

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 12, 2009**

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on August 12, 2009, at the American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond.

**Members Present**

- Jeffrey Platte, *Air Force Association*
- Brett Reistad, *American Legion*
- Bruce Brown, *AMVETS*
- Donald 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 of the U.S., Inc.*
- Bruce Steeley, *Marine Corps League*
- Robert Fairchild, *Military Order of the Purple Heart*
- Raymond Edwards, *Military Officers Association of American*
- William Townsley, *Military Order of the World Wars*
- Thomas Moran, *National Association for Uniformed Services*
- Frank Driscoll, *Navy Seabee Veterans of America*
- Matthew Dailey, *Non-Commissioned Officers Association*
- Carmen Gentile, *Reserve Officers Association*
- Lloyd 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*
- Paul Galanti, *Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services*
- Vince Burgess, *Commissioner of Veterans Services*

**Members Absent**

- George Coker, *American Ex-POWs*
- David Coffield, *Paralyzed Veterans of America*
- Dave Richardson, *Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation*

**Members Emeriti Present**

- Mason Botts
- Samuel Wilder
- Daniel Miller

- John Dozier
- Richard Rinaldo
- John Bonnell, Jr.
- John Jackson
- Thomas Stephen

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

- John Clickener, *MOAA*
- John Velleca, *Virginia National Guard Association*

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

- Bernard Henderson, *Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth*
- Nick Surace, *Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth*
- Beth Camphouse, *Office of the Secretary of Public Safety*
- Donald Ferguson, *Office of the Attorney General*
- Eric Messick, *Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission*
- Tracey Smith, *Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission*
- Jon Hatfield, *Virginia War Memorial*
- Anne Atkins, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Steven Combs, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Jack Hilgers, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Judy Reid, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Danielle Weaver, *Department of Veterans Services*

### **Others Present**

- William Moore, *Virginia Military Advisory Council*
- John Lewandowski, *Disable Veterans Committee on Housing*
- Richard Seely, *Disable Veterans Committee on Housing*
- Patricia Davis, *Disable Veterans Committee on Housing*
- Paul Hinkhouse, *USDOL/VETS*
- Harry Warner, *Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation*
- Charles Santilli, *U.S. Army, Ft. Lee*
- Marie Juliano, *Women Marines Association*
- Daniel Karnes, *Roanoke Valley Veterans Council*

### **Agenda Packet**

- Agenda
- JLC Roster (Agenda Item III)
- Orientation Material (Agenda Item V)
  - Orientation – copy of PowerPoint Slides
  - Code of Virginia Sections related to the JLC
  - JLC Constitution
  - JLC By-Laws
  - JLC Powers and Duties Review – May 18, 2009

- JLC Guiding Principles for Priority Legislative Objectives
- Chairman’s Assessment JLC Legislative Objectives – 2008 (Lessons Learned)
- Guidance for Meetings With Legislators
- Presentations (Agenda Item VI)
  - VMAC Legislative Proposal (titled “Information Paper”)
  - VMAC PowerPoint Presentation
  - Homeless Veterans Study – Letter from Delegate Kirk Cox to JLARC Director
- Reports (Agenda Item VII)
  - Board of Veterans Services Report
  - Veterans Services Foundation Report
  - Department of Veterans Services Report
  - Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council Report
  - Executive Order 88 – Continuing the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council
- Old Business
  - Excerpt from Draft Minutes of 5/22/09 JLC meeting

### **Additional Handouts**

- VDVS News Release – VWWP Seeks Regional Director for Southwest Virginia
- MOAA-VCOC Virginia Legislative Objectives for 2010
- JLC Position Paper – Veterans Courts

### **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.

### **Swearing in of new members**

Mr. Bernard Henderson, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth, administered the Oath of Office to the new JLC members.

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

The roll was called, twenty-one of twenty-three Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the JLC were recorded as being represented, and a quorum was determined. The Commissioner of Veterans Services and the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services were recorded as present.

### **Approval of the agenda**

Chairman Boyer asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Frank Driscoll made a **motion** to approve the agenda as presented and Mr. George Corbett **seconded** the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously. See Attachment 1.

## **Introductions of Guests**

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

## **Review and Approval of May 20, 2009 meeting minutes**

The draft minutes of the May 20, 2009 meeting were adopted without change by unanimous consent.

## **Orientation**

Chairman Boyer explained that Mr. Combs would provide an overview of the JLC, including background, structure, governance, and partners, while Mr. Sam Wilder and Mr. Don Kaiserman would provide guidance and advise on legislative procedures.

### **JLC Background, Structure, Governance, and Partners**

Mr. Combs called the members attention to the set of PowerPoint slides titled “New Member Orientation.” He briefly reviewed the following topics:

- Membership
- Meetings
- Expenses
- Self Governance
- Mission and Vision Statements
- Powers and Duties
- Virginia Freedom of Information Act
- Conflict of Interest Act
- Partners
- DVS Senior Staff and contact information

Mr. Mike Coleman expressed his appreciation for everything Mr. Combs does for the JLC. Chairman Boyer also pointed out that Mr. Combs has done a tremendous job helping him with his duties.

### **JLC Legislation – Background and Guidance**

Chairman Boyer introduced Mr. Sam Wilder, former JLC member and Chairman. Mr. Wilder called the members attention to three handouts, which he reviewed:

- “JLC Guiding Principles for Priority Legislative Objectives.” See [\*Attachment 2\*](#).
- “Chairman’s Assessment JLC’s Legislative Objectives – 2008 Lessons Learned.” See [\*Attachment 3\*](#).
- “Guidance for Meetings with Legislators.” See [\*Attachment 4\*](#).

*The Council took a break between 11:05 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. while the tape was changed.*

### JLC Legislative Procedures

Mr. Donald Kaiserman explained that he was working on a set of JLC Legislative “Standard Operating Procedures” (SOPs), which will provide direction on conducting an effective JLC legislative program. He stated that Mr. Combs will distribute the Draft SOP for review and comment. Mr. Kaiserman explained the importance of Position Papers for the JLC Legislative Objectives, and emphasized how important it is that the sponsor of each JLC Legislative Objective work with the General Assembly patron to ensure the bill passes. Mr. Kaiserman concluded by explaining that the Richmond Area Chapter of MOAA will sponsor a forum for Richmond-area legislators on September 22. He offered to help other JLC members with holding similar events in their areas.

## **Presentations**

### Virginia Military Advisory Council Legislative Proposal

Mr. William Moore of the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC) reviewed the VMAC Legislative Proposal, included as Attachment 5 to these minutes, and the accompanying PowerPoint presentation, included as Attachment 6 to these minutes. Mr. Moore requested that the JLC support VMAC’s legislative proposal. Chairman Boyer thanked Mr. Moore for his presentation.

### Homeless Veterans Study

Mr. Eric Messick, Chief Legislative Analyst, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) discussed the homeless veterans study, noting that the study was requested by Delegate Kirk Cox in a letter to JLARC Director Philip Leone. A copy of the letter is included as Attachment 7. Mr. Messick introduced Ms. Tracey Smith, who will also be working on the study. Discussion and questions followed regarding the scope of the study. Chairman Boyer thanked Mr. Messick for speaking to the JLC.

### Disabled Veterans Committee on Housing

Mr. John Lewandowski, President/CEO, Disabled Veterans Committee on Housing (DVCH), introduced his colleagues – Dr. Richard Seely and Ms. Patricia Davis – then told the JLC about the work of the DVCH. Mr. Lewandowski said he believes that no veteran should be homeless, and asked the JLC to help him get homeless veterans off the street and into permanent housing. He explained that this would involve renovating abandoned or other buildings to provide permanent housing for veterans. He also noted that veterans run into road blocks when they apply for housing assistance, and said that the DVCH would like to help veterans get qualified for housing quicker. Mr. Lewandowski yielded the floor to Dr. Seely, who outlined some of the problems veterans have with securing housing and gave an example of a disabled veteran in Chesterfield. Mr. Lewandowski said that the DVCH booklet is available to JLC members upon request. Chairman Boyer thanked Mr. Lewandowski for his presentation.

## **Reports**

### Board of Veterans Services Report

BVS Chairman Paul Galanti delivered the report of the Board of Veterans Services, included as Attachment 8 to these minutes.

Mr. Galanti expressed his admiration of all that the JLC has accomplished over the past six years, and praised Commissioner Burgess' leadership of the Department of Veterans Services, particularly in recruiting talented employees like DVS Director of Communications Ms. Anne Atkins. Mr. Galanti noted Mr. Combs' tremendous support to the JLC.

### Veterans Services Foundation Report

Mr. Jack Hilgers delivered the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) report in VSF Chairman Dave Richardson's absence. The VSF report is included as Attachment 9 to these minutes.

Mr. Robert Fairchild presented a \$1,000 check for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) from Military Order of the Purple Heart. Mr. Michael Coleman presented a \$1,000 check for the VWWP from the Virginia National Guard Association.

### Department of Veterans Services Report

Commissioner Burgess delivered the report of the Department of Veterans Services, included as Attachment 10 to these minutes. Commissioner Burgess reviewed the impending budget cuts and reiterated his goal of minimizing cuts in direct services to veterans. He expressed his opinion that DVS has come a long way in providing services to veterans, and said that he is concerned that the upcoming budget cuts will set the Department back.

### Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council Report

Mr. Thomas Stephen, JLC Representative to the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council (VCSSC), reported on the June 16 VCSSC meeting. Mr. Stephen's report is included as Attachment 11. to these minutes. Mr. Stephen noted that because he is no longer a JLC member, a replacement JLC representative to the VCSSC will need to be appointed.

Chairman Boyer presented letters from Governor Kaine to former JLC members John Bonnell, Mason Botts, John Dozier, John Jackson, Daniel Miller, Richard Rinaldo, Thomas Stephen, and Samuel Wilder. Chairman Boyer noted that Mr. Miller was the first JLC chairman and that Mr. Wilder had also served as chairman.

*The Council took a lunch break between 12:30 p.m. and 12:55 p.m.*

## Old Business

### JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives

Chairman Boyer asked everyone to review the excerpt from the May 20, 2009 meeting, included as Attachment 12 to these minutes. Chairman Boyer stated that he would briefly review each proposal, that he would then ask the sponsor to say a few words about the proposal, that there would be time for brief discussion, and that there would then be a vote on each proposed objective. He noted that he would then open the floor to any new proposals.

- Real Estate Tax Relief for 100% Disabled Veterans

Chairman Boyer stated that this was a legislative objective from 2009, and that it needed to pass again in 2010, in the same form, before it goes to the voters for approval.

Chairman Boyer called for a motion. Mr. Fairchild made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Thomas Moran, to include Real Estate Tax Relief for 100% Disabled Veterans as a JLC Legislative Objective for 2010. The motion was approved unanimously. DAV will be the sponsor.

- Burial Vaults for Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries

Chairman Boyer noted that Delegate Cox had suggested that, given the state's budget situation, the burial vaults could be offered at cost instead of being provided at no cost. Chairman Boyer suggested that the JLC pursue this course of action for 2010. Mr. Combs said that DVS would still need funding for the initial purchase of the vaults, because the Department budget is not sufficient to do so. He also stated that DVS would need approximately \$16,000 to \$18,000 to purchase a vault cart for the Amelia Cemetery. A vault cart is necessary for placing the vaults in the ground.

Chairman Boyer called for a motion. Mr. Fairchild made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Bruce Steeley, to include this proposal, as amended, in the JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives. The motion was approved unanimously. VFW will be the sponsor.

- Continue Funding for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program

Mr. Raymond Edwards distributed the MOAA proposed legislative objectives, included as Attachment 13 to these minutes.

Chairman Boyer proposed that this legislative objective be combined with JLC support for the Automated Claims Processing System and the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery into a single objective of supporting the DVS budget requirements. He presented proposed language as follows: "The JLC recommends that the Governor and General Assembly meet the critical budget requirements of the Department of Veterans Services, including 1) provide the necessary funding to open and operate the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, 2) provide the necessary funding to continue development of the Automated Claims Processing System, and 3) continue funding for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program at least at current levels." The Council discussed this proposal.

Chairman Boyer asked for a motion. Mr. William Townsley made a **motion, seconded by** Mr. Frank Driscoll to adopt the combined proposal as presented by Chairman Boyer. The motion carried unanimously. The National Association for Uniformed Services (for the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery), the Korean War Veterans Association (for the Automated Claims Processing System), and MOAA (for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program) will be co-sponsors. The Vietnam Veterans of America will be the coordinating sponsor.

- Virginia War Memorial Operating Fund and FFE Funds

The Council next discussed support for the Virginia War Memorial (VWM). Chairman Boyer asked Mr. Jon Hatfield, Executive Director of the Virginia War Memorial, to speak to the issue. Mr. Hatfield explained that the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center is due to open next year, but that the VWM does not have the operating funds to open and operate the center. Mr. Hatfield also stated that funds would be needed for furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FFE). At the May 20 JLC meeting, Mr. Hatfield stated that the VWM would need \$909,729 for FFE and an ongoing operating budget of \$693,313 per year.

Chairman Boyer called for a motion. Mr. Driscoll made a **motion, seconded by** Mr. Brett Reistad, to make support for the VWM operating budget and FFE requirements a JLC Legislative Objective for 2010. The motion carried unanimously. The American Legion will be the sponsor.

- Special Veterans Courts

Mr. Townsley distributed a draft of the JLC position paper, included as Attachment 14 to these minutes. He noted that he had spoken with Hampton Roads-area legislators about sponsoring legislation to create special veterans court and Delegate Gear is particularly interested.

Vigorous discussion followed, regarding the operation of the courts, about whether they would provide diversionary versus alternative programs. The Council agreed that they would be diversionary or remedial programs. Several JLC members suggested that the proposal be modified to include active duty, guard, and reserve service members. Other JLC members suggested that perhaps a pilot project would be the best way to proceed.

It was agreed that the JLC objective should be to support legislation that allows localities, at their discretion, to establish special veterans courts for remedial treatment of veterans and military personnel accused of misdemeanor crimes.

Chairman Boyer called for a motion. Mr. Driscoll made a **motion, seconded by** Mr. Moran, to make Special Veterans Courts a JLC Legislative Objective for 2010. The motion was approved unanimously. This will be a participatory effort by several JLC members including the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, and others.

*The Council took a break at 2:05 p.m. for the tape to be changed.*

- *Military Family Relief Fund*

Mr. Coleman reviewed the proposal to make grants from the Military Family Relief Fund exempt from state taxes. Chairman Boyer reviewed Delegates Cox's remarks regarding potential sponsors. Mr. Coleman said he would speak to Delegate Bill Janis and would seek a Senate patron for this legislative issue.

Chairman Boyer called for a motion. Mr. Driscoll made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. George Corbett, to make this issue a JLC Legislative Objective for 2010. The motion was approved unanimously. The Virginia National Guard Association will be the sponsor

- *Unemployment Compensation for Trailing Military Spouses*

Chairman Boyer stated that MOAA was to have looked into this issue. He noted that the proposed MOAA legislative priorities did not include this issue. Chairman Boyer proposed that this item not be considered as a JLC legislative objective for 2010. There was not objection to the Chairman's proposal.

- *ROTC Credit*

Mr. Kaiserman proposed that this item not be considered as a JLC legislative objective for 2010. There was not objection to Mr. Kaiserman's proposal.

### **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Chairman Boyer asked Mr. Combs to give the Council background information on the JLC Elections. Mr. Combs explained that, per the JLC Constitution, the chairman and vice-chairman serve one-year terms, are eligible for reelection to a second term, but may not serve more than two consecutive terms. He said that at the March meeting Chairman Boyer had appointed a Nominating Committee led by former Chairman Wilder. Mr. Combs said that at the May meeting, the Nominating Committee recommended that the current chairman and vice-chairman be re-elected for another term.

Chairman Boyer opened the floor for nominations for chairman. No additional nominations were made. Mr. Driscoll made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Townsley, that the nominations be closed. Mr. Townsley, for the Council, cast one vote by acclamation for Chairman Boyer to be re-elected for a second term.

Chairman Boyer opened the floor for nominations for vice-chairman. No additional nominations were made. Mr. Driscoll made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Townsley, that the nominations be closed. Mr. Townsley, for the Council, cast one vote by acclamation for Vice-Chairman Jenny Holbert to be re-elected for a second term.

Chairman Boyer thanked the Council members for their continued support of Ms. Holbert and himself.

### **Public comment period**

There was no public comment.

Mr. Carmen Gentile announced that the Defense Education Forum of the Reserve Officers Association, in conjunction with Partnership for a Secure America (PSA), would hold a Forum on Climate Change, Energy and National Security at 3 p.m. today (August 12) in this same room (the main meeting room of the American Legion Building). He invited the JLC members and guests to attend the seminar.

### **Preparation for October 14 meeting**

Chairman Boyer reminded the Council members that the next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2009.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 2:30.

# **ATTACHMENT 1**

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations  
American Legion Department of Virginia Building  
1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond  
August 12, 2009  
10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Dan Boyer, JLC Chairman* (5 minutes)
- II. Swearing in of new members – *Bernie Henderson, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth* (5 minutes)
- III. Roll call of VSOs and introduction of members, quorum determination, and approval of agenda – *Dan Boyer* (10 minutes)
- IV. Review and approval of May 20, 2009 meeting minutes – *Dan Boyer* (5 minutes)
- V. Orientation – *Dan Boyer, JLC members, and DVS staff* (60 minutes)
- VI. Presentations
  - a. Virginia Military Advisory Council Legislative Proposal – *Bill Moore, Deputy to the Commanding General, Combined Arms Support Command and Fort Lee* (10 minutes)
  - b. Homeless Veterans Study – *Eric Messick, Chief Legislative Analyst, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission* (5 minutes)
  - c. Disabled Veterans Committee on Housing – *John Lewandowski, President/CEO, DVCH* (10 minutes)
- VII. Reports
  - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Paul Galanti, BVS Chairman* (5 minutes)
  - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Dave Richardson, VSF Chairman* (5 minutes)
  - c. Department of Veterans Services – *Vince Burgess, Commissioner* (10 minutes)
  - d. Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council – *Tom Stephen, JLC Representative* (5 minutes)
- VIII. Break/working lunch (30 minutes)
- IX. Old business
  - a. JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives – *Dan Boyer* (90 minutes)
  - b. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman – *Dan Boyer* (5 minutes)
- X. Public comment period (5 minutes)
- XI. Prepare for October 14 meeting – *Chairman* (5 minutes)
- XII. Adjournment

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

### **JLC GUIDING PRINCIPLES for PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES**

1. **PRIORITIZE!**
  - 5 – 7 major objectives; not a “laundry list”
  - Carefully weigh potential objectives with respect to cost; costly objectives are more difficult
  - Distinguish between “nice to have” and “need to have”
  - “Support” does not equal “priority” (We must know what we really want.)
2. **BE “RESPONSIBLE/REASONABLE”**
  - Have the facts/cost data to justify; don’t “ask for the moon”
  - “Reasonable” can also be “incremental”
3. **“SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE”**
  - All VSOs need to be advocating for the exact same agenda or we lose effectiveness
  - Make your written handouts the same as JLC’s agenda – with the same priority.
  - Try not to add on a “pet project”; if you must then list it as a clear “add on”
4. **SERVE OUR CONSTITUENTS**
  - Active, reserve, retired, veterans and family members of each
  - Our constituents are not other special interests, nor the entire Commonwealth
  - Strong National Defense and Homeland Security
5. **ARTICULATE OBJECTIVES CLEARLY AND SPECIFICALLY**
  - Clearly specify who, what, where, when
  - Does not have to be in arcane legislative language
  - May modify after Governor’s budget is revealed in mid-December
6. **HAVE A JLC “SPONSOR” FOR EACH PRIORITY OBJECTIVE**
  - “Sponsors” must be the “expert” on the issue; may need to testify before committees
  - “Sponsors” must develop a position paper (approved by and distributed to all JLC members)  
NLT 31 August
7. **ADVOCATE!!**
  - Best - Schedule appointment and personally meet with “your” legislator to discuss JLC priority objectives. Ask him to “patron” (i.e. introduce) a bill.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> best – personally meet with the staffer and discuss the objectives
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> best – send letter with the objectives and position papers attached.

6 Aug 2007

## **ATTACHMENT 3**

### **Chairman's Assessment JLC's LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES – 2008 Lessons Learned**

#### **I. WHAT WORKED WELL:**

1. **Legislative Timeline:** Legislative agenda with position papers completed by 31 August. This allows time for needed lobbying and educating legislators during fall. Position papers were well researched and their rationale was compelling.
2. **Patrons Obtained for Each Objective:** Bills in both House and Senate.
3. **Chairman's Report Sent to All 140 Legislators:** Report sent in November. Created increased awareness of JLC and our legislative agenda.
4. **JLC "DAY AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY":** Increased awareness of JLC and understanding of our legislative agenda. (Thanks to Jack Hilgers!!)
5. **NUMEROUS CO-PATRONS SIGNED ON:** Good efforts from "Storming the Hill" by JLC, MOAA, and Am. Legion plus great assist from Jack Hilgers afterwards. (e.g. 80 co-patrons for Wounded Warrior bill).
6. **EXCELLENT SUPPORT FOR PATRONS IN COMMITTEE HEARINGS:** A JLC member needs to be present for hearings on each objective to show support and assist the patron. (We had good coverage thanks to MOAA – Edwards, Kaiserman, Williams, Clickener, and Hilgers. Also to War Memorial staff and DVS)
7. **GOOD "TURNOUT OF TROOPS" ON SHORT NOTICE:** (Am. Legion, MOAA, VFW, et al. for hearing on Wounded Warrior bill.)
8. **EMPATHY AND TIMING FOR WOUNDED WARRIOR WAS EXCELLENT.**
9. **OVERALL GREATER SUPPORT THAN EVER FOR VETERANS/MILITARY ISSUES:** The "climate" has greatly improved in the General Assembly towards veterans

#### **II. WHAT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED:**

1. **JLC UNITY!** All VSOs and JLC members must press for the same legislative agenda! This is critical. (Some did not.)
2. **COORDINATION WITH GOVERNOR'S POLICY OFFICE:** JLC deserves to know the Governor's position on our legislative objectives after his budget is released. We need ensure that the policy office is adequately briefed.

3. **“REVISED” LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES MUST REFLECT OUR TRUE PRIORITIES:** Our one sheet statement of the legislative agenda did not truly reflect our priorities and thereby caused confusion. Time was lost getting up dated position papers.
4. **DO BILLS – NOT BUDGET AMMENDMENTS – FOR ALL PRIORITY OBJECTIVES:** The funding plan for Turbo Vet was not effective.
5. **FOCUS ON “KEY” COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** We need to ensure that all members Senate Finance and House Appropriations committees fully understand our issues.

## **ATTACHMENT 4**

### **GUIDANCE FOR MEETINGS WITH LEGISLATORS**

Mason -

All good questions. Here's what I/we have done in the past and would suggest to you:

- As a minimum ask for 30 min. Usually the legislator and you keep talking for maybe an hour.
- I normally do a written “Discussion Guide”, which in this case is generally our list of Legislative Objectives. And I send that as a “Read Ahead” to his office prior to the meeting. I start out with an introduction of who I am and who I represent. I go down the list of legislative objectives and then let him talk to me and give his views. Be sure to bring all the copies of our position papers and leave copies with him. Be sure to read the position papers before you go so that you can discuss the issues intelligently. But it’s still a good idea to leave the position paper with him because that will help him draft the appropriate legislation.
- Meeting in his “home office” in his district is best. After all, you are his “constituent”. He really owes you some time to talk to people who vote for him. However, in this case you are the Chairman of the JLC. You are representing 21 veteran service organizations with a membership of over 250,000 people – not a small block of voters. Also, Jay O’Brien is a West Point Grad, just retired from the Army Reserves, is “pro-military” (even Air Force types ☐) so he will be easy to talk to. (Note: All of our MOAA legislative teams that talk to people say that they are representing JLC, which is a quarter million people, because we all have the same legislative agenda.) Last year I only had a few words with him at a Citizen Soldier Support Council meeting, but later mailed him all the papers I had on the in-state tuition issue, and he wound up drafting legislation to support it. Please thank him for that, because he supported a JLC issue last year and we remember his kind support.
- Timing: The sooner the better! Don’t wait for any time frame. If he sponsors any legislation (i.e. submits bills), now is the time to get them to the Legislative Services people to get them drafted into bill language.
- OK, to go by yourself. If you know of any other members of JLC or it’s member organizations, it’s OK to bring a couple of guys with you. If not, go by your self. As the Chairman of JLC and a constituent, I think you should have an “entre”. I don’t think we have any protocol on this. In MOAA we’ve done it several different ways. If all else fails, meet with his legislative assistant and leave all the position papers along with our printed legislative agenda. But the very best is eyeball to eyeball with the legislator.
- On Bills for him to sponsor, remember that he is on the Citizen Soldier Support Council, so I think that he would be a logical one to sponsor anything to do with the Guard/Reserve, possibly Pay Day Lending, In-State tuition, or any other of our issues that he would like to sponsor. He may well pick up on something that he would like to be the sponsor of. You should ask him to patron (i.e, draft and submit the bill to accomplish our objectives) any bills

that he will be willing to patron. Hopefully, he'll patron more than one. Beyond that, we of course should ask for his support on our entire agenda. He will probably have his opinions, advice, etc. that may prove very helpful to us.

- After the meeting, you should share what he said with all the JLC reps, because it may help all of us with our future visits. If he does agree to patron some bills, which I would expect that he would, we need to all know what the bills are and the bill language. As the months go on to the start of the General Assembly we can get with other legislators and ask them to co-patron O'Brien's bills such and such. That will help the bills get through the committee and floor vote process.

Thanks for meeting with Jay O'Brien. I think it will make a difference.

Sam

-----Original Message-----

From: Mason S Botts [mailto:msbotts@raytheon.com]

Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2006 7:02 PM

To: Sam Wilder

Cc: Vince Burgess

Subject: Re: JLC Legislative Agenda

Sam:

Be happy to go see Sen O'Brien. I double-checked to see that I was right about him being "my" Senator, and he is. Dave Marsden is my delegate.

I've not been involved with a leg visit, other than for RTN in DC when set up by our lobbyists to discuss a specific program, or for AFA to obtain general support for Air Force programs. So will need some coaching. I'm thinking the steps are something like:

- Make appt.
- How much time do you recommend I ask for?
- Is it OK to do in his district office rather than in his RIC office?
- What's the best timing? Is ASAP OK or is there some thing/time frame I should wait for?
- OK to do by myself, or should I go in with a group? I'm comfortable talking solo about our issues, but don't know if protocol dictates need for others (JLC? DVS? BVS? CSSC?) to be present.
- Do we have a specific agenda for which bill(s) we want him to sponsor? Or are we just letting him know what our priorities are and soliciting his support for those in which he's also interested?
- After meeting, report back to you and Vince what he and his staffer(s) said.

Did I miss anything?

Thanks again!

Cheers,  
Mason

# **ATTACHMENT 5**

## Information Paper

ATCL-DC

Date: 29 Jul 09

Subject: Waiving the In-State Tuition Residency Requirement for BRAC-affected DoD Civilians

**PURPOSE:** To request Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations support for pending legislation to waive the one-year residency requirement for DoD Civilian employees and family members relocating to the Commonwealth as a result of BRAC 2005.

1. **BACKGROUND:**

VA Code (Section 23-7.4) - Current In-State Tuition Residency Requirement:

- i. To become eligible for in-state tuition, an independent student shall establish by clear and convincing evidence that for a period of at least one year immediately prior to the date of the alleged entitlement, he/she was domiciled in Virginia and had abandoned any previous domicile, if such existed.
- ii. Code provides in-state tuition rates for Active Duty military and dependents without regard to a 12 month residency requirement.

2. **DISCUSSION:**

- a. Across Virginia, roughly 8000 jobs will relocate into our state.
- b. Of those jobs moving into the state, generally 20-30% of the employees are actually expected to relocate (retirement, other jobs at their current locations, etc), with a much smaller percentage having college-age dependents...so minimal cost impact expected.
- c. In specific areas, BRAC 2005 generates much revenue. Using Ft Lee as an example, an estimated 1.7B (and \$93M in taxes) will be generated by FY13 to the communities surrounding Fort Lee as a result of the 2005 BRAC law.
- d. Actions completed to date:
  - i. Discussed the issue with Delegate Dance and met with her staff.
  - ii. Delegate Dance has secured a "marker" to introduce this provision during the January 2010 Legislative Session.
  - iii. Solicited support from Senators Marsh, Quayle and Martin and Delegates Cox and Ingram.
  - iv. Delegates Dance and Cox agreed to co-patron the bill.
- e. North Carolina, Kentucky and Maryland have waived their residency requirement for BRAC-affected Civilian employees/dependents.

3. **SUMMARY:**

- a. This legislation will demonstrate our collective commitment of support to our future DoD Civilians/Family members relocating to our Commonwealth.
- b. We already have support from key members of Virginia representatives from both parties.
- c. This legislative proposal will be at **no cost to the State.**

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** Respectfully request the Council's support of the proposed provision.

## **ATTCHMENT 6**

**VMAC Presentation to JLC – August 12, 2009**

# Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

## In-State Tuition Residency Requirement

Mr. Bill Moore

Deputy to the Commanding General, Combined  
Arms Support Command and Fort Lee

12 August 2009

1

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## **In-State Tuition Residency Requirement**

### **Purpose**

Present and solicit the Joint Leadership Council's support for a proposed Jan 2010 legislative provision:

“Waive the one year in-state tuition residency requirement for those DoD Civilian employees/dependents relocating to Virginia as a result of the 2005 BRAC Law.”

2

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## **In-State Tuition Residency Requirement**

### **Background**

- To become eligible for in-state tuition, an independent student shall establish by clear and convincing evidence that for a period of at least one year immediately prior to the date of the alleged entitlement, he was domiciled in Virginia and had abandoned any previous domicile, if such existed (Va. Code, Section 23-7.4).
- Also, this code provides in-state tuition rates for Active Duty military and dependants without regard to a 12 month residency requirement (Va. Code, Section 23-7.4:2, paragraph G).

3

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## **In-State Tuition Residency Requirement**

### **Discussion**

- Roughly 8000 jobs will relocate into Virginia.
- Generally, 20-30% of employees in those jobs are expected to relocate.
- BRAC generates revenue. Using Ft Lee as an example, \$1.7B (and \$93M in taxes) will be generated by FY 13 to the surrounding Ft Lee communities as a result of 2005 BRAC law.

4

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## In-State Tuition Residency Requirement Discussion (cont.)

### Actions to Date:

- Discussions held with Delegate Dance.
- Delegate Dance has secured a “marker” to introduce this provision during the Jan 2010 Legislative Session.
- Solicited support from Senators Marsh, Quayle, and Martin, and Delegates Cox and Ingram.
- Delegates Dance and Cox agreed to co-patron this legislation.
- Presented this briefing to the VMAC on July 22, 2009.

### Note:

North Carolina, Kentucky and Maryland have waived their in-state tuition residency requirement for BRAC affected Civilian employees/dependents.

5

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## In-State Tuition Residency Requirement

### Summary

- This type of Va. Legislation will demonstrate our collective commitment of support to our future DoD Civilians/family members relocating to our Commonwealth.
- We already have support from key members of Virginia representatives from both parties
- This Legislation will be at **no cost** to the state

## **In-State Tuition Residency Requirement**

### **Recommendation**

Respectfully request the Joint Leadership Council's support of this proposed 2010 legislative provision.

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# ATTACHMENT 7

## Letter from Delegate Kirk Cox to JLARC



H. KIRKLAND "KIRK" COX  
MAJORITY WHIP  
131 OLD BRICKHOUSE LANE  
COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VIRGINIA 23034  
SIXTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
RICHMOND

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE, AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
RULES

January 22, 2009

Mr. Philip A. Loone  
Director  
Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission  
Suite 1100, General Assembly Building  
Richmond, Va. 23219

Dear Phil:

I would like the **Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study ways to reduce homelessness among veterans in the Commonwealth**, and for this issue to be included in the Commission's 2009 Work Plan. As you know, I have always been supportive of efforts to improve services available for our veterans. I realize that you have a number of pressing study priorities and resource constraints. Therefore, I am suggesting that you complete this study as soon as practically possible, but not later than July 1, 2010. I have attached a Joint Leadership Council (JLC) paper that provides background information on this important issue.

Thank you for giving this study issue your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Cox".

Kirk Cox  
Chairman  
Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission

## **ATTACHMENT 8**

### **BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS August 12, 2009**

The Board of Veterans Services met on July 15, 2009. At the meeting, the BVS:

- Received reports from the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations and the Veterans Services Foundation
- Received the report of the Department of Veterans Services, including an operational update on the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center and a report on the most recent round of state budget reductions
- Received reports from the standing committees of the BVS

The October 28 BVS meeting will be held at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Galanti  
Chairman

## **ATTACHMENT 9**

### **VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) August 12, 2009**

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees met on August 5, 2009 and:

- (1) Received Board of Veterans Services (BVS), Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC), and the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Reports;
- (2) Received Standing Committee Reports and the Nominating Committee Report;
- (3) Reviewed Foundation fund raising conducted during FY09;
- (4) Approved the VSF Final FY09 Quarterly Report to the DVS Commissioner;
- (5) Approved a FY10 budget adjustment for the Foundation Support Fund;
- (6) Approved two VSF-DVS Joint Policies relating to care centers and cemeteries expenses;
- (7) Approved a Code of Virginia Amendment clarifying VSF authority on expenditures;
- (8) Approved reconciliations of sub-fund balances and distributions;
- (9) Approved FY10 Goals and Objectives for the Development and Finance Committees;
- (10) Elected David Richardson as VSF Chairman, Robert Archer as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, and Meade Spotts as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair.

The Development Committee held a retreat (June 15, 2009) and met on August 5, 2009. The Finance Committee held one meeting on July 29, 2009. The minutes of the Finance meeting and Development retreat are posted on the DVS Website and Commonwealth Calendar.

Foundation fund raising with VWWP staff generated revenue for VWWP reached over \$103,000. During July, over \$12,000 has been raised for FY10. In addition, the VWWP staff members were successful in obtaining a grant, as briefed by VWWP Executive Director at the August VSF meeting. The grant put DVS, with VSF support, over the \$150,000 VWWP goal for FY09. See attached VSF-DVS Fundraising Results for FY09.

The Board was briefed, by the Commissioner and the VSF Finance Committee, on the possible effect on VSF operations of the current round of state budget cuts. These include: requiring use of state fleet rates or state contracted rental cars for travel; reduced cost of meals at meetings; limiting meetings to those required by the Code of Virginia; reduced paper usage and printing services; and possible reduced DVS staff man-hours available for Foundation support; as well as other possibilities when the extent of the budget cuts are received from the Governor's office.

Chairman Frank Wickersham received the accolades of Board members on his service as Chair.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for early November, 2009. The meeting will be held at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY10 Fund Statement and a FY10 budget for VWWP; (2) adoption of a revised policy associated with in-kind donations, (3) review fund raising program for FY10, and (4) review a proposed bylaws change regarding Board nomination procedures as recommended by the VSF Nominating Committee. There will be Finance and Development Committee meetings before the next Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Richardson  
VSF Chairman

**VSF-DVS FUNDRAISING RESULTS FOR FY09\***  
**Reconciled but Unaudited**  
**June 30, 2009**

**Income**

<b>VSF-VWWP</b>	
Lakeview Golf Club	29,182.94
MFSC	15,271.76
VSOs	39,241.52
Board Members	3,200.00
Robinson HS DECA	1,200.00
HUM Church/Case	6,000.00
DSCR Women's Club	2,000.00
Individual Donors	<u>7,005.00</u>
<b>VSF-VWWP Total</b>	<b>103,101.22</b>
<b>DVS-VWWP</b>	
VWWP/Virginia Tech**	<u>16,400.00</u>
<b>DVS-VWWP Total</b>	<b>16,400.00</b>
<b>DVS-VSF VWWP Total Balance</b>	<b>119,501.22</b>
<b>Horton Cemetery</b>	<b>850.00</b>
DAVA & DAV	6,405.80
US Navy Veterans Assn	2,500.00
<b>Dublin Cemetery</b>	
Carneal-Drew Fndtn	1,000.00
<b>Amelia Cemetery</b>	30.00
<b>Foundation Support Fund</b>	<b>1,350.00</b>
<b>Foundation Endowment</b>	<u>150.00</u>
<b>Non-VWWP Total Balance</b>	<b>12,285.80</b>
<b>Total FY09 Income</b>	<b>131,787.02</b>

\*Does not include Care Centers, Grants, or Interest

\*\* Painting a Moving Train Agreement Income/Contribution

# **ATTACHMENT 10**

## **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS August 12, 2009**

### **State Budget Reductions**

- State agencies instructed to submit 5, 10, and 15 percent reduction plans by July 22
- Agencies must submit budget reduction proposals for FY10, FY11, and FY12
- As with the previous rounds of budget cuts, DVS goal is to minimize cuts in direct services to veterans
- Applies only to General Fund (Benefits, Cemeteries, Wounded Warrior, Virginia War Memorial, and Administration)
- Does not apply to Non-General Fund (Care Centers, SAA)
- Budget reduction targets:
  - 5% = \$370,264
  - 10% = \$740,528
  - 15% = \$1,110,792
- Previous General Fund budget reductions:
  - FY08: \$288,236
  - FY09 Round 1: \$38,642
  - FY09 Round 2: \$586,689
  - FY10 Round 1: \$596,380

### **DVS Budget Challenges for 2010-2012**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery	Open the cemetery in Fall 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$45,000 - \$50,000 will be needed in FY10</li><li>• \$300,000 per year in FY11/12 and ongoing</li><li>• \$30,000+ (one-time) for road signs in FY11</li><li>• Low burial rate the first few years means 90 to 95% of funding must come from GF (70% GF at other two cemeteries)</li></ul>
Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center	Start design as soon as federal matching funds are available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Federal grant funds may be available in FY10 due to ARRA</li><li>• Two years to design and build means care center could open in FY12</li><li>• VVCC cash reserves exhausted by opening</li></ul>

		<p>SBVCC. VVCC and SBVCC will not have cash reserves to support HRVCC start up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GF support will be needed during start up</li> </ul>
Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center Addition	Start design and construction as soon as federal matching funds are available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal grant funds may be available in FY10 due to ARRA</li> <li>• Shorter design/construction timetable means addition could open in FY11</li> <li>• VVCC cash reserves exhausted by opening SBVCC. VVCC and SBVCC will not have cash reserves to support start up</li> <li>• GF support will be needed during start up</li> </ul>
Virginia Veterans Cemetery Equipment Replacement	Ensure Virginia Veterans Cemetery has proper equipment to conduct operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cemetery has been operational for 12 years and some original equipment is wearing out and needs to be replaced</li> <li>• Includes: dump truck, backhoe, two pickup trucks, three mowers, and other equipment</li> </ul>

### Other Challenges

Project	Goal	Challenges
Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center	Start design and construction as soon as federal matching funds are available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DVS completing application for federal grant assistance</li> <li>• Despite extensive discussions, agreement could not be reached with GMU on potential location and partnership</li> <li>• DVS continues to search for potential location and partnership</li> </ul>
Burial vaults for state veterans cemeteries	Rectify disparity (highlighted by JLC) between national cemeteries and Virginia state veterans cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximize federal grant opportunities to reduce or eliminate the disparity</li> <li>• Use state resources wisely to offer maximum benefit and services to Virginia's veterans and their families</li> </ul>

Respectfully submitted

Vincent M. Burgess, Commissioner

## **ATTACHMENT 11**

THOMAS M. STEPHEN, JR.  
8295 Ironclad Drive  
Richmond, Virginia 23111-4537

July 22, 2009

Joint Leadership Council  
C/O: Virginia Department of Veterans Services  
900 East Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council and Ceremonial Military Bill Signing

The following comprise my report regarding the aforementioned meeting which took place at the Patrick Henry State Office Building on June 16, 2009.

Deputy Secretary of Public Safety, Marilyn Harris, presided over this meeting and called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. She welcomed all of the members and went over the scheduled agenda items, to include the Governor, The Honorable Timothy Kaine, who was scheduled to sign a number of bills into Law, which favored the military. A copy of the agenda follows this report.

LTC Thomas Morgan provided an extensive report on the current status and progress that is being made with the Military Family Relief Fund, which is managed through the Adjutant General's office. To date, assistance has been primarily provided to members of the Virginia National Guard, their families; and also to an Army Reserve service member and his family. LTC Morgan reported that there are substantial funds available to meet the needs of military families, who have unexpected financial emergencies.

Next, Mr. William Goodman, Alcohol Beverage Control, provided a PowerPoint presentation on a new program recently initiated to combat alcohol abuse in the military environment. The Military Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program is primarily designed to educate military service members and their families about the dangers of abusing alcohol and the effects it can have throughout the military family and their duty performance. The program also highlighted several methods of assistance being offered to assist those service and/or family members who suffer from this prevalent problem. All of the military representatives were very supportive of the Commonwealth's efforts to bring this problem under control for all concerned parties.

Cathy Wilson, Director of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, provided the attendees with a brief update on this program. She also introduced the three regional managers, who had been recently hired.

During the Agency Updates (Roundtable), Tom Stephen reported on the most recent Joint

Leadership Council (JLC) meeting, which was held on May 20<sup>th</sup>, in Richmond. He reported that both Dan Boyer and Jenny Holbert, currently Chairman and Vice Chairwoman respectively, had been nominated to serve in those same positions for the next year. A vote to approve those nominations is to be taken at the JLC's next meeting scheduled for August 12<sup>th</sup>. Tom also provided a fact sheet synopsis of the seven JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives being considered for presentation to the 2010 General Assembly. Tom indicated that these objectives had received basically a first pass review by those Veteran Service Organization representatives attending the May meeting. It is hoped that final approval of these 2010 legislative objectives will be reached at the JLC's August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Tom also encouraged member organizations represented this day to consider completing their own legislative objectives and send them to the JLC for their consideration and support. Tom also informed the council members that his term of service with the JLC would expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> and that a new JLC liaison would hopefully be appointed during the August meeting.

Tom also provided a brief summary of activities and highlights of the Virginia Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (VaESGR). VaESGR is the state field committee for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). ESGR is the Department of Defense primary Employer Outreach agency. Tom reported that VaESGR, now staffed with 3 full-time contractors and 115 volunteers, was experiencing an increase in their optempo, similar to the Reserve components and National Guard. He also reported that this year, over 800 employers had signed an ESGR Statement of Support and that the 2009 VaESGR goal was to reach out and have at least 1,000 employers throughout the Commonwealth sign a Statement of Support. Tom ended this report with a recruiting plea to attract more volunteers to work those issues vital to the National Guard and Reserve.

After Tom completed his report, the Governor arrived, along with approximately 100 members of the public, who were mostly service members and their families. Also approximately 12 members of the General Assembly, who championed these bills through the 2009 General Assembly were present to receive their due recognition and appreciation from the Governor and all in attendance. Our own Commissioner, Department of Veterans Services, Vince Burgess; Paul Galanti, CDR, USN(R); and Sam Wilder, COL, USA(R); were among the many dignitaries making short speeches in support of these bills being signed today. The most prominent bill signed into law was the Interstate Compact on Education for Military Families; which as you know was a top JLC priority for the 2009 General Assembly session. The meeting adjourned shortly after the bill signing ceremony was completed. Due to a lack of time remaining on the agenda, no further reports were submitted.

Respectfully Submitted:

Thomas M. Stephen, Jr.  
Joint Leadership Council Liaison

Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council  
and Ceremonial Military Bill Signing  
East Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
June 16, 2009  
12:00 PM

AGENDA

- 
- ◆ Welcome  
*Deputy Secretary Marilyn Harris*
- 
- ◆ Military Family Relief Fund Update  
*LTC Thomas Morgan, J1 Virginia National Guard*
- 
- ◆ Military Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program  
*William Goodman, Alcohol Beverage Control*
- 
- ◆ Virginia Wounded Warrior Program Update  
*Cathy Wilson, Director of Virginia Wounded Warrior Foundation*
- 
- ◆ Agency Updates (Roundtable)
- 
- ◆ Ceremonial Bill Signing of Military Bills from the 2009 Virginia General Assembly Session  
*The Honorable Governor Timothy M. Kaine*
- 
- ◆ Adjournment
-

## **ATTACHMENT 12**

### **Excerpt from Draft Minutes of 5/22/09 JLC meeting**

#### **Initial Review: JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives**

Chairman Boyer called the members attention to the handout titled “AUSA Proposed State Legislative Objectives 2010,” submitted by Mr. Wilder ... Chairman Boyer reviewed each of the proposed objectives in turn, asking for a preliminary vote on whether to include the objective among the JLC 2010 Legislative Objectives. Finally, he asked for a legislative sponsor for each proposed objective.

1. Real Estate Tax Relief for 100% Disabled Veterans: the Council members agreed to include this as a preliminary objective for 2010. The DAV will be the sponsor
2. Burial Vaults for Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries: the Council members agreed to include this as a preliminary objective for 2010. The VFW will be the sponsor
3. Continue Funding for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program: the Council members agreed this should be a legislative objective for 2010 if it is not included as part of the base budget for the Department of Veterans Services or if additional funding is needed beyond that included in the base budget
4. Military Family Relief Fund: the Council members agreed to include this as a preliminary objective for 2010. The Virginia National Guard Association will be the sponsor
5. Special Veterans Court: the Council members agreed to include this as a preliminary objective for 2010. Bill Townsley will be the sponsor

Chairman Boyer introduced two additional objectives for consideration: support for the Virginia War Memorial and funding for the Automated Claims Processing System.

The Council members agreed to add support to the Virginia War Memorial to the preliminary list of 2010 Legislative Objectives, but decided to leave the Automated Claims Processing System off the list for the time being, pending further developments.

One other potential objective was discussed in detail: unemployment compensation for military spouses. Wes Edwards said that MOAA would take the lead on researching this issue.

**ATTACHMENT 13**  
**VCOC-MOAA VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES FOR 2010**  
**(Adopted 10 July 2009{Revised})**

At the 10 July 2009 meeting of the VCOC, legislative objectives were discussed and adopted and will be presented to the JLC at the 12 August 2009 meeting. VCOC will offer to Sponsor “Continue Funding the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program” before the General Assembly.

1. **Real Estate Tax relief for 100% Disabled Veterans:** MOAA recommends that the JLC adopt as a priority legislative objective to recommend that the Governor and General Assembly pass legislation to amend the Virginia Constitution that would require local governments to grant real estate tax exemptions for 100% disabled veterans without regards to means testing.
2. **Burial Vaults for Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries:** MOAA recommends that the JLC adopt as a priority legislative objective to recommend that the Governor and General Assembly appropriate funds so that burial vaults may be provided for resale at the same cost at state veterans’ cemeteries.
3. **Continue Funding the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program:** MOAA recommends that the JLC adopt as a priority legislative objective to recommend that the Governor and General Assembly provide necessary funds to continue the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program and to expand the staff by one full time position.
4. **War Memorial Operating Fund and FFE Funds:** MOAA recommends that the operating budget for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2010, which will include furniture, fixture, and equipment for the Galanti Education Center, be increased to \$909, 729.

The following objectives failed for lack of support:

1. **Military Family Relief Fund**
2. **Special Veterans Courts**
3. **Unemployment Compensation for Trailing Military Spouses**
4. **ROTC Credit (Not proposed)**

# **ATTACHMENT 14**

## **JLC Position Paper - DRAFT**

### **Establishing Specialty Treatment Courts for Military Veterans Accused of Misdemeanor Crimes**

**OBJECTIVE:** To enact a Bill supporting the establishment of Specialty Treatment Courts for Active Duty Military or Military Veterans Accused of Misdemeanor Crimes in Virginia's Cities and Counties.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

- Military personnel, especially those who have been involved in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, are subject to mental and/or behavioral challenges caused by Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSS).
- The PTSS can cause such symptoms as depression, aggression and/or alcoholism which can lead to arrest for various misdemeanor crimes.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

- Buffalo NY, Chicago IL, Denver CO, Alaska, Georgia, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Nevada, have [in honor of these military veterans service to our country] implemented or enacted special, limited, legal procedures for handling military veterans who have been arrested for these misdemeanor crimes to insure they have every opportunity to take advantage of the services offered by their State, the Veterans Administration, and the Federal Government.
- Delegate Thomas D. Gear, House District 91, is currently working with the General Assembly's legislative staff to come up with a Bill that would fulfill the Objective of this paper based on the Nevada example.
- It appears that the Nevada example (see attached) offers the most amenable model to proceed legislatively in Virginia, a Dillon Rule State.
- The Nevada example allows that the local City and County governments of Virginia, without cost to the state, be allowed to implement a specialty court for active or discharged military veterans if there is a need to do so in a given jurisdiction or locale.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the General Assembly and the Governor enact a Bill supporting the establishment of Specialty Treatment Courts for Active Duty Military or Military Veterans Accused of Misdemeanor Crimes in Virginia's Cities and Counties.