

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

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

Members Present

- George Coker, *American Ex-POWs*
- Brett Reistad, *American Legion*
- Bruce Brown, *AMVETS*
- Don Kaiserman, *Association of the United States Army*
- David Martinez, *Disabled American Veterans*
- Abe Zino, *Fleet Reserve Association*
- James Jones, *Korean War Veterans Association*
- Roger Dimsdale, *Legion of Valor*
- 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*
- Frank Driscoll, *Navy Seabee Veterans of America*
- Carmen Gentile, *Reserve Officers Association*
- Nolan Jackson, *Roanoke Valley Veterans Council*
- Michael Coleman, *Virginia National Guard Association*
- 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*
- Meade Spotts, *1st Vice Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation*
- Paul Galanti, *Commissioner of Veterans Services*

Members Absent

- Jeffrey Platte, *Air Force Association*
- Bruce Steeley, *Marine Corps League*
- Matthew Dailey, *Non-Commissioned Officers Association*
- David Coffield, *Paralyzed Veterans of America*
- David Richardson, *Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation*

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- Harold Barton, *Air Force Association*
- John Prendergast, *Marine Corps League*
- Yusuf Shakir, *Paralyzed Veterans of America*

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- John Clickener, *Military Officers Association of America*
- Thomas Stephen, *Reserve Officers Association*
- Marie Juliano, *Women Marines Association*

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Richard Anderson, *Virginia House of Delegates*
- Michelle Welch, *Office of the Attorney General*
- Nancy Rodrigues, *Secretary and Chief Election Officer, State Board of Elections*
- James Alcorn, *State Board of Elections*
- Eric Messick, *Chief Legislative Analyst and Study Team Leader, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission*
- John Anderson, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Anne Atkins, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Steven Combs, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Jack Hilgers, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Dan Kemano, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Judy Reid, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Mike Rogers, *Department of Veterans Services*
- James Thur, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Danielle Weaver, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Cathy Wilson, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Thea Lawton, *Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, Region V*

Others Present

- Pat Green, *Board of Veterans Services*
- Sam Wilder, *Virginia War Memorial Board of Trustees*
- Harry Warner, *Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation*
- Edith G. Smith, *Gold Star Wives of America*
- Donna Eldridge, *Gold Star Wives of America*
- Stu Williams, *Military Officers Association of America*
- Roger Sullivan, *Virginia Veterans Coalition*
- Roger Overstreet, *Virginia Veterans Coalition*

Agenda Packet

- Agenda
- Presentations (Agenda Item IV)
 - Brochure: Proposed Constitutional Amendments to be voted on at the November 2, 2010 Election
 - DVS Cemetery Services
 - Cemeteries Presentation
 - DVS Point Paper on Staffing, Flags, and Lighting
- Reports (Agenda Item VI)

- Board of Veterans Services Report
- Veterans Services Foundation Report
 - Report to the JLC
 - Virginia Wounded Warrior Program – JLC Contributors
- Department of Veterans Services Report
- JLC Representative to the Virginia Military Advisory Council Report
- Virginia War Memorial Foundation
 - Position Paper – Criteria for Names on the Wall of the Shrine of Memory
 - Copy of HB767 (2010)
- Legislative Committee
 - Legislative Discussion Topics
 - JLC Legislative Program Schedule of Events
 - Press Release – Real Estate Tax Relief
 - FAQs – Real Estate Tax Relief
 - Flyer – Real Estate Tax Relief
- New Business
 - Proposed by MOAA
 - Proposed JLC Position Paper: DVS Benefit Services Positions
 - Proposed JLC Position Paper: Virginia Veterans Cemeteries
 - Proposed JLC Position Paper: Virginia Veterans Care Centers
 - Proposed JLC Position Paper: Homeless Veterans
 - Proposed JLC Position Paper: Absentee Voting
 - Proposed JLC Position Paper: Alternative Dedicated Revenue Source
 - Proposed JLC Position Paper: Virginia War Memorial
 - Proposed by the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC)
 - Proposed JLC Position Paper: Child Custody Issue
 - Proposed by the VFW
 - Proposed JLC Position Paper: In-state Tuition for Veterans
 - Proposed JLC Position Paper: Combat Veterans Tags Issued by Virginia DMV

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, 19 of the 23 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the JLC were recorded as being represented (17 by a primary representative, 2 by an alternate), and a quorum was determined. The Commissioner of Veterans Services, Chairman of Board of Veterans Services and Co-Chairman of Board of Veterans Services were recorded as present. Two primary and one alternate representatives arrived after the roll was called, bringing the total to 22 of 23 VSOs represented.

Approval of the agenda

Chairman Boyer asked for a **motion** to approve the agenda (*Attachment 1*). Mr. David Martinez made a **motion**, *seconded* by Mr. Bill Townsley. The agenda was approved *unanimously*.

Introductions of Guests

Chairman Boyer asked the guests to introduce themselves. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chairman Boyer welcomed the guests to the meeting.

Review and Approval of April 21, 2010 meeting minutes

Chairman Boyer stated that the minutes from April 21, 2010 had been distributed electronically. Chairman Boyer asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes. Hearing none, he asked that the minutes be approved by acclamation as submitted. The April 21, 2010 minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Presentations

Preparing for the constitutional referendums at the November 2, 2010 election

Ms. Nancy Rodrigues, Secretary and Chief Election Office, State Board of Elections introduced herself to the Council and thanked them for the opportunity to address them. Ms. Rodrigues discussed the Proposed Constitutional Amendments to be voted on at the November 2, 2010 election.

Ms. Rodrigues said that the pamphlet included in the JLC agenda packet d may also be viewed on State Board of Elections website at www.sbe.virginia.gov. She said that approximately 600,000 brochures are being printed and will be mailed out on August 2 and that copies would also be available at the polls and at the Department of Motor Vehicles. Ms. Rodrigues said that 6,000 posters would also be printed to post at different locations, and that the information would also be published in newspapers throughout Virginia.

Mr. Thad Jones asked how the information would reach absentee voters. Ms. Rodrigues explained that the information will be included in the packets that will go out to all absentee voters.

Ms. Rodrigues then thanked the Chairman and the Council members for their services to our country.

Mr. Roger Dimsdale suggested that the information be included in the Stars & Stripes newsletter which reaches military members overseas. Ms. Rodrigues encouraged others to post this information on their websites.

Chairman Boyer asked Ms. Michelle Welch, the representative from the Office of the Attorney General, to stand and introduce herself, which she proceeded to do.

Homeless Veterans Study

Mr. Eric Messick, Chief Legislative Analyst and Study Team Leader, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) address the Council on the Homeless Veterans Study. Mr. Messick stated that the JLARC report and the presentation are posted on their website for viewing. He then discussed the presentation and reviewed each slide with the Council. The report and presentation can both be viewed on their website www.jlarc.state.va.us. He thanked

the Council for allowing him to make this presentation.

Mr. Messick said that the study was conducted to find ways to reduce homelessness among Virginia veterans. He said that the study had been requested by Delegate Kirk Cox, based on a recommendation from the JLC.

Mr. Messick said that approximately 2,220 veterans may be homeless at one time or another in a given year. Mr. Messick reviewed the risk factors for veterans becoming homeless. He also stated that assistance should be provided to veterans that are homeless and at risk as quickly as possible. He then discussed the strategies to help reduce homelessness, the need for funding, and services that are needed.

Mr. Mike Coleman stated that the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness had a person to search for grant opportunities, and that this person would look for grants to help homeless veterans.

DVS Cemetery Services

Mr. Dan Kemano, DVS Cemeteries Director, addressed the Council on state veterans cemeteries (*see Attachments 2 and 3*). Mr. Kemano reviewed the cemetery budget and expenses. He stated that some of the equipment at the cemeteries is falling apart and needs to be replaced, but that there are no funds for this expense. He said that the cemeteries face the same issue with manpower – there is not enough funding for the manpower needed to operate the two opened cemeteries and the one that will be opened in 2011. Mr. Kemano reviewed his priority list with the Council. He said that the staff works on holidays, such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day, without being paid overtime pay. Instead, he provides compensation time off at a later date, which can impact cemetery operations. Mr. Kemano stated the need for additional funding to pay overtime for working weekends and holidays.

Chairman Boyer added that the Commonwealth should do a better job in taking care of its state veterans cemeteries.

Chairman Boyer called for a break at 10:55 am. During this recess the tape was changed. Chairman Boyer called the meeting back to order at 11:10 am.

Chairman Boyer recognized Delegate Rich Anderson, who joined the meeting at 11:10 am.

Reports

Board of Veterans Services

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Thad Jones delivered the BVS report (*see Attachment 4*).

Veterans Services Foundation

Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Vice Chairman Meade Spotts delivered the VSF report (*see Attachments 5 and 6*).

Department of Veterans Services

Commissioner Paul Galanti delivered the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) report (*see Attachment 7*). The Commissioner Galanti announced that there will be some upcoming changes with the DVS headquarter staff. He stated that the headquarters staff needs to be centrally located here in Richmond, and reviewed some of the other challenges facing the Department.

Mr. Bill Townsley asked about the Attorney General's telephone town hall meeting that was held recently. Ms. Welch did not have any information on this meeting to share with the Council.

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) Executive Director Cathy Wilson showed the Council a poster to announce the new VWWP campaign "We are Virginia Veterans." She said that the new VWWP website should go live at the end of the month. She passed around an example of the VWWP brochure about the new campaign. She also handed out VWWP Ambassador pins to the Council.

Ms. Wilson introduced Thea Lawton, the VWWP Regional Coordinator for Region V (Hampton Roads area). Ms. Lawton thanked everyone for allowing her to address the Council. She discussed two programs that are going on in Region V, having to do with volunteer opportunities and prisoner re-entry. Ms. Lawton gave an example of how Region V helped a veteran waive his medical co-pay and provided transportation for his medical services.

Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council

Mr. Carmen Gentile, JLC Representative to the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council (VCSSC), stated that there has been no recent VCSSC meeting and that he did not have a report to submit at this time.

Virginia Military Advisory Council

Mr. Harold Barton, filling in for Jeff Platte, JLC Representative to the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC), delivered the VMAC report (*see Attachments 8 and 9*). Chairman Boyer asked the Council to please read through the report.

