services

	FY11	FY12
Item 411. Higher Education Student Financial Assistance (10800)	704,223	704,223
Education Program Certification for Veterans (10814)	704,223	704,223
Fund Sources: Federal Trust	704,223	704,223

Authority: Title 2.2, Chapter 20, 24, 26, 27, Code of Virginia.

Care Center Services

		FY11	FY12
Item 412.	State Health Services (43000)	33,652,205	33,652,205
	Veterans Care Center Operations (43013)	33,652,205	33,652,205
Fund Sources:	Special	26,560,091	26,560,091
	Dedicated Special Revenue	70,000	70,000
	Federal Trust	7,022,114	7,022,114

Authority: § 51.5-73, Code of Virginia; P.L. 93-112, Federal Code.

The anticipation loan authorized in Chapter 847, 2008 Acts of Assembly, for up to \$2,200,000 with no interest for operational costs for the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center is to be paid back by December 31, 2011, from nongeneral funds received for services rendered.

Benefit Services and Virginia Wounded Warrior Program

		FY11	FY12
Item 413.	Veterans Benefit Services (46700)	5,445,226	5,445,226
	Case Management Services for Veterans Benefits (46701)	5,445,226	5,445,226
Fund Sources:	General	5,195,226	5,195,226
	Dedicated Special Revenue	150,000	150,000
	Federal Trust	100,000	100,000

Authority: Title 2.2, Chapters 20, 24, 26, 27, Code of Virginia.

A. Notwithstanding § 23-7.4:1, Code of Virginia, the department shall provide the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia the information these schools need to administer the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program. The department shall retain the responsibility to certify the eligibility of those who apply for financial aid under this program.

B. No child may receive the education benefits provided by § 23-7.4:1, Code of Virginia, and funded by this or similar state appropriations, for more than four years or its equivalent.

C. Out of the amounts appropriated in this Item, \$1,964,246 and five positions the first year and \$1,964,246 and five positions the second year from the general fund and \$150,000 in the first year and \$150,000 in the second from nongeneral funds are provided for the “Wounded Warrior”

program, operated in cooperation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Rehabilitative Services.

Cemetery Services and Virginia War Memorial

		FY11	FY12
Item 414.	Historic and Commemorative Attraction Management (50200)	1,421,757	1,685,757
	Historic Landmarks and Facilities Management (50203)	391,312	641,312
	State Veterans Cemetery Management and Operations (50206)	1,030,445	1,044,445
Fund Sources:	General	1,113,291	1,377,291
	Special	78,466	78,466
	Dedicated Special Revenue	5,000	5,000
	Federal Trust	225,000	225,000

Authority: Title 2.2, Chapters 20, 24, 26, 27, Code of Virginia.

A. The Department of General Services shall continue to provide routine building and grounds maintenance for the Virginia War Memorial as part of services provided under the seat of government rental plan.

B. Out of the amounts appropriated for this item, \$36,000 the first year from the general fund is provided for the department to purchase burial vaults for purchase at cost by veterans and their families for use in burials performed at state-operated veterans cemeteries, and the necessary equipment for installation of burial vaults. The department shall use the proceeds from the sale of the burial vaults to purchase additional vaults as needed.

Administration

		FY11	FY12
Item 415.	Administrative and Support Services (49900)	1,951,292	1,951,292
	General Management and Direction (49901)	1,951,292	1,951,292
Fund Sources:	General	1,046,101	1,046,101
	Special	865,191	865,191
	Dedicated Special Revenue	40,000	40,000

Authority: Title 2.2, Chapters 20, 24, 26, 27, Code of Virginia.

Capital Projects

		FY11	FY12
Item C-79.	Maintenance Reserve (17073)	200,000	200,000
Fund Sources:	Special	50,000	50,000
	Federal Trust	150,000	150,000

Item C-80 (language only)

New Construction: Suffolk Veterans Cemetery Phase 2 Expansion

The Governor is authorized to request federal funds to expand the Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. Upon confirmation of eligibility for federal grant funding, the Director, Department of Planning and Budget, shall approve a short-term, interest-free treasury loan in the amount of \$500,000 to the Department of Veterans Services for final cemetery expansion design. The loan shall be repaid by the Department of Veterans Services upon receipt of the federal funds. In the event that federal funds are not received, the agency shall repay the loan from agency special funds. Upon the availability of federal funds, the Director, Department of Planning and Budget, shall approve a short-term, interest-free loan in the amount of \$2,793,000 to the Department of Veterans Services. The loan shall be repaid by the Department of Veterans Services upon receipt of the federal funds.

Item C-80.10 (language only)

Effective July 1, 2010, the Southwestern Virginia Veterans Care Center shall be considered a part of the six-year capital outlay plan authorized under Chapter 46 and Chapter 696, 2009 Acts of Assembly.

ATTACHMENT 7

**Copy of DVS Section
from
Governor McDonnell's Proposed Changes to HB30**

Item 413

Public Safety	FY 10 - 11	FY 11 - 12	
Department of Veterans Services	(\$74,500)	(\$74,500)	GF

Language:

Page 309, line 18, strike "\$5,445,226 and insert "\$5,370,726".

Page 309, line 18, strike "\$5,445,226 and insert "\$5,370,726".

Explanation:

(This amendment captures savings resulting from the agency's shift of the appeals caseload from the Washington office to the Fairfax office initiated last year.)

ATTACHMENT 8

Other Veteran and Military-related Legislation of interest to the JLC – as of April 20, 2010

Bills that have passed unanimously and have been approved by the Governor:

- **HB262 (Sherwood/Greason)**: Exempts veterans from paying the Department of Business Assistance's handling fee when establishing a small business through the one-stop small business permitting program
- **HB760 (Stolle)**: Requires the Virginia Employment Commission, in cooperation with the Department of Veterans Services and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, to establish the Veterans Skills Database, an Internet-accessible database of veterans and their workforce skills, for the purpose of marketing and promoting the workforce skills of veterans to potential employers. The database will be free to both veterans and employers
- **HB956 (Lingamfelter)**: Provides that a unit owners' or property owner's association shall not prohibit or otherwise adopt or enforce any policy restricting a unit or lot owner from displaying upon property to which that owner has a separate ownership interest or a right to exclusive possession or use the flag of the United States whenever such display is in compliance with the federal Flag Code. The bill also provides that the unit owners' or property owners' association may establish reasonable restrictions as to the size, place, duration, and manner of placement or display of the flag provided the restrictions are necessary to protect a substantial interest of the unit owners' or property owners' association. Under the bill in an action brought to enforce a rule pertaining to display of the flag, the unit owners' or property owners' association has the burden of proof regarding whether the rule protects a substantial interest of the association
- **HB1337 (Lingamfelter)**: Requires the Commissioner, in conjunction with the Board of Veterans Services, to establish and implement a compact with Virginia's veterans, which shall have a goal of making Virginia America's most veteran-friendly state
- **SB151 (Stuart)**: Provides that a unit owners' or property owners' association shall not prohibit or otherwise adopt or enforce any policy restricting a unit or lot owner from displaying upon property to which that owner has a separate ownership interest or a right to exclusive possession or use the flag of the United States whenever such display is in compliance with the federal Flag Code. The bill also provides that the unit owners' or property owners' association may establish reasonable restrictions as to the size, place, duration, and manner of placement or display of the flag provided the restrictions are necessary to protect a substantial interest of the unit owners' or property owners' association. Under the bill, if an action is brought by a unit owners' or property owners' association to enforce a rule pertaining to display of the flag, the association shall bear the burden of proof that the restrictions as to the size, place, duration, and manner of

placement or display of such flag are necessary to protect a substantial interest of the owners' association

- SB243 (Watkins): Exempts active duty military personnel who are residents and on leave from having to obtain a basic fishing license so long as they can show proof that they are on leave. Such an exemption does not extend to such persons to fish in waters stocked with trout
- SB299 (Miller, J.C.): Requires the Department of Education to employ a military family education liaison to provide staff support for the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and to assist military families and the state in facilitating the implementation of the Interstate Compact
- SB455 (Hurt/Stosch): Exempts veterans from the handling fee charged by the Department of Business Assistance in connection with the establishment and operation of a small business
- SB563 (Ticer): Adds veterans' posts or organizations to those charitable organizations that are exempt from submitting annual registration statements

Bills that passed unanimously, but where the Governor has recommended changes:

- HB128 (Cox): Authorizes the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to issue free fishing licenses to disabled, active duty military personnel who are receiving inpatient or outpatient medical treatment from a veterans or military hospital in Virginia, an adjoining state, or the District of Columbia. There is no cost for the license, and it is valid for one year. *The Governor's recommendation would eliminate the requirement that the treatment be at a military or veterans hospital*
- HB1226 (Tyler): Adds the Global War on Terror, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom to the wars that are recognized on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. The bill also adds the Global War on Terror and Operation Enduring Freedom to the wars or conflicts for which a locality may issue permits for the erection of monuments or memorials. *The Governor's recommendation would change the word "Terror" in the bill to "Terrorism"*

Resolutions that passed unanimously

- HJ136 (Bulova) and SJ42 (Petersen): Designates March 30, in 2010 and in each succeeding year, as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in Virginia to celebrate the service and numerous contributions of the Commonwealth's Vietnam-era veterans and to coincide with the national observance of the day

- HB137 (Cosgrove): Designates the Honor and Remember Flag as the Commonwealth's emblem of service and sacrifice by the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who have given their lives in the line of duty

ATTACHMENT 9

BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS April 21, 2010

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on January 11, 2010. At the meeting, the BVS:

- Welcomed new member Sandra Love, who replaces Bettye Simmons
- Received reports from the Board's standing committees (Benefits, Care Centers, and Cemeteries)
- Received reports from the Department of Veterans Services, Veterans Services Foundation (VSF), and Joint Leadership Council (JLC)
- Had a presentation from VSF Chairman Dave Richardson and VSF Executive Director Jack Hilgers on the VSF mission, organization, and activities
- Reviewed the JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives and other potential 2010 legislative issues
- Adopted the following 2010-2011 meeting schedule: May 12, 2010; September 29, 2010; January 10, 2011

BVS legislative members continue their stellar support of JLC, veterans, and military issues. Several JLC bills or budget requests were carried by BVS members, to include:

- JLC Objective 1 – Real Estate Tax Relief: Senator Toddy Puller
- JLC Objective 2a – Virginia Wounded Warrior Program: Delegate Kirk Cox
- JLC Objective 2b – Automated Claims Processing System: Delegate Kirk Cox
- JLC Objective 2c – Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery: Senator John Edwards

House Bill 1337, passed by the 2010 General Assembly, requires the Commissioner to:

“Establish and implement a compact with Virginia's veterans, which shall have a goal of making Virginia America's most veteran-friendly state. The compact shall be established in conjunction with the Board of Veterans Services and supported by the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations and shall (i) include specific provisions for technology advances, workforce development, outreach, quality of life enhancement, and other services for veterans and (ii) provide service standards and goals to be attained for each specific provision in clause (i). The provisions of the compact shall be reviewed and updated annually. The Commissioner shall include in the annual report required by this section, the progress of veterans services established in the compact.”

The Board looks forward to working with DVS and the JLC in charting a course to meet the Governor's and the General Assembly's goal of making Virginia “America's most veteran-friendly state.”

The next BVS meeting will be held on May 12 at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Thad A. Jones
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 10

VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) April 21, 2010

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees met on March 24, 2010 and the following actions were taken to ratify the executive Committee's actions on December 4, 2009.

- (1) Approved the VSF FY10 1st Quarter Financial Report to the DVS Commissioner;
- (2) Approved FY10 budget adjustments for the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center, the Suffolk veterans cemetery, VWWP, and the Foundation Support Fund;
- (3) Approved establishing a JLC Support Fund to allow for JLC fundraising and JLC expenditures;
- (4) Approved VSF-DVS Joint Policy #6 revision giving VWWP greater sub-fund flexibility;
- (5) Approved Board Bylaws changes to provide for a Nominating Committee;
- (6) Approved the following dates for 2010 Board meetings; March 24, May 5, August 4, and November 3, 2010.

Additionally, the Board approved the VSF FY10 2nd Quarter Financial report to the DVS Commissioner and a budget adjustment from \$3,000 to \$6,500 for the JLC Support Fund to account for the increased revenues raised that will be spent during April 2010. The JLC Support Fund's current primary purpose is to support the Honor Brick paver program for the Virginia War Memorial. So far there is 100% participation in the JLC Honor Brick and 15 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) have contributed to their own Honor Brick to date.

The Finance Committee met on March 17, 2010 and the Development Committee on March 24, 2010. The minutes of the Finance and Development Committee meetings are posted on the Commonwealth Calendar.

The Foundation had raised over \$72,500, of which about \$64,600 is for VWWP, as of March 24, 2010. This is almost \$25,000 short of its fundraising for VWWP at this time last year. The deficiencies primarily are in VSO and individual contributions, which may be a reflection of the economy for individuals. VSOs have contributed \$28,725 to date which is far below last year at this time. There still is time in FY10 to help match last year's contribution level of \$40,000, which is a creditable target share toward the \$150,000 required.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2010. It will be held at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the 3rd Quarter FY10 Fund Statement and additional FY10 budget adjustments; (2) possible adoption of a revised policy associated with in-kind donations, (3) review VSF FY10 fundraising program (4) approval of FY11 budgets, and (5) election of FY11 Board Officers. There will be Finance and Development Committee meetings before the next Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

David Richardson
VSF Chairman

ATTACHMENT 11

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS April 21, 2010

2010 General Assembly

- In spite of the economy, 2010 a very positive year for veterans services
- DVS applauds and thanks the JLC for their outstanding efforts
- Veterans services continue to enjoy broad, bi-partisan support from the Executive and Legislative branches
- DVS looking forward to working with the Board of Veterans Services and the JLC to implement the Governor's and Legislature's goal to make Virginia "*America's most veteran-friendly state*"

DVS Budget Challenges for 2010-2012 and beyond

Project	Goal	Challenges
Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Dublin)	Open the cemetery in Fall 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$150,000 (GF) and \$15,000 (NGF) provided in FY11; \$200,000 (GF) and \$15,000 (NGF) provided in FY12• DVS estimates need at \$300,000 (GF/NGF) annually• DVS will need to identify ways to make up the shortfall (donated funds?) or reduce initial scale of operations
Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia) Equipment Replacement	Ensure Amelia Cemetery has proper equipment to conduct operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cemetery has been operational for 12 years• Original equipment is wearing out and needs to be replaced• Equipment needed: dump truck, backhoe, two pickup trucks, three mowers, and other equipment
Benefit Services	Improve Department's ability to serve Virginia's veterans and eligible spouses/dependents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue development and deployment of Automated Claims Processing System• Restore/expand services by filling vacant positions, reopening Alexandria office, and opening new office in Virginia Beach• Strengthen training program
Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center	Start design as soon as federal matching funds are available	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project ranked 46 on Federal FY10 Priority Funding list• DVS told project will not be funded in FFY10

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earliest opening now likely FY13 or later (two years to design and build) unless private funding option found • \$5 - 6M in GF support needed for startup, but may not be available given current fiscal situation. DVS exploring other options
Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center Addition	Start design and construction as soon as federal matching funds are available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project ranked 45 on Federal FY10 Priority Funding list • DVS told project will not be funded in FFY10 • Shorter design/construction timetable means addition could open in FY12 (assuming funded by Feds in FFY11) • SBVCC should be able to support start up with internal resources
Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center	Start design as soon as federal matching funds are available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project ranked 53 on Federal FY10 Priority Funding list • Same challenges as for Hampton Center

Waiting in the wings

Project	Status
Southwest Virginia Veterans Care Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB30 places project in state's six-year capital budget plan • DVS will submit application for federal grant assistance this summer
Pre-installed burial vaults for Amelia and Suffolk cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVS has submitted applications for federal grant funding to install 5,000 preplaced vaults in Suffolk and 2,000 in Amelia • Projects now ranked on federal funding list – Suffolk (28) and Amelia (29) – but DVS informed that federal funding won't be available in FFY10 • Even with federal grant funding, state funding may still be needed because of topography, oversized caskets, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Galanti
Commissioner