

**Board of Veterans Services  
Meeting Minutes  
April 26, 2018**

A meeting of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) was held on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center, 1601 Broad Rock Rd., Richmond.

**Members Present**

- Victor Angry
- Carl Bedell
- Paige Cherry
- Michael Dick
- Joana Garcia
- James Icenhour
- Nick Kesler
- Lyla Kohistany
- Jason Miyares
- Kathleen Murphy
- Bryce Reeves
- Frank Reyes
- Julie Waters
- Jennifer Wexton
- Al Pianalto, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman, representing the Veterans Services Foundation
- Marie Juliano, Chairman, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
- Steven Combs, Deputy Commissioner, representing the Department of Veterans Services

**Members Absent**

- Chris Chon
- William Haneke
- Gordon Helsel
- Susan Hippen
- Belinda Pinckney

**Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present**

- Carrie Ann Alford, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
- Glendalynn Glover, DVS
- Jim Darragh, DVS
- Tom Herthel, DVS
- Mel Sanchez, DVS
- Karla Boughey, VSF
- Rick Oertel, Office of Delegate Kirk Cox

**Materials Distributed as part of the Agenda Packet**

- Agenda
- Minutes from the November 16 meeting (Agenda Item IV)

- Reports (Agenda Item V)
  - Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
  - Veterans Services Foundation
- SJ207 *Commending the Virginia Department of Veterans Services Benefits Section*
- HR583 *Commending Paige D. Cherry*
- Flyer for 2018 Virginia Women Veterans Summit
- Flyer for 2018 TGA 5K at the Virginia War Memorial

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Jim Icenhour opened the meeting at 10:15 with the Pledge of Allegiance. He then welcomed the BVS members and asked Ms. Carrie Ann Alford to call the roll. The roll was called and a quorum was determined with 15 members present. Two members arrived shortly after the roll was called, for a total of 17 members present.

During introductions, Ms. Alford introduced new BVS member Del. Jason Miyares, and asked him to say a few words of introduction. She also informed the board that Mr. Bill Haneke's final term will end on June 30<sup>th</sup> and he says goodbye to the board members and wishes the all well. Additionally, Del. Stolle declined renomination by Speaker Cox and so Del. Gordon Helsel was appointed. He was unable to attend the meeting but hopes to attend the September 6 meeting. Del. Stolle also hopes to attend the September meeting to say goodbye to everyone.

Chairman Icenhour asked Ms. Alford to introduce the guests. Their names are recorded above. He thanked them all for attending.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Jim Icenhour announced a few amendments to the agenda:

- VSF 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman Al Pianto is attending on behalf of VSF Chairman Rich Schollmann;
- DVS Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs is attending on behalf of Commissioner John Newby; and
- Delegate Stolle is no longer on the board and his name should be stricken from VII.c and replaced with Delegate Miyares' name in the "Legislators post-session reports" section.

Del. Kathleen Murphy, made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Carl Bedell to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried **unanimously**. (*Attachment 1*)

### **Approval of November 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Icenhour announced an amendment to the minutes by Vice Chairman Michael Dick. Del. Murphy, made a **motion, seconded** by Vice Chairman Dick, to approve the November 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion carried **unanimously**.

### **Reports**

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC)** Chairman Marie Juliano gave a short report on the JLC and their meeting since the BVS last met. A copy of the results of the 2018 JLC policy initiatives was included with her report. The next JLC meeting is next week on May 2. (*Attachment 2*)

**Veterans Services Foundation (VSF)** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Al Pianalto gave a short report on the VSF and their most recent meeting and stated they are still working on organizing with the legislation that was passed in 2017 and that donations have been down. Chairman Icenhour mentioned that he regularly mentions VSF to groups and people, including his Vietnam Veterans of America chapter, as a way to donate (*Attachment 3*)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **DVS Update**

Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs gave an update on DVS, noting that he would not cover Benefits because Tom Herthel is present and will provide more in-depth information.

Mr. Combs gave an update based on a powerpoint on DVS that he uses around the state, including last week in Prince William County. He is able to tailor the powerpoint presentation for the BVS members who would like it shown to their constituents or other groups around Virginia.

He asked Senator Reeves to explain the General Assembly Military & Veterans Caucus (GAMVC), which meets during Session. Senator Reeves stood and said a few words about the Caucus and thanked the BVS members who had attended during the 2018 Session. Even though they are a Caucus, they act and work like a committee for veterans and defense affairs. He thanked Ms. Alford for all her assistance with the caucus and keeping up the matrix.

Mr. Combs resumed and gave broad strokes and statistics on how DVS is assisting Virginia veterans in terms of benefits and care.

He also gave an update on the new Veteran Care Centers (VCCs) construction and announced the good news that in the recently signed federal budget the VA was given an additional \$700M for construction projects and Virginia will be getting \$60M for the two new care centers. It will work on an invoice system since Virginia has already appropriated the funds. DVS will submit invoices to the VA and will be reimbursed.

Mr. Pianalto asked about increasing the size of the two new centers with the new federal funds. Mr. Combs explained to the new members that when the Governor and General Assembly decided to move forward with only state funds the care centers were planned at 120 beds each, but that during the design phase the size of each was raised to 128 beds. Deputy Commissioner Combs explained that there are no plans to expand yet, however there is room on the site of the Puller VCC in Fauquier County to expand once it is built, if there is demand for more beds.

Del. Murphy asked if the two current VCCs are turning people away or have a waiting list. Mr. Combs said the Memory Care Units in the VCCs will sometimes have a waiting list, but the administrators and their staff work hard to make sure all veterans are accommodated and try to make sure there is always a bed open so veterans are not turned away if possible.

Del. Murphy asked about women veterans at the two current VCCs. Mr. Combs answered that

there are 8 women veterans at Sitter & Barfoot and 5 at Virginia VCC in Roanoke. He mentioned that Ms. Alford and others presented gifts to the women veterans at Sitter & Barfoot on March 21<sup>st</sup> and VETE Director Annie Walker, Charlie Palumbo and others presented gifts to the women veterans at the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Roanoke on March 23.

Del. Miyares asked about the environmental impact and storm water for the new Jones & Cabacoy VCC in Virginia Beach. Mr. Combs answered that it is all regulated by DEQ and DVS is working closely with them and the City on the project.

Mr. Combs mentioned that the Memory Care sections may become a bigger section of the VCCs over time since that is where the demand is.

Mr. Combs told the board that VVFS Director Betty Ann Liddell had stepped down to take care of family issues and is moving back to New York State. Carol Berg, Regional Director for Hampton Roads has stepped up as interim and DVS is now going through the process to find Ms. Liddell's replacement, and hopes to have someone soon.

Mr. Combs gave an update on the construction project at the Virginia War Memorial, which right now is a big hole in the ground, but progress is being made and things are on track with the expanded Shrine of Memory, the distance education center, and parking deck.

A copy of Deputy Commissioner Combs' powerpoint presentation was distributed to the members via email after the meeting.

### **Overview of the 2018 General Assembly Session**

Ms. Alford started off by mentioning the 2018 Virginia Women Veterans Summit, as Mr. Combs passed out palm cards and she had included a full-size flyer in their packets and there were more on the public table in the back. She thanked JLC Chair Marie Juliano for assisting with the location – the Hilton Mark Center in Alexandria, which can accommodate over 800 people and DVS is hoping to fill the room. She thanked the honorary host committee members, Senator Wexton, Delegate Murphy and Ms. Juliano and mentioned that Ms. Lyla Kohistany will be on a panel discussion.

It was brought to her attention after the meeting that Ms. Julie Waters will also be on a panel discussion at the Summit.

Ms. Alford thanked the BVS members for all they had done for the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) and for their support during the 2018 General Assembly session and their recommendations for a women veterans coordinator and veteran entrepreneurship coordinator made it easier to get the Secretary and Governor to sign on to the idea last fall.

She mentioned that the House had once again passed a budget on April 11, but due to Senate rules and protocols, they had not taken up the House budget on the 11<sup>th</sup> and will reconvene on May 14 to work on the budget. Senators Reeves and Wexton both mentioned they are confident things are moving forward and a budget will be voted on soon. Senator Reeves also assured Del. Murphy the Senate would find the additional money for the women veterans coordinator like the

House had.

Because there is no final budget yet, Ms. Alford gave a power point presentation on the introduced budget, agency budget breakdown as introduced by the Governor, and the current state of the House and Senate budgets. She also covered DVS legislation for 2018, and other veteran and military-related bills of note that passed in the 2018 General Assembly session. She mentioned Del. Miyares' constitutional amendment that will go to the voters in November and that at the September 6 meeting they will discuss more how BVS can help get the word out to Virginians to vote in favor of the amendment.

Senator Reeves said he had helped work on the question for the ballot and it is simple and clear to avoid confusion. Ms. Alford asked if he could bring the exact wording of the question to the September meeting so all the board members can see it. She also mentioned a bill by Del. John McGuire that allows veterans to have a vet identifier on their driver's license. The DMV will still offer Vet ID Cards, so if veterans do not want the identifier on their license they do not have to get it. DMV is currently working on how to promote this and get the word out and DVS has offered to assist and is standing by waiting for them to let us know what they need. At the September meeting, Mr. Matt Leary will tell the BVS how they can help DMV and DVS get the word out to veterans.

A copy of Ms. Alford's powerpoint presentation was distributed to the members via email after the meeting.

As Benefits Director Tom Herthel was preparing for his presentation, Mr. Combs mentioned two announcements. First, DVS Communications Director Tina Parlett-Calhoun wanted to remind all the board members to use and share the DVS Flickr page which is updated regularly with photos of DVS events, including BVS board members Del. Murphy and Sen. Wexton's visit to the Loudoun office during Women Veterans Week in March.

Mr. Combs also mentioned that DVS is an official Commemorative Partner to the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration (<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>) and as such has some of the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins. Please let him know if you have Vietnam veterans in your area that you would like DVS to pin.

### **Update on the Benefits Section**

Mr. Tom Herthel, Benefits Director, gave an update on the Benefits Section and thanked the BVS members for all their support over the past several years. He gave a brief explanation of where Benefits started and what has happened in terms of growth, expansion and improvements in the past four years.

He gave an update on the new offices and all current offices have all been renovated/updated or relocated. 3 new offices will be opening in 2018-19 – Pentagon, Fort Belvoir and NAS Oceana.

Mr. Herthel mentioned that while they have been using BeneVets electronic claims system for the past few years, it is slower and not as effective as they would like to keep up with the current claims process. He has been working with Texas, which has using Vetraspec system, and

Virginia is now working to switch over to Vetraspec. He pointed out that Veterans Service Representatives (VSRs) will still be able to access the VA system and create accurate claims processing results in faster delivery of benefits to veterans.

He noted that while VA disability compensation and pension payments are not taxable, many of the things that veterans spend that money on are taxable. They are buying homes, cars, daily goods, sending kids to school, etc. with their \$3.15 Billion in benefits. He noted that the award of a VA disability rating also enables access to the VA health care system, which results in a health care savings to the state with veterans receiving care at VA facilities instead of through Medicaid or going without insurance, which helps veterans and Virginia taxpayers.

Mr. Herthel highlighted the partnerships that the Benefits section has, including with the VA, the College of William & Mary's Puller Law Clinic, George Mason University, the NVLSP (National Veterans Legal Service Program), and VSOs like VFW and American Legion.

There were no questions by the board members. A copy of Mr. Herthel's powerpoint presentation was distributed to the members after the meeting.

### **New Business**

Immediately after Mr. Herthel's presentation, Chairman Icenhour called up Senator Reeves, who in turn called up the other legislators to present to Mr. Herthel and Deputy Commissioner Combs a framed copy of his SJ207, *Commending the Virginia Department of Veterans Services Benefits Section*. He mentioned that he is working with Ms. Alford to get framed copies of the resolution for all DVS benefits offices, and as new offices open he will make sure they get a copy to hang in the office.

Senator Reeves reiterated some of the stats from Mr. Herthel's presentation – that in the past four years, DVS Benefits staff have assisted over 550,000 veterans and brought billions of dollars in federal income to Virginia veterans and retirees. A copy of the resolution and photo are attached. (*Attachment 4*)

Immediately after Senator Reeves' presentation, Chairman Icenhour passed out HR583 *Commending Paige D. Cherry* and read the resolution out loud to the members. The members gave Mr. Cherry a round of applause. Mr. Cherry mentioned that he had just seen Del. Heretick, the patron, and nothing had been said to him about a resolution, so he was going to call the Delegate. A copy of the resolution is attached. (*Attachment 5*)

### **POC Reports**

Vice Chairman Dick, who assists VETE Director Annie Walker on Education issues, stated that he has been visiting colleges and researching the websites of Virginia colleges and universities to see how veteran friendly they are. Some schools are very accessible and easy to find information, and some are very difficult he said. He mentioned that after the meeting he was going over to the veteran support office at VCU.