Virginia War Memorial

Mr. Harry Warner, Virginia War Memorial (VWM) Education Foundation Executive Director, addressed the Council and presented to them the VSO bricks for the Walk Way of Honor. He also expressed his appreciation for the JLC's efforts in this project. Mr. Warner then reviewed the schedule of events for the Virginia War Memorial for the rest of the year. The VWM will be moving into the completed Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center sometime in the later part of August. Mr. Warner reviewed the events listed on the brochure that was distributed during the meeting. He said that the Galanti Education Center will open to the public on September 17th for the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony and that everyone was invited. He added that September 18 will be the Family Day Open House and that the ribbon cutting ceremony will be at 10:20 am. He noted that on September 19 the Virginia Military Institute Regimental Band and Pipes will perform.

Mr. Sam Wilder, Board Member, Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees, then addressed the Council on the issue of the Criteria for Names on the Wall of the Shrine of Memory (*see Attachment 10*). He said that during this year's General Assembly session, a problem occurred with the major VSOs testifying on issues which made it appear that the veterans community was in disagreement. Mr. Wilder said he spoke to Delegate Vivian Watts, who told him that if she had known exactly what the veterans community wanted she would not have submitted a bill on this subject. Mr. Wilder continued to explain the issue to the Council, noting that the VWM's approved policy is reflected in HB767. Mr. Wilder recommended that the JLC take a position on this issue.

Chairman Boyer commented that this is an emotional and important issue. Chairman Boyer stated that he know the position of his VSO and asked the Council members if they knew the position of their VSOs. Chairman Boyer discussed several options that the Council could take. Mr. Wilder offered to provide any further information that may be needed.

Mr. Don Kaiserman made **a motion, seconded** by Mr. Townsley, that the JLC support the policy of Virginia War Memorial Board of Trustees. The motion passed by majority vote.

Legislative Committee

Mr. Kaiserman, JLC Legislative Officer reviewed the JLC legislative process (*see Attachments 11 and 12*). He said that the JLC's goal is to look out for the welfare, benefits and needs of the military community. Mr. Kaiserman briefly reviewed some of the successful JLC legislative objectives that have been passed by the General Assembly.

Mr. Kaiserman stressed the importance of the JLC position papers, and said that they should only be one page in length. He added that a legislator will not turn the paper over to read the second page.

Mr. Kaiserman said that the Council was starting a new process this year where the JLC Chairman will appoint a Patron Selection Committee, which will recommend members of the General Assembly to patron JLC legislative objectives.

Mr. Kaiserman reviewed the role of the JLC sponsor, who works closely with the General Assembly patron through the legislative process.

Mr. David Martinez announced that he is working on bumper stickers for the Real Estate Tax Exemption and would like to get the Council's recommendation on which to use. He added that the bumper stickers would be magnetic.

Mr. John R. Clickener reviewed the VAVET pamphlet that had been distributed. He said that the program is a basic version of the Congressional Website hosted by MOAA National, and that the VAVET website provides a simple process for MOAA members to advocate, by e-mail, in support of the JLC approved PLO.

Nominating Committee

Mr. George Corbett, Nominating Committee Chairman, announced that there is one candidate for the Chair position: Ms. Jenny Holbert. He said that the two candidates for the Vice-Chair position were Mr. Thomas Moran and Mr. Kaiserman.

The Council took a lunch break between 12:05 p.m. and 12:35 p.m. During this break the tape was changed.

Chairman Boyer asked for volunteers for the Patron Selection Committee. Mr. Kaiserman, Mr. Townsley, Mr. Clickener and Mr. Wes Edwards volunteered.

Mr. Steven Combs announced that the travel vouchers will be e-mailed or mailed to the JLC members attending today's meeting. He asked the members to please complete the vouchers and return them to Ms. Danielle Weaver for processing.

New Business

JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives

Chairman Boyer said that 10 objective had been proposed, but recommended that only 5 or 6 objectives will be selected.

Combat Veterans Tags issued by Virginia DMV (see Attachment 13). Mr. Townsley made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. James Jones, to remove this objective from the floor. Mr. Jack Hilgers briefly discussed this objective and the issues involving this objective. The Motion passed *unanimously*.

Virginia Veterans Cemeteries (see Attachment 14). Mr. Edwards reviewed this objective. He stated that the cemeteries are in need of additional funding to get everything up to date. Chairman Boyer agreed with this objective. Mr. Kaiserman added that the Commonwealth needed to maintain and operate the cemeteries. Mr. Townsley made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Abe Zino to approve this objective. It was suggested that there should be a specific line item in the DVS budget for cemeteries. All were in favor. The motion passed *unanimously*.

DVS Benefit Services Position (see Attachment 15). This objective is to provide the money needed to fill the authorized DVS Benefit Services positions. Mr. John Anderson confirmed that DVS is allowed 69 positions and only has 58 positions filled. Chairman Boyer briefly reviewed the recommendation to appropriate the necessary funds for Fiscal Year 2012 to restore these positions to fully restore veteran's services. Mr. David Martinez made a **motion** to approve this objective. Mr. Moran **seconded** the motion. The motion passed *unanimously*.

Virginia War Memorial (see Attachment 16). Chairman Boyer read the position paper for this objective and stated that this is request for additional funding. Some discussion followed about the rent that is paid to the Department of General Services for

maintenance and upkeep. Mr. Kaiserman reviewed the specifics expenses that are not included in their rental fee. Mr. Townsley made a **motion** to approve this objective. Mr. Corbett **seconded** the motion. The motion passed *unanimously*.

In-state Tuition for Veterans (see Attachment 17). Chairman Boyer reviewed the objective and stated that in Virginia you have to live in Virginia for a one-year period before being eligible for in-state tuition rates. This objective proposes to waive the waiting period. This objective goes along with the Governor's objective of making Virginia the #1 state for veterans. It would be the school's responsibility to check the veteran's status. Mr. Frank Driscoll made a **motion** to approve this objective. Mr. Bruce Brown **seconded** the motion. The motion passed *unanimously*.

Child Custody Issue (see Attachment 18). Mr. Mike Coleman reviewed this objective. The Council discussed this objective. Mr. Coleman stated that this objective would be changing the guidance for the judges in child custody cases and strengthens Virginia statutes, with the goal to become the #1 veterans-friendly state. Mr. Martinez stated that he disagrees with the objective, as this would put limits on the judges. Chairman Boyer suggested that we table this objective to the October meeting to allow the sponsor to obtain further information. Mr. Townsley made a **motion** to table this objective to the October meeting. Mr. Kaiserman **seconded** the motion. The motion passed *unanimously*.

Absentee Voting (see Attachment 19). Chairman Boyer reviewed this objective. Mr. Edwards said that there is some discussion to move the absentee voting to the Internet for military personnel stationed overseas. Another resolution would need to be issued to pick up electronic voting for anyone away from their primary residential state. Some fraud use is expected along with over and under use. Military service personnel are issued a CAC (common access card). If the person does not have the card or PIN they cannot use it. Most military personnel overseas have a cell phone, however personnel in combat do not have any access to a computer or phone. This objective would allow voting in all elections, not just for the President. Spouses and family member do not have a CAC. The CAC card is not covered in the position paper, and other security issues are being looked at to include spouses and voting age children. A test will be held in November to see how this will work. Mr. Townsley made a **motion** to table this objective till the November test. Mr. Jones **seconded** the motion. The motion passed *unanimously*.

Homeless Veterans (see Attachment 20). Chairman Boyer asked Commissioner Galanti about this issue. The Commissioner explained that several state agencies are working on homeless veterans issues. He stated that if he was going to be given an additional position, he would like for it to be for something other than a Homeless Coordinator. Mr. Driscoll made a **motion** to drop this objective. Mr. Zino **seconded** the motion. The motion passed *unanimously*.

Virginia Veteran Care Centers (see Attachment 21). Chairman Boyer asked if this something that the JLC needs to take on. Mr. Combs said that DVS could request that

this be included in the Governor's proposed budget. Mr. Townsley made a **motion** to drop this objective. Mr. Moran **seconded** the motion. The motion passed *unanimously*.

Alternative Dedicated Revenue Source (see Attachment 22). Mr. Wilder discussed the objective to establish a Lottery Program. He said that this program is currently in place in Texas and seven other states. Mr. Wilder explained that the lottery proceeds would help fund various veterans programs. He said that both Terrie Suit, Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness, and Delegate Kirk Cox are in agreement that DVS needs an additional funding source. The current General Fund is about \$7 million. The Virginia State Lottery would run the program and earmark the funds for DVS. This lottery would also provide another way for the public to donate money to veterans. Mr. Townsley made a **motion** to approve this objective. Mr. Brown **seconded** the motion. The motion passed *unanimously*.

The tape was changed during Mr. Wilder's discussion of the Alternative Dedicated Revenue Source.

Mr. Townsley made a **motion** to re-introduce the Veterans Court objective, adding that both Delegate Tommy Gear and Senator John Miller would like to try again to enact legislation enabling localities to establish veterans courts. Mr. Townsley briefly reviewed this objective and stated that he would forward the information out to the Council. Mr. Edwards **seconded** the motion. The motion passed *unanimously*.

Mr. Edwards reminded the Council that the VWWP did receive grant funding to establish an education program for the legal and law enforcement communities on veterans issues.

Chairman Boyer summarized the 11 objectives that were discussed and voted on. He noted that there were six approved objectives, that three that have been removed, that two had been tabled.

Chairman Boyer recommended that the Council prioritize its objectives. After much discussion, the Council agreed to the following priority:

1. Alternative Dedicated Revenue Source
2. DVS Benefit Services Position
3. Virginia Veterans Cemeteries
4. Veterans and Military Courts
5. Virginia War Memorial
6. In-state tuition for veterans

Chairman Boyer reminded the Council that the position papers must be submitted within 10 days from today.

Mr. Peter Fairchild introduced a piece of new business to the Council. He said that DVS would like to install flag pole lights at the Amelia Cemetery, so the flags can be illuminated 24-7. He said that DVS does not currently have the funds to do this and would like to obtain the funds from the VSF. The cost is \$4,000. Mr. Fairchild made a **motion** that DVS install flag pole lights

at the Amelia Cemetery as soon as possible, and if DVS does not have the funds, then they should be requested from the VSF. Mr. Kaiserman **seconded** the motion. The motion passed *unanimously*.

Mr. Kaiserman stated that the JLC would like to get a group together to set up a meeting as soon as possible with the Governor to discuss the JLC legislative priorities. He would like to meet with the Governor in early September, once the JLC legislative package is ready. This would give the Governor time to review the package and support the JLC's recommendations.

Mr. Townsley stated that he may know someone who would write a check for \$4,000 to cover the expense of the flagpole lights at the Amelia Cemetery. It was suggested to Mr. Townsley that this person could make this check out to the VSF which would then make the funds available to DVS for the flagpole lights.

Election of new officers

Chairman Boyer asked if there were any additional nominations for Chairman. None being heard Mr. Townsley made a **motion** to elect Ms. Holbert to the Chair position. Mr. Zino **seconded** the motion. Chairman Boyer then announced that Ms. Jenny Holbert is official elected as the new Chairman for the JLC.

Chairman Boyer announced two candidates for Vice Chair: Mr. Kaiserman and Mr. Moran. He then asked the two gentlemen to please step outside so the Council could place their votes. Both Mr. Kaiserman and Mr. Moran removed themselves from the meeting. Chairman Boyer then asked if there were any other nominations for the Vice Chair position. None being heard, Chairman Boyer then asked the Council to vote on the Vice Chair position. Mr. Kaiserman was elected to the Vice Chair position by a 9–8 vote. Both gentlemen returned to the meeting and Chairman Boyer announced that Mr. Kaiserman was elected to the Vice Chair position for the JLC.

Public comment period

Mr. Pat Green addressed the Council in reference to the equipment at the cemeteries. He distributed a handout which listed the equipment that is needed and asked for donations either by donating a piece of equipment or funds to help purchase the requested equipment.

Gold Star Wives member Edith Smith addressed the Council. She first thanked the Council for every thing they do. She introduced the other Gold Star Wives that were in attendance. She explained that the Gold Star Wives is a non-profit organization founded in 1945 and is nationwide. She addressed the Council on the legislation objectives of the JLC. She said that surviving spouses are very interested in the eligibility requirements for the proposed constitutional amendment on Real Estate Tax Relief. She asked that when living veterans were recognized, that surviving families also be recognized. She said that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has changed the title of the benefits handbook to include surviving spouses. She noted that Mr. Combs agreed to continue to work with further qualifications for spouse and that Ms. Anne Atkins could change the DVS website to reflect this as well.

Preparation for upcoming meetings

Chairman Boyer reminded the Council that the next meeting is scheduled for October 6.

Chairman Boyer congratulated Ms. Holbert on position as the new JLC Chair. He then handed her the gavel.

Ms. Holbert presented Chairman Boyer with a plaque to honor his service as Chairman for the JLC for the past two years.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
American Legion Department of Virginia Building
1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond
July 21, 2010
10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Dan Boyer, JLC Chairman* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda, and introduction of guests – *Dan Boyer* (10:05 – 10:10)
- III. Review and approval of April 21, 2010 meeting minutes – *Dan Boyer* (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Presentations (10:15 – 10:50)
 - a. Preparing for the constitutional referendums at the November 2, 2010 election – *Nancy Rodrigues, Secretary and Chief Election Officer, State Board of Elections* (10 minutes)
 - b. Homeless Veterans Study – *Eric Messick, Chief Legislative Analyst and Study Team Leader, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission* (15 minutes)
 - c. DVS Cemetery Services – *Dan Kemano, DVS Cemeteries Director* (10 minutes)
- Break (10:50 – 10:55)
- V. Reports (10:55 – 11:50)
 - 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* (5 minutes)
 - d. Virginia Wounded Warrior Program – *Thea Lawton, VWWP Region V Coordinator* (5 minutes)
 - e. Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council – *Carmen Gentile, JLC Representative* (5 minutes)
 - f. Virginia Military Advisory Council – *Jeff Platte, JLC Representative* (5 minutes)
 - g. Virginia War Memorial – *Sam Wilder, Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees member and Harry Warner, Virginia War Museum Education Foundation Executive Director* (10 minutes)
 - h. Legislative Committee – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Legislative Officer* (10 minutes)
 - i. Nominating Committee – *George Corbett, Committee Chairman* (5 minutes)
- VI. Break/working lunch (11:50 – 12:20)
- VII. New business (12:20 – 2:20, including 5 minute break)
 - a. JLC 2011 Legislative Objectives – *Dan Boyer* (105 minutes)

- b. Election of new officers – Dan Boyer (10 minutes)
- VIII. Public comment period (2:20 – 2:25)
- IX. Prepare for October 6 meeting – *Dan Boyer* (2:25 – 2:30)
- X. Adjourn (2:30)

ATTACHMENT 2

JLC CEMETERIES PRESENTATION – JULY 21, 2010

DAN KEMANO, CEMETERIES DIRECTOR

CEMETERIES BUDGET FUNDING

Funding directly controls all facets of cemetery operations. Listed below are the annual budget and a few sample expenditures for cemetery operations.

The cemetery total annual operating budget for FY2010 was about \$811,000. These funds came from three sources: approximately two thirds is state-appropriated funds [\$586,000], about one third [\$185,000] is from veterans burial plot allowances we receive from National VA (we receive \$300 for each veterans burial); a small percentage [\$39,900] is received for each eligible dependent (\$300 for each spouse and/or eligible child burial).

The cemeteries largest single operating expense is employees pay and benefits. In FY 2010, \$572,000 was spent on employee wages and benefits. In addition to employee pay and benefits, some other annual expenditure includes:

- A. Electrical bill \$29,762
- B. Building and Auto insurance \$36,556
- C. Gas and Diesel fuel \$16,000
- D. Telecommunications \$12,686
- E. Computers \$14,302

CEMETERY PHASE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

To my knowledge, no funds have ever been specifically appropriated for equipment replacement. What little replacement equipment that has been purchased was done at the expense of current operations. Establishment of an equipment phase replacement program is extremely important. With the Amelia cemetery reaching its thirteenth year of operation, age is presently taking a heavy toll, particularly on the grounds heavy equipment used daily for burial operations.

Listed below by priority are some pieces of heavy equipment in need of replacement at the Amelia cemetery:

- A. Gravely PM400 grass mower. Cost: \$16,104
- B. Toro z master grass mower grass hopper. Cost: \$9,850
- C. Toro z master grass mower. Cost: \$9,000.
- D. Diesel dump truck. Cost: \$38,000
- E. 4x4 diesel truck. Cost: \$38,000
- F. Dirt tamper gas. Cost: \$2,800

Listed below by priority are some pieces of heavy equipment in need of replacement at the Suffolk cemetery.

- A. Hustler super z model grass mower. Cost: \$8,507

- B. Hustler super z model grass mower with catcher. Cost: \$9,670
- C. Push grass mowers gas [2]. Cost: \$890

CEMETERY MANPOWER STATISTICS

The employee work force at each of our state cemeteries is determined by three primary factors.

1. CEMETERIES SIZE BY ACREAGE

The present phase one size of the state veteran's cemeteries [Amelia, Suffolk and Dublin] is twenty four to twenty six acres. This accounts for 30% of the cemetery grounds employees' workload. The cemetery grounds employees are responsible for the care of this acreage, irrigation and all buildings on it. Some other examples are listed below.

- A. Grass mowing, trimming/planting of all trees and bushes, maintaining all trees/bush beds, insecticide spraying tree/bush and grass.
- B. Responsible for irrigation [sprinkler] systems continual adjustment and repair/replacements of heads, valves and lines.
- C. Maintenance for all cemetery buildings inside and out, mechanically/cleaning of.
- D. Maintenance/repairs of all cemetery operating equipment, backhoe/tractors/trucks, etc.

2. BURIALS

Burial numbers and initial headstone placements in particular are the biggest factor in the grounds employees' and office administrators' daily work load. These two factors account for 50% of their daily work load. Listed below is each operational cemetery past four FY burial numbers.

A. Amelia burial work load

- FY 2007 = 228
- FY 2008 = 213
- FY 2009 = 248
- FY 2010 = 265

B. Suffolk burial work load

- FY 2007 = 510
- FY 2008 = 591
- FY 2009 = 638
- FY 2010 = 755

3. MAINTAINING BURIAL AND HEADSTONE GARDEN SECTIONS

Presently, based on the numbers of placed burials and headstones at both operational state veterans cemeteries, at least 20% of the grounds crew work load is the constant care of each grave site and previously placed headstones. These grave sites and headstones require constant adjustments, grass mowing and trimming throughout the lifetime of the cemetery.

PRESENT CEMETERIES EMPLOYEE LEVELS

Manning levels are as follows for each of the states operational cemeteries.

- Amelia: Approved manning level is 5 full time employees, 4 full time positions are now filled.
- Suffolk: Approved manning level is 9 full time employees, 7 full time positions are now filled.
- Suffolk/Amelia share 1 full time mechanic, this position is filled
- There is 1 Director position for the Virginia veterans cemeteries, this position is filled.

CEMETERY OPERATIONAL NEEDS

OBJECTIVE: To fund the state veteran's cemeteries, allowing them to operate in a safe efficient manner with the goals of maintaining National Shrine Status.

BACKGROUND: Funding for the state veterans cemeteries in the past has not kept up with their growth in burial numbers and gravesite/headstone maintenance requirements, which today equates to 70% of each cemeteries daily work load, particularly the Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery, where its yearly burial increases are felt the most. Below are the cemeteries immediate funding needs.

DISCUSSION, FUNDING IMMEDIATE NEEDS:

- Funding is required for two authorized unfilled employee positions at the Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery [Suffolk]. Cost: \$67,700 [FY2012 and ongoing]
- Funding is needed for one authorized unfilled employee position at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery [Amelia]. Cost: \$33,800 [FY2012 and ongoing]
- Make up shortfall in operating budget for Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery [Dublin]. Cost: \$85,000 and one additional position [FY2012 and ongoing]
- Operational equipment phase replacement funding needed for replacement of numerous pieces of equipment at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery [Amelia]. Cost: \$60,000 [each year, FY2012 and FY2013]
- Operational equipment phase replacement funding needed for replacement of numerous pieces of equipment at the Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans cemetery [Suffolk]. Cost: \$20,000 [each year, FY2012 and FY2013]
- Establish an operational equipment phase replacement FY fund. Cost: \$20,000 (FY2014 and ongoing)
- Grass seed and fertilizer needs for the Virginia Veterans Cemetery and Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery. Cost: \$16,000 [FY2012 and ongoing]
- Establish an employee overtime fund in support of our veterans needs and requests to have an employee available in each cemetery from 8:00am through 5:00pm Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year and each holiday to assist families with locating grave sites, assist with the placement of flowers and putting up, taking down the cemetery flags. In addition this would include the cost of all cemetery employees working the Memorial

Day Event, Christmas wreath placing event and Motorcycle rally event: Cost:\$33,600 [FY2012 and ongoing]

- Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery installation of road/highway directional signage posting in both directions on one major interstate, two roadways and four ramps. Cost: \$32,000 [FY2012]
- Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery upgrading of existing road/highway directional signage and installation of signage from Hampton/Newport News across the James rive bridge to the cemetery. Cost: \$26,000 [FY2012]
- Virginia Veterans Cemetery upgrading of existing road/highway directional signage. Cost: \$13,000 [FY2012]
- Virginia Veterans Cemetery main entrance flag pole lights. Cost: \$4,000 [FY2012]

TOTALS: FY2012: \$236,100 ongoing and \$155,000 one-time; FY2013: \$236,100 ongoing and \$80,000 one-time; FY2014: \$256,100 ongoing. One additional full-time position in FY2012 and ongoing

ATTACHMENT 3

Point Sheet Staffing, Flags, and Lighting July 17, 2010

- **Staffing**
 - 19 total full-time equivalent (FTE) positions
 - Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery (Suffolk) – 9 FTEs assigned, 7 filled
 - Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia) – 5 FTEs assigned, 4 filled
 - Shared positions (director and mechanic) – 2 FTEs assigned, 2 filled
 - Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Dublin) – 3 FTEs assigned, 0 filled (opening April 2011)
 - Cemeteries are staffed 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., M-F
 - Current budget does not allow for weekend staffing
 - Cemeteries also staffed on Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, Veterans Day, and the Saturday in December when Wreaths Across America is celebrated
 - No money in current budget for overtime, so staff received compensation time
 - Compensation time very limited due to daily operational requirements, thereby precluding weekend discretionary staffing
 - Ceremonies held on Memorial Day at Amelia and Suffolk cemeteries. Staff works 6 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- **Flags at Virginia's veterans cemeteries**
 - Traditionally flew 5x8 cotton flags
 - Flags flown only when the cemetery was staffed
 - Flags not flown at other times because of weather conditions
 - In wet or windy conditions, the heavy cotton flags can easily damage the flagpole pulleys
 - Difficult and expensive repair

- **Lighting at Virginia's veterans cemeteries**
 - Suffolk cemetery has lights for flagpoles. Flags can be flown 24/7, if smaller nylon flags used
 - Amelia cemetery does not have lights for flagpoles
 - The current plan is for the Dublin cemetery to have lights for flagpoles

- **Concerns raised by veterans**
 - Flags not flown all day on holidays significant to veterans (Memorial Day, July 4th, Veterans Day)
 - Flags not flown on weekends
 - Cemetery not staffed on weekends – No assistance to veterans and family members in locating graves

- Bathroom facilities not available on weekends. DVS locks bathrooms because of potential for damage or inappropriate use (graffiti, underage drinking, etc.)
- **DVS goals**
 - Fly flags 24/7 at all cemeteries
 - Weekend staffing to assist veterans and family members
- **DVS actions to date**
 - In June 2010, Suffolk cemetery switched to 4x6 nylon flags for night/weekend/holiday operations – flags now flown 24/7
 - Amelia cemetery has asked for volunteers to raise/lower the flags on weekends
 - Cemetery will supply the flags
 - Potential volunteer for one weekend a month
 - Amelia cemetery seeking donations to install lighting – approximately \$4,000 needed
 - Local Knights of Columbus considering donation
- **DVS future actions**
 - Request funding to fill vacant FTEs. However, this will only support current operations, and not allow expansion of hours for weekend/holiday staffing
 - Request funding to provide at least some staffing on weekends and holidays
 - Work with the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) to raise awareness of current operations/limitations, goals, and future actions
 - Request funding from the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) for immediate installation of lights at the Amelia cemetery. “Reimburse” VSF if donated funds received
 - Keep state policy makers, Board of Veterans Services (BVS), JLC, VSF, and other key stakeholders informed
 - Build communications plan (press releases, website, communications with VSOs, etc.) to communicate current situation and future plans

ATTACHMENT 4
BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES
REPORT TO
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
July 21, 2010

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on May 12, 2010. At the meeting, the BVS:

- 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).
- Appointed a nominating committee to identify potential candidates for Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Elections will be held at the September 29 meeting.
- Previewed the Department of Veterans Services presentation, which Commissioner Galanti delivered to the Senate Finance Public Safety Subcommittee on May 19.

The BVS currently has one vacant seat (formerly held by Commissioner Galanti) and the terms of three members expired on June 30, 2010. All three are eligible for reappointment.

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 September 29.

Respectfully submitted,

Thad A. Jones
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 5

VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Joint Leadership Counsel of Veterans Service Organizations July 21, 2010

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees met on May 5, 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 Reports;
- (2) Received Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) Executive Director's Update;
- (3) Received Standing Committee Reports;
- (4) Reviewed Foundation fundraising conducted to date during FY10;
- (5) Approved VSF FY10 3rd Quarter Financial Report, FY10 budget adjustments/cash transactions, and FY11 Budget proposals from DVS;
- (6) Reviewed FY10 Goals and Objectives for the development of FY11 Goals and Objectives;
- (7) Elected VSF Officers for FY11.

The Finance Committee met on April 28, 2010 and the Development Committee on May 5, 2010. The minutes of the Finance Committee, the Development Committee, and those of the full VSF board are posted on the Commonwealth Calendar.

The Foundation had raised over \$80,000, of which almost \$80,000 is for VWWP, as of June 30, 2010. This is about \$24,000 short of Foundation fundraising at this time last year. The principal shortage has been from individual donors, which may be a reflection of the economy.

By acclamation, the VSF Board elected the following officers for FY11:

- Chairman, David Richardson;
- 1st Vice Chairman, Meade Spotts;
- 2nd Vice Chairman, Supriya Christopher

In keeping with the VSF Board Bylaws, their terms were effective July 1, 2010.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Richardson
VSF Chairman

ATTACHMENT 6

**VIRGINIA
WOUNDED
WARRIOR
PROGRAM
JLC
CONTRIBUTORS**
As of 6/30/10

VSO	FY08 & 09 Donations	FY10 Donations
AFA	\$850	
American Ex-POWs		\$25
American Legion	\$100	\$4,313
AMVETS	\$4,500	\$5,500
AUSA	\$450	
DAV Chapters 21, 24 & 45	\$2,050	
Fleet Reserve Assn		
Korean War Vets Ch 191	\$200	
Legion of Valor	\$2,800	\$50
Marine Corps League	\$1,000	\$5,850
MOPH		\$1,000
MOAA	\$9,760	\$14,502
MOWW	\$100	
NAUS		\$150
Navy Seabee Veterans	\$125	\$50
NCO Assn	\$1,500	
Paralyzed Veterans		\$1,000
ROA	\$406	
Roanoke Valley Vets Cncl		
VA National Gd Assn		\$1,000
VVA	N/A	
VFW	\$16,526	\$620
Women Marines Assn	\$200	
Totals	\$40,567 *	\$34,060

* Donated, but not all received due to expense deductions from FY08 fundraising

events

Other VSOs (not counted in total)

West Point Alum	\$1,000	
Retired Armed Forces Club		\$50

ATTACHMENT 7
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES
REPORT TO
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
July 21, 2010

I want to take a little different tack from previous reports, and give you my impressions from my first three months on the job.

First, I am simply amazed at how many moving parts the Department of Veterans Services has. We're a relatively small state agency, compared to the giants like the Department of Corrections and VDOT, but we have all of the same administrative requirements put on us that are put on the big agencies, with what seems to me a fraction of the resources to execute them.

I've been involved with veterans services in the Commonwealth for a long time now, and I thought I knew a lot, but every day I find out something I didn't know, and I realize that my experience was of an outsider looking in. I'm going to do my best to improve the understanding that our boards and councils have of the agency and its operations, of the great things we do for veterans, and of the challenges we face in accomplishing our mission.

I can't say enough good things about the man I replaced at the helm of DVS. When I was asked during the campaign to become involved with veterans services in the Commonwealth, I said first and foremost that I didn't want to displace Vince. But when he made the decision to retire, I was honored to have been asked by the Governor to fill his size 14EEE shoes.

I said earlier that I didn't know how many moving parts there were in the agency. I now have a much better understanding of just what happens here on a day-to-day basis, but with that understanding has come the grave realization that the administrative foundation of this agency was built on a bed of quicksand, and every day we seek a little further into the mud.

I sincerely appreciate the difficult fiscal situation the state has been in for the past three years, and the difficult choices my predecessor had to make to meet state-mandated budget cuts. I understand why he chose to cut administrative overhead in order to save as much direct services as possible. But I know now that the state cuts went too deep, leaving us barely able to manage the day-to-day functions of the agency, let alone take on any new responsibilities, initiate new programs, or take the steps necessary to better serve our veterans.

Nobody wants to fund overhead, but we've got to have a least a basic level of administrative functionality in order to meet the myriad requirements the state bureaucracy heaps on us. Accordingly, I'm going to make rebuilding the administrative structure of the agency a top priority, in order to position the agency to do what Governor McDonnell, the General Assembly, and, most importantly, our veterans expect us to do.

I'm going to start with consolidating our headquarters functions. We're currently scattered across the city and across the state. To be effective, and to operate as a team, we need to be in

one place, and I'm going to make that happen. We're also going to find a place that's a lot more professional. If you've ever seen our HQ, you probably left laughing, because it's a joke. We're going to change that.

There will also be some staffing changes as we bring back into the agency functions that had been farmed out to other state agencies. If we're to be effective, we need to be together, in one place and in one agency. We're also going to work to streamline some of our management functions, in order to free up at least some of the budget resources we need to be a professional organization.

Part of being a professional organization means having the right people to get the job done. Nowhere have I found a bigger disappointment – and a bigger failing – than in the development of the TurboVet system. We've been talking about developing this system for three years now. Our strongest supporters in the General Assembly, including Delegate Kirk Cox and Senator Walter Stosch – have gone to bat for us, squeezing blood out of a stone to get us the money to build this system. And three years later, what have we got to show for it? Absolutely nothing! Nothing! Nothing except wasted time and money, that is.

I've put a halt to any further development of TurboVet until I can make sure it's done right. We have a lot of dedicated, hard working, talented people in this agency, but they're not expert in leading a major IT development project. And trying to work with the state's IT agency? Give me a break. I consider myself a pretty savvy guy when it comes to IT (hey...I know enough to be a Mac guy, not a PC guy) and I know what needs to be done. Even better, IMHO, I know some fantastic people outside of state government that are going to help us get it done right. I'm tired of wasting time, and I'm tired of wasting money. We're going to get results, and I want you to hold me accountable.

At every JLC meeting I've attended, I've said that the JLC is the most powerful advocacy group in the history of the state of Virginia. Governor Warner once told me "if you veterans could ever get your act together, you'd be unstoppable." Well, you did get your act together. You're talented, dedicated, and have had and continue to have great leadership. I look to you to continue to be the voice of Virginia's veterans, and to continue to bring us the ideas, and the support, to make things happen.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Galanti
Commissioner

ATTACHMENT 8

Jeffrey L. Platte
109 Colonels Way
Williamsburg, VA 23185

July 15 2010

To: Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

Subject: Virginia Military Affairs Council Meeting, July 14, 2010

1. The meeting was held at Virginia Capitol, House Meeting Room 3. Terrie Suit chaired the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 4 PM. The agenda is attached.
2. Discussion areas included a) joint federal and state support for the Boy Scout Jamboree at Ft AP Hill beginning this month b) educational support of military families and c) a quality of life sub-committee report.
3. The education update centered on licensure requirements and availability of teaching positions in the Commonwealth. Military spouses can easily achieve licensure and there are teaching positions available, but these are totally dependent on location and those may not be in the best paying school districts. Pay is a local school district issue.
4. The Quality of Life Subcommittee discussed several concerns for military families. Prominent among was the welcome of National Guard members and family to active duty military stations. Action for this is to the individual services. Additionally a discussion ensued on child custody concerns for deployed military members. Much work is required to ensure deployed service members are not disadvantaged by their mission. VMAC is looking for support from the JLC-VSO to move this concern forward in the legislature. JLC-VSO should expect to see more dialogue on these issues.
5. I presented a JLC –VSO update discussing the upcoming formulation of 2011 Objectives. I also reminded attendees to promote the 100% Disabled Veteran Real Estate Tax Exemption amendment this fall.
6. **Observation:** The Virginia Military Advisory Council is an active military service and Commonwealth government communication and coordinating committee. It appears VMAC see the JLC-Veterans Services Organization as an adjunct organization that will support Commonwealth/ active military services issues. While this is probably a natural extension of the JLC-VSO discussion, I would urge caution that our Veteran's Services Organization priorities are not lost in what is actually active duty military business that is, some ways, really an issue of unfunded federal mandates for the states.
7. Ms Suit adjourned the Council at 5:10 p.m. announcing the next meeting will be September 29 at JB Meyer Henderson Hall when a new Chairman will be elected.

Respectively Submitted,



Jeffrey L. Platte
JLC VSO Representative
Atch: VMAC Agenda

ATTACHMENT 9



VIRGINIA MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL JULY 14, 2010 @ STATE CAPITOL

- 4:00 p.m. **WELCOMING REMARKS**
Terrie L. Suit, Vice-Chairwoman
- 4:05 p.m. **NATIONAL SCOUT JAMBOREE AND "DUAL HAT" COMMANDER**
Brigadier General Robert C. Nolan II
Joint Task Force Commander, National Scout Jamboree

James W. Hopper
Office of Commonwealth Preparedness
- 4:30 p.m. **EDUCATION UPDATE**
Anne Wescott
Virginia Department of Education
- 4:45 p.m. **QUALITY OF LIFE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**
Shannon Sullivan-Hurst
Fleet Family Support Program, Mid-Atlantic Region
- 5:00 p.m. **LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FOR 2011 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION**
- 5:15 p.m. **CLOSING REMARKS**
Terrie L. Suit, Vice-Chairwoman

ATTACHMENT 10

CRITERIA FOR NAMES ON THE WALL OF THE SHRINE OF MEMORY Presentation to the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations Sam Wilder, Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees July 21, 2010

I. Background:

- April 2008 – Mr. Schumann asks Mr. Hatfield why his son, LCPL Schumann, who was killed in a helicopter crash in Iraq, is not eligible to have his name inscribed on the Wall of Memory.
- Fall 2008 – Delegates Watts & Cochran draft a bill to impose the criteria on the War Memorial for names on the wall. After negotiations, the bill is modified to require the War Memorial to come up with a policy that will address this situation.
- Fall 2008 – Jon Hatfield addresses JLC. JLC had no consensus on the issue but decided to leave it to the War Memorial to draft a policy. JLC opinion was that the issue was a “bucket of worms”.
- Spring 2009 – GA passes a bill directing the WM Board of Trustees to draft a policy. Policy discussed at WM Board meeting. Lots of ideas; no consensus. A sub-committee was formed to study the issue and report back.
- August 2009 – After several meetings with Mr. Schumann and Hal Roach, past VFW Commander, the sub-committee developed a proposal for the Board. The proposal basically acquiesced to Mr. Schumann’s demands.
- September 2009 – At meeting of the full WM Board, the sub-committee’s proposal was rejected. New sub-committee formed.
- November 2009 – New sub-committee drafts new policy. Tries to get quick meeting of full Board for approval, but cannot.
- January 2010 – Board meets day before start of General Assembly. Unanimously approves new policy which becomes HB767. (Note JLC and VSOs not briefed on proposed policy due to timing.) Meanwhile, Delegate Watts submits a counter bill (HB469) which satisfies Mr. Schumann.
- General Assembly 2010 – HB 767, patroned by Delegate Janis, passes the House, but fails in Senate. Senate approves a different bill which fails in the House. There is no reconciliation and therefore no action is approved by the GA.

II. Discussion:

- The problem is that on an emotional issue of importance to veterans, the veterans groups were divided during the 2010 General Assembly. This caused serious problems among legislators.
- In a long conversation with Del. Watts, she said that if she had known clearly what the veterans wanted, she would have backed off.
- The “villain” of this whole episode was the timing. No individual nor VSO is to blame. The War Memorial Board decision came too late to brief VSOs prior to the start of the 2010 General Assembly.

- The current policy of the War Memorial Board is expressed in HB767.
- Is this issue resolved? The answer is unknown. A new bill could be introduced in the 2011 GA.
- In any event, VSOs need to be able to “Speak with One Voice” on this issue.

III. Recommendation

That the JLC support the War Memorial Board of Trustees policy as outlined in HB767.

HOUSE BILL NO. 767

Offered January 13, 2010

Prefiled January 12, 2010

A BILL to codify the criteria for memorialization of fallen Virginians at the Virginia War Memorial.

Patrons-- Janis, Abbitt, Anderson, Athey, BaCote, Barlow, Bell, Richard P., Bell, Robert B., Byron, Carrico, Cleaveland, Cline, Comstock, Cosgrove, Cox, J.A., Cox, M.K., Crockett-Stark, Dance, Edmunds, Garrett, Gear, Gilbert, Greason, Griffith, Howell, A.T., Howell, W.J., Hugo, Iaquinto, Ingram, James, Joannou, Jones, Keam, Kilgore, Knight, Landes, LeMunyon, Lewis, Lingamfelter, Lohr, Loupassi, Marshall, D.W., Marshall, R.G., Massie, May, McQuinn, Merricks, Miller, J.H., Morefield, Morgan, Nixon, Nutter, O'Bannon, Oder, Orrock, Peace, Pogge, Poindexter, Purkey, Putney, Scott, E.T., Scott, J.M., Sherwood, Sickles, Spruill, Stolle, Tata, Torian, Tyler, Villanueva, Ware, O., Ware, R.L. and Wright; Senators: Barker, Edwards, Hanger, Herring, Howell, Hurt, Locke, Lucas, Marsden, Martin, McDougle, McEachin, Newman, Northam, Obenshain, Petersen, Puller, Quayle, Ruff, Saslaw, Smith, Stosch, Stuart, Ticer, Vogel, Wagner, Wampler and Watkins

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. *§ 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of § [2.2-2708](#) of the Code of Virginia, and in accordance with Chapter 404 of the Acts of Assembly of 2009, the names and homes of record of patriotic Virginians who rendered faithful military service, and paid the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of freedom and liberty for the Commonwealth and the nation, shall be engraved on the walls of the Virginia War Memorial Shrine of Memory subject to the following criteria:*

1. The deceased service member shall be a Virginian, based upon official state of residency as listed on Department of Defense documents. However, the Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees may also, under extraordinary circumstances and within the full discretion of the Board, determine that he is a Virginian based on place of birth, longtime residency, or other substantial ties to the Commonwealth independent of the residency status listed on Department of Defense documents;

2. The deceased service member shall have died while serving on active duty in the uniformed armed forces. For purposes of this act, "uniformed armed forces" shall include active-duty members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Reserve Elements of any such branches, and National Guard when mobilized for qualifying service; and

3. The death of the service member shall have resulted from wounds or injuries for which the Purple Heart was actually awarded.

§ 2. In order to recognize the intrinsic value and worth of each and every service member, and the sacred character of the sacrifice of every life, the Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees shall develop plans for an additional memorial wall at the Virginia War Memorial on which to record the names and homes of record of Virginians who died while serving on active duty in the uniformed armed forces, as determined by the criteria set forth in subdivisions 1 and 2 of § 1, but who do not meet all of the criteria for inclusion on the Shrine of Memory as set forth in § 1. A deceased Virginian shall be eligible for inclusion on the memorial wall pursuant to this section:

1. Regardless of whether the service member was serving in the continental United States, overseas, in a combat zone, or elsewhere;

2. Regardless of the nature of the operations in which the service member was engaged at the time of the wound or injury that resulted in the service member's death;

3. If the deceased service member was a Virginian, based upon official state of residency as listed on Department of Defense documents. However, the Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees may also, under extraordinary circumstances and within the full discretion of the Board, determine that he is a Virginian based on place of birth, longtime residency, or other substantial ties to the Commonwealth independent of the residency status listed on Department of Defense documents; and

4. If the deceased service member died while serving on active duty in the uniformed armed forces. For purposes of this act, "uniformed armed forces" shall include active-duty members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Reserve Elements of any such branches, and National Guard when mobilized for qualifying service.

§ 3. Notwithstanding § 1 and § 2 of this act, the Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees shall have the authority to make the final determination of individual eligibility for memorialization on a case-by-case basis.

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?ses=101&typ=bil&val=HB767>

ATTACHMENT 11

LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION TOPICS JLC 21 JULY 2010 MEETING

**** GET OUT THE VOTE-Nov Referendum (See VADVS E-news Handout). Without a strong, positive public vote, all the efforts of the JLC, the General Assembly and the Governor's bill signing will have been in vain. It is requested that VSO leadership has their members, their friends, fellow church members, co-workers, etc. "Get Out the Vote" our disabled vets receive this important tax relief benefits they rightfully deserve. JLC CAN and MUST make this vote count!!!**

**** Suggested Considerations for your explanations of JLC PLO's during local visits to your General Assembly members: The JLC member should state that each JLC PLO being presented to a General Assembly member has been carefully selected to ensure that it is:**

(1) A valid and viable requirement addressing the needs/benefits essential to the military community in Virginia.

(2) Has given careful consideration to the financial impact upon the Commonwealth during these difficult fiscal times.

(3) Focused upon the needs of the entire military community, covering Active Duty, Guard/Reserve forces, Surviving spouses, family members, veterans and retirees. (TOO MUCH FOCUS OF VETERANS/RETIREES MAY BE VIEWED BY GA MEMBERS AS BEING SELF-SERVING, IMPACTING OUR WELL EARNED REPUTATION BY GA MEMBERS).

**** "Position Papers." Drafts are to be submitted by the PLO Sponsor to Steve Combs and to the JLC Legislative Chair for review within 10 days of this meeting and JLC approval of the PLO. This will allow a proper review and any required changes to permit distribution to JLC VSOs in late August/early September, thus allowing local visits to GA members starting in mid/late September with the required details to conduct an effective visit and have a "leave behind" document for the GA member to review after the visit. Also a timely follow-up visit (or at a minimum a phone call to answer questions and ask if the GA member would serve as a co-patron once the PLO is issued as a legislative bill. Taking these steps prior to the JLC "Storming" event (planned for 17 Jan 2011) will greatly improve on time spent during our tight schedules/unavailable GA member during our visit to the Capitol in January.**

**** This year, I've suggested to our Chairman, that he appoints a "Patron Selection Committee" to ensure we have well qualified Patrons to "carry-the-water" on our PLO's to enhance the opportunity of bill passage by the General Assembly. Patrons must be recognized leader, Chairs or highly respected GA members on the key committees which will hear our PLO's. In addition, the JLC sponsor should assist the GA member in the preparation of the bill and insure it has the desired wording we seek. Any JLC member here today who wishes to be a member of this Patron Selection Committee, please make your interest known to Dan or myself during our breaks or prior to leaving this meeting. Committee members will play a vital role in the JLC 2011 State Legislative program. REPEATING LAST YEAR'S SUCCESS IS POSSIBLE. A POSITIVE ATTITUDE BY ALL JLC MEMBERS WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR 2011 GOALS. LET'S GET OUT THERE JLC TEAM AND WIN AGAIN IN 2011.**

Submitted 21 July 2010 by Col Don Kaiserman-JLC Legislative Chair

ATTACHMENT 12

*****JLC 2011 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM SCHEDULE OF EVENTS*****

- * PROGRAM STARTS AT TODAY'S MEETING: Discussion/Vote on JLC 2011 State Legislative Slate of Objectives (PLO's).
- * FOLLOWING VOTE: Request for JLC Sponsors on each approved JLC/ PLO, to assist Patron on Legislative Bill.
- * "POSITION PAPERS"(in JLC format). Sponsors to submit "Papers" to Steve-DVS and JLC Legislative Chair not later than 10 days following PLO approval of their PLO (NLT 31 July 2010).
- * RELEASE OF OFFICIAL JLC PLO LISTING/"POSITION PAPER" PACKAGE: Target date of release, mid-August 2010.
- * JLC-PATRON SELECTION COMMITTEE RELEASE OF JLC/PLO PATRON LIST. NLT mid-September (sooner if possible).
- * START LOCAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBER VISITS: On or about mid-September 2010. Visit follow-ups ESSENTIAL.
- * REQUESTS FOR JLC/ PLO CO-PATRONS: Following above local visits. (These are NOT requests for actual bill PATRONS.
- * COMMENTS BY GA MEMBERS DURING VISITS: On-going to Steve/Don. To up-date "Position Papers" as needed.
- * OCTOBER JLC MEETING: Take initial cut at Priority Order of approved JLC/PLO's.
- * DECEMBER JLC MEETING: Following release of Gov. budget, establish final JLC/ PLO Listing and Priority order.
- * JLC CHAIRMAN'S END-END YEAR RELEASE OF LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE TO GA MEMBERS, GOV. AND ATTORNEY GENRAL.
- * CONTINUED FOLLOW-UPS WITH YOUR GA MEMBERS: On-going activity by JLC and their VSO members.
- * STRONG JLC TURN-OUT OF MEMBERSHIP AT JLC "STORMING THE HILL DAY: 14 January 2011.
- * PLANNED JLC LEADERSHIP MEETING WITH THE GOVERNOR: Following "Storming" adjournment.

* PLANNED “WET WASH”: For those brave souls wishing to join the Social ASPECT of JLC “Storming” event.

Submitted 20 July 2010 by: Donald B Kaiserman-JLC Legislative Chair

ATTACHMENT 13
PROPOSED JLC POSITION PAPER
Combat Veteran Tags issued by Virginia DMV

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart Medal and other medals issued for combat service and heroism displayed on a Virginia DMV automobile tag, a annual continuing fee is charged; and

WHEREAS, these medals were received at great personal risks and in a lot of cases by his or her blood; and

WHEREAS, these deserving veterans should not be charged a fee for these tags; and

BE IT RESOLVED that we petition the Virginia State Legislature to drop the charges these Combat Veterans are charged for tags that display their heroism.

ATTACHMENT 14
PROPOSED JLC POSITION PAPER
Funding Virginia Veterans Cemeteries

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To fund Virginia Veterans Cemeteries allowing them to operate in a safe efficient manner with the goal of maintaining National Shrine Standards.

2. **BACKGROUND:**

- Funding for the state veterans cemeteries in the past has not kept up with their growth in burial numbers and gravesite/headstone maintenance requirements, which today equates to 70% of each cemeteries daily work load. That load is expected to increase as the projected number of veterans aged 65 and older increases from 247,173 from 2009 to more than 295,000 by 2017 and federal veterans' cemeteries increasingly are not accepting new burials.
- The cemetery total annual operating budget is about \$811,000, which has not increased over the past several years. These funds came from three sources: approximately two thirds is state general funds (GF), about one third is from non-general fund (NGF) veterans burial plot allowances received from the federal Veterans Administration (\$300 for each veterans burial), a small NGF fund percentage is received for each eligible dependent (\$300 each).
- The cemeteries largest single operating expense is employees pay and benefits. In FY 2010, \$572,000 was spent on employee wages and benefits. However, three positions are vacant and need to be filled
- Operational equipment replacement funding is needed for 12 year old equipment and more recently obtained equipment that is starting to wear out.
- Directional signage and grounds supplies (grass seed, fertilizer, etc.) are needed to maintain the cemeteries at National Shrine Standards. As the number of gravesites increases, more maintenance and supplies are needed.

3. **DISCUSSION:**

- Funding is required for two authorized unfilled employee positions at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery (Suffolk) and one unfilled position at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia). Cost: GF \$101,500 (FY2012 and ongoing).
- Funding is required to make up shortfall in operating budget for Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Dublin). Cost: GF \$85,000 and one additional position (FY2012 and ongoing).
- Funding is required for 12 year old equipment replacement at Amelia and equipment wearing out at Suffolk. Cost: GF \$60,000 and \$20,000 respectively (FY12 and FY13, however, this will be ongoing to a lesser degree).
- Funding is required for installation of road/highway directional signage posting in both directions on one major interstate, two roadways and four ramps at Dublin. Suffolk and Amelia need signage upgrading. Cost: GF \$32,000, \$26,000, and \$13,000 respectively (FY2012).

- Funding is required for grass seed and fertilizer needs for Amelia and Suffolk. Cost: GF \$16,000 (FY2012 and ongoing).
4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and General Assembly provide \$353,500 in FY12 and \$282,500 in FY13 to operate Virginia's Veterans Cemeteries.

ATTACHMENT 15

PROPOSED JLC POSITION PAPER

Restore Full Staffing for DVS Benefit Services Positions

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To reestablish full staffing for the DVS Benefits Services Program.

2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - A ratio of 1 Benefit Services Staff person per 26,212 veterans was established by HB 2851 (Cox) during the 2005 General Assembly Session. The Code of Virginia citation is 2.2-2002.1 Department Personnel.
 - The 2000 Census reported a Virginia Veteran Population of slightly more than 786,000 to achieve a ratio of 30 Benefit Service Staff. The Veterans Administration estimates that the Virginia Veteran Population will reach 822,312 in September 2010. The previously cited ratio would require 31.4 Benefits Service Staff, plus essential support and management personnel.
 - Seven (7) mission essential positions were lost to budget cuts and several offices were closed. Those authorized positions remain unfilled and currently DVS is short 10 Benefits Service Staff.
 - Section 2.2-2004 states in part that the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services has the duty to “... *recommend to the Governor ... and the General Assembly any corrective measures, policies, procedures, plans, and programs to make service to Virginia-domiciled veterans and their eligible spouses, orphans, and dependents as efficient and effective as practicable.*” 2.2-2004-10
 - Section 2.2-2004 further states that the “...*shall have a goal of making Virginia America’s most veteran-friendly state.*” 2.2-2004-17

3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - The DVS should, at a minimum, be capable of providing the level of support envisioned in the legislation that established the Benefits Services Program. This support should include facilities, Service Representatives, Claims Examiners, Support Staff, Training Staff, and Management.
 - Compensation (\$236,714) and Benefits (\$120,689) for the seven positions totals \$357,403.
 - FFE to set-up the offices is estimated to cost \$15,000.
 - Rent for offices in Alexandria and Virginia Beach are estimated to total \$30,000 annually.

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and General Assembly amend the current biennial budget by appropriating \$402,403 for FY 2012 to restore the Veterans Services Staffing to fully serve Virginia’s Veterans and their dependents and the survivors of Virginia’s deceased veterans.

ATTACHMENT 16
PROPOSED JLC POSITION PAPER

**Virginia War Memorial: Rental/Maintenance Fees and
Event Programs, Education and Staffing Requirements**

1. **ISSUE:** The Virginia War Memorial (VWM) is a unique, highly visual “Showcase” for Virginia, possessing national recognition as an impressive “Shrine” to those who served in defense of our freedoms. The VWM is also unique from other State facilities in its operations and incurred expenses. Hence, special JLARC consideration is required in calculating VWM’s rental fees. Since rental fees include the cost of maintenance, several factors must be considered to determine a realistic rental arrangement for the VWM. These required maintenance factors are cited under the “BACKGROUND” sector of this Proposed Position Paper.
2. **BACKGROUND:** The VWM facility is situated on over 4 acres, having significant lawn and related landscaping maintenance requirements. Ground appearance standards demand special attention which differs greatly from requirements at many other State facilities without lawns, etc.

Other high maintenance-related features at the VWM include: a large reflecting pool, an eternal flame, ten flag poles, the Memory statue and an impressive 32-foot high glass and stone “Wall of Honor” engraved with over 17,000 names of military service personnel who died in defense of our Nation. These features each have special maintenance needs and associated expenses impacting the VWM.

These combined highly visible features, of our nationally recognized VWM, create significantly higher than normal maintenance expenses. Hence these unique aspects demand special attention in the calculation of the rental fee structure for this Virginia “Showcase” facility. The above factors fully justify the need for appropriate fee consideration in determination of a realistic rental fee to be incurred by the VWM.

The VWM has also become a major educational center for Virginians, teachers and students (including JROTC) and production of the award-winning “Virginians at War” film series, offered free to those utilizing these services. During the year, the VWM offers Virginians patriotic events and an array of interesting speakers both without admission and parking fees. Many of these events are conducted during week-ends without impact upon attendees’ business careers or other week-day activities. These programs place added maintenance demands upon VWM expenses.

3. **DISCUSSION:** As a Virginia “Showcase,” it is essential to properly maintain the VWM’s appearance and adequate funding is essential to support the numerous activities sponsored by the VWM. The funding for the above cited programs are estimated at: \$322,000 for Rent and Maintenance and \$183,000 for Events, Educational expenses and hiring a replacement administrative staff member.

4. RECOMMENDATION: That the Governor and the General Assembly provide the cited funding for the operation, maintenance, essential appearance needs and cited programs of the VWM to continue its role of serving Virginians, students and other national/international visitors in the image desired by the Commonwealth and its people.

ATTACHMENT 17
PROPOSED JLC POSITION PAPER
In-State Tuition for Veterans

1. **OBJECTIVE:** Increase educational opportunity for veterans by waiving the one-year residency requirement needed to qualify for in-state tuition rates

2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - The Code of Virginia, § 23-7.4, sets a one-year residency requirement in order to qualify for in-state tuition rates. Other steps must also be taken to establish domicile
 - Provided all other conditions for establishing domicile are met, an exemption to the one-year residency requirement is available for:
 - Active duty military personnel
 - Retired military personnel residing in the Commonwealth at the time of their retirement
 - Dependent spouse or children
 - Dependents of active duty, or of activated/mobilized Guardsmen and Reservists, can continue to attend at in-state tuition rates, even if the parent is transferred
 - 11,864 veterans are projected to leave the military in the year ending September 30, 2010 (source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs)
 - The Post-9/11 G.I. Bill gives veterans a great incentive to earn a college degree. The Post-9/11 GI Bill will pay:
 - Tuition & fees directly to the school not to exceed the maximum in-state tuition & fees at a public Institution of Higher Learning
 - A monthly housing allowance
 - An annual books & supplies stipend of up to \$1,000

3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - Waiving the one-year residency requirement for veterans would allow veterans to attend a Virginia public college or university at the in-state tuition rate
 - This in turn would encourage service men and women who separate from the active duty military, the Guard, or the Reserve, to attend a public college or university in Virginia upon separation, instead of seeking educational opportunities out of state or delaying entry into a program of higher education until Virginia residency is established
 - If the veteran attends a Virginia college or university, he or she is more likely to remain in the Commonwealth after graduation, enhancing the economy of the Commonwealth
 - Waiving the one-year residency requirement for veterans will help make Virginia “the most veteran-friendly state in the nation”

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and General Assembly take steps to provide veterans an exemption to the one-year residency requirement for in-state tuition rates

ATTACHMENT 18
PROPOSED JLC POSITION PAPER
Submitted by the Virginia Military Advisory Council

**Considering the Uniqueness of Military Service when
Determining Child Custody**

Subject: Many divorced Service members (SMs) who are deployed away from their family find that States do not consider the unique aspects of military service when making custody decision. Although the welfare of children is paramount, the demands of military service should not abrogate the parent's rights. There are several protections the VMAC believes would serve both the parent's rights and the welfare of the children.

Discussion: Many SMs have custody of, or visitation rights with, children whose other parent is not the SM's current spouse. Absences due to military service can undermine and disrupt existing arrangements, creating stress on parents and children. In spite of the substantially increased activity of our Armed Forces around the world today, both active and reserve, not all unique aspects of military service are always considered when balancing equities involved in decisions about child custody and visitation rights. The VMAC suggests the General Assembly consider certain procedural protections to address the following:

(1) Past absence due to military service should not serve as the *sole* basis for altering a custody order in place prior to the absence.

(2) The mere *possibility* of future absence due to military service should not be an appropriate consideration for child custody determinations.

(3) A Service Member with visitation rights be allowed to petition the court to allow those visitation rights to be delegated to a third person during the Service Member's absence due to military service.

ATTACHMENT 19

Purpose: To provide a means for Virginia Resident active duty military service members and their spouses who are deployed/assigned outside of Virginia to apply for, receive, and return absentee ballots electronically.

Background

Uniformed service personnel, their dependents, and overseas civilian voters have traditionally experienced difficulties in casting absentee ballots due to a number of factors, including the timely delivery and return of ballots.

Federal Voters Assistance Program (FVAP) assists military and overseas voters to exercise their right to vote, primarily through the absentee voting assistance process. It does so under the authority of the **Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)**, and in close coordination with State and local election officials, the Departments of Justice and State, and the military services. It provides assistance to over 1.5 million uniformed service personnel, 1.1 million voting age dependents, and two to four million potential overseas voters.

In the 2008 November General Election there were 506,672 absentee voters in the total of 3,752,858 votes cast in Virginia. The data on how many of these absentee voters defined by Virginia Code § 24.2-700 has not been found by this author.

Virginia Code § 24.2-700. Persons entitled to vote by absentee ballot in paragraph 2 states:

“2. Any person who is (i) a member of a uniformed service of the United States, as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1973ff-6 (7), on active duty, or (ii) a member of the merchant marine of the United States, or (iii) who temporarily resides outside of the United States, or (iv) the spouse or dependent residing with any person listed in (i), (ii), or (iii), and who will be absent on the day of the election from the county or city in which he is entitled to vote;”

Further § 24.2-701 covering the Application for absentee ballot states:

“The State Board shall implement a system that enables eligible persons to request and receive an absentee ballot application electronically through the Internet. Electronic absentee ballot applications shall be in a form approved by the State Board.” *[Note: Based on 2010 SB 144 it appears that this has not been fully implemented.]*

The State Board of Elections in their biennium 2010-2012 Strategic Plan states that the

“SBE continues its efforts to expand access to the electoral process for military and overseas citizens. SBE implemented a program which makes absentee voting more convenient by offering military and overseas citizens the option to receive their absentee ballot by electronically by email. Counties and cities which have established central absentee precincts (caps) have the option to offer this service to military personnel serving on active duty overseas, as well as, to overseas citizens. Now, 86 out of 134 (64%) counties and cities in Virginia provide absentee ballots to military and overseas citizens electronically by email. Military and overseas citizens who qualify under this program may take advantage of special procedures that allow them to apply for an absentee ballot by e-mail; receive their ballot by e-mail, and in some cases, return their voted ballot by either mail.”

Proposed: Pass a resolution in the 2011 General Assembly that expresses that it is the intent of the Commonwealth to facilitate the registration, application for absentee ballot, transmitting the ballot to the voter, and casting the ballot electronically via the internet for all designated military voters. Also that goal is to fully implement this process in the November 2012 General Election.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION – ABSENTEE VOTING

DRAFT JOINT RESOLUTION NO. XXX

Stating that the Commonwealth of Virginia recognizes the value of the military service of its citizens and the sacrifice that many of them make by serving outside Virginia both within the United State and overseas. Further it is recognized that voting is a very important act for each citizen and that military assignment outside the Commonwealth on election day can be very difficult. Therefore it is the intent of the Commonwealth to facilitate the registration, application for absentee ballot and casting the ballot electronically via the internet for all designated military voters.

WHEREAS, Uniformed service personnel, their dependents, and overseas civilian voters have traditionally experienced difficulties in obtaining and casting absentee ballots due to a number of factors, including the timely, delivery of ballots to the voter, and return of the ballot to the election official.

WHEREAS, The State Board of Elections has implemented a program which makes absentee voting more convenient by offering military and overseas citizens the option to receive their absentee ballot by electronically by email.

WHEREAS, Counties and cities which have established central absentee precincts (caps) have the option to offer this service to military personnel serving on active duty overseas, as well as, to overseas citizens. Now, 86 out of 134 (64%) counties and cities in Virginia provide absentee ballots to military and overseas citizens electronically by email.

WHEREAS, Federal Voters Assistance Program (FVAP) assists military and overseas voters to exercise their right to vote, primarily through the absentee voting assistance process. It does so under the authority of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), and in close coordination with State and local election officials, the Departments of Justice and State, and the military services. It provides assistance to over 1.5 million uniformed service personnel, 1.1 million voting age dependents, and two to four million potential overseas voters.

WHEREAS, Since September 11, 2001 several thousands of Virginia Guard and Reserves from the have been activated to full time duty to perform in activities related to the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). Most have been outside Virginia for at least one election.

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, that the General Assembly designate that it is the goal of the Commonwealth of Virginia to institute a system to facilitate the registration, application for absentee ballot, transmitting the ballot to the absentee voter, and casting the ballot electronically via the internet for all designated military and overseas voters.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth of Virginia State Board of Elections take the necessary actions to provide online registration, absentee ballot delivery, marking, and vote casting services through a web interface, meeting Commonwealth specific absentee ballot

requirements. The system will be capable of producing a ballot (including Federal, State, and local elections) at least 45 days prior to the November 2012 general election.

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Virginia State Board of Elections provide necessary legislation supporting this online absentee voting process to the 2012 General Assembly for consideration and approval.

ATTACHMENT 20

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To begin development and implementation of strategies to reduce and prevent homelessness among Virginia's Veterans.

2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - The issue of Homeless Veterans has been discussed for over a decade with little data or understanding of the problem. Anecdotally opinions have ranged from "there are many posers" to "it's a mental illness problem" to "they need to get a job".
 - In 2009 the General Assembly directed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to conduct a study into the nature and scope of Homeless Veterans in Virginia. This study was completed and published in June of 2010.
 - The study determined that on any given day, throughout the year, the Virginia Homeless Veteran population could be approximately 900, with about 2,200 Veterans experiencing homelessness throughout the year. There is no comprehensive means of data collection at the federal, state, or local level that can be accessed to obtain accurate information and the population is highly transient.
 - The study suggested that to prevent Virginia Veterans from becoming homeless and to help those who are already homeless would require a multi-pronged approach. Participants in a program to prevent and eliminate veteran homelessness will require coordination of the Departments of Veterans Services, Housing and Community Development, Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Corrections, Rehabilitative Services, and Social Services, the Virginia Employment Commission, the Virginia Housing Development Authority, community-based homeless service providers, community services boards, local public housing authorities, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and others as needed to identify goals. The Governor and the General Assembly will need to develop enabling legislation and provide funding once strategies and program objectives are developed.

3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - The DVS should, at a minimum, be prepared to participate in developing strategies and programs to address the Virginia Homeless Veteran issue. Although Homelessness is a broad societal issue, the recognition of the special circumstances associated with Homeless Veterans, (post-traumatic stress, physical illnesses and injuries related to their service, and particularly for National Guard and Reserves, the loss of employment due to extended periods of active duty) leads to the conclusion that DVS is uniquely qualified to address the uniqueness of veteran's issues.
 - A position of a Virginia Homeless Veteran Coordinator established within the DVS will prepare the Department to actively and effectively participate in developing plans and coordinating with the other Departments, agencies, and service providers.
 - The primary costs to establish a Homeless Veteran Coordinator would be the authorization of one (1) position; to be supported by existing Department Administrative Staff at a cost of approximately \$125,000 for salary and benefits and a travel allowance of \$5,000.

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and General Assembly amend the current biennial budget by appropriating \$130,000 for FY 2012 to establish the position of Homeless Veteran Coordinator within the DVS.

ATTACHMENT 21 PROPOSED JLC POSITION PAPER

Virginia Veteran Care Centers

Purpose: To add the Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center to the six year capitol outlay plan.

Background

The *Long-Term Care Feasibility Study: Quality Care They Earned* was prepared for the Virginia Department of Veterans Services in 2007 by the Schroeder Center for Healthcare Policy located in the College of William and Mary's Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy.

The six primary recommendations made in the report included:

1. The General Assembly of Virginia should consider matching state funds for federal State Veterans Home Grants to construct up to three new veterans care centers with as many as 200 beds each including 40-bed secure special units and 40-bed domiciliary care beds. These three centers are in addition to the veterans care center planned for Hampton Roads.
2. Two new Virginia Veterans Care Centers, one in the Northern Virginia Planning District (Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, Alexandria City, Fairfax City, Falls Church City, Manassas City, and Manassas Park City) and another in the West Piedmont Planning District (Franklin, Henry, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Danville City, and Martinsville City) would be located near the largest veteran population centers without a Veterans Care Center and travel times of at least two hours from existing or planned facilities in usual traffic.
3. A third Virginia Veterans Care Center in either the Lenowisco Planning District or far Southwest (Lee, Norton City, Scott, Wise), Southside Planning District (Brunswick, Halifax, Mecklenburg), or Accomack-Northampton Planning District (Accomack, Northampton) would be located near veteran population centers without a Veterans Care Center and with high proportion of Medicaid and low income residents.
4. Virginia should begin to build a continuum of long-term care to better serve veterans in the future.
5. Some existing and planned long-term care beds should be part of the commitment to collaborate with the USDVA to serve veterans with traumatic brain injury returning from the Global War on Terrorism.
6. Forty domiciliary beds, rather than 80, should be added to the Sitter Barfoot Veterans Care Center.

Current Status

Project	FY10 Fed* Priority	Six Year Capitol Plan***	Over 65 in Area in 2000	Comment
Hampton Roads	46	Yes - 2009	47,681	Up to 240 beds
Sitter Barfoot	45	Yes - 2009	27,146	Expansion of 40 beds

N. Virginia	53	No	41,654	Up to 240 beds
SW Virginia	None**	Yes - 2010	10,202	Added to six year plan by Bud. Amend.

* Funding in FY10 not expected. Re-ranking for FY11 expected after Oct. 2010

** Grant application being submitted. Expect ranking for FY11

***The current six-year capital outlay plan was adopted by the General Assembly during the 2009 session and amended in the 2010 session to add the Southwest VCC.

ATTACHMENT 22

PROPOSED JLC POSITION PAPER

Alternative Dedicated Revenue Sources for Veterans Service Programs (Legislation Needed for 2011 General Assembly)

I. Background:

1. With respect to state revenues and the budget, the economy is currently worse than it has been in 40 years. The revenue picture is not likely to get better “soon”.
2. When the revenue picture does improve, there will be many claimants seeking state general fund money (e.g. education, health, public safety, etc. etc.)
3. The cost of veterans programs have increased tremendously over the last 10 years. Veterans programs have made increasing demands on state general fund (taxpayer) monies. Yet the DVS budget has been cut by \$1.4 mil in the last two years.
4. Over the next 10 years the cost of veterans service programs will likely increase – not decrease! (e.g. Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, cemeteries, veteran homelessness, care centers, financial assistance to families, jobs for veterans, veterans education, and many other needed programs.)
5. The JLARC report on Vet Homelessness, 14 June 2010, reported that even with \$1.7 million in grants to CSBs from the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, three quarters of the providers reported less than half of the PTSD treatment needs were being met.
6. JLARC also reported that increased funding of \$1 to 3 million for the Homeless Intervention Program would have a high impact for about 600 veterans for non-chronic homelessness. To reduce chronic homelessness, \$3 to 10 million would be required to have a high impact. This money will not likely come from general fund sources.
7. JLARC further recommended that the GA consider designating a revenue source to help alleviate veterans’ homelessness. Other states have established a Veterans Trust Fund which is funded by a designated revenue source..
8. Governor McDonnell has publicly promised to make Virginia “The most Veteran Friendly State” in the country. Virginia is **NOT** now the “most veteran friendly state” in America.
9. HB1337 to establish a compact with Virginia’s veterans was passed unanimously by both chambers of the General Assembly in March 2010 and was signed by the Governor on 29 April 2010. HB 1337 sets **“a goal of making Virginia America’s most veteran-friendly state”**, which was publicly repeated by the Governor. The Code of Virginia further states that a duty of the Commissioner of the Dept. of Veterans Services is to **“Seek alternative funding sources for the Department’s veterans’ service**

programs". An alternative funding source is a requirement for the compact with veterans.

10. Therefore, if the Governor, the Administration, key legislators, the JLC and major veterans' service organizations were fully supportive, legislation to provide an alternative dedicated revenue stream for veterans programs could be established. It is vitally needed to meet veterans' needs in Virginia.

II. Discussion:

1. Veterans' service programs need to have a major, non-general fund "funding stream" to help fund any and all veterans projects/programs. This funding stream needs to be large enough to have a multi-million dollar impact on veterans programs that would otherwise require general fund monies or go un-funded.
2. Certain sources of alternative funding should be sought such as grants and voluntary donations, but they are neither dedicated nor sustainable . Other possible sources that are dedicated and sustainable may include certain types of vehicle registration fees and other dedicated fees, but many view them as tax increases. Lotteries have been proven to provide a more suitable, dedicated, and sustainable source of revenue.
3. Seven states (Texas, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Tennessee, West Virginia, and New Jersey) have a dedicated revenue stream (i.e. a veterans' lottery) that provides an annual multi-million dollar funding stream for veterans in their state.
4. Texas initiated a \$2 scratch card for veterans and since last November when it was introduced, it has produced \$9 million for veterans needs as of March 2010. Kansas has put \$4 million into veterans programs from its veterans' lottery since its inception in 2004. For 2009, the first full year of operation, the Kansas veterans' lottery produced over \$1.6 million for veterans programs. The other states have had similar successes (e.g. Illinois -\$7million, Iowa-\$2.78 million).
5. These states have been successful in designing a **lottery that does not detract from funds dedicated to education or other purposes**. By promoting a lottery card for veterans and advertising it widely, more veterans have played the lottery. Thus, rather than cut into the share of the "pie" for education, they have been able to "grow the pie". This has been described as a case of "Veterans helping veterans."
6. Clearly, if "making Virginia America's most veteran-friendly state" is to become a reality, and not just campaign rhetoric, the veterans need a dedicated alternative funding stream to supplement general fund funding for needed veterans programs for the future.
7. While the proceeds from the Virginia lottery are dedicated to education and are so protected by the Virginia constitution, some proceeds can go to other uses if approved by

4/5 of the members of the General Assembly.

8. The uses for the funding stream provided by a veterans' lottery should be decided by the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services in conjunction with the Board of Veterans Services. Also, a dedicated Veterans' Trust Fund should be established.
9. In order to appease opposition from the education establishment, a bill could be crafted that would guarantee that at least the same level of proceeds as was attained the previous fiscal year be allotted to Education. Thus Education would be held "harmless" by this proposal. In the year when the veterans' lottery is initiated, Education would not receive less than the prior year.

III, Recommendations: That the Department of Veterans Services and the veterans services organizations of the JLC, begin immediately to plan to comply with HB1337 to provide an alternative dedicated revenue source for veterans service programs as a requirement for the compact with Virginia's veterans.

That the JLC make the establishment of a veterans' lottery a priority legislative objective for the 2011 General Assembly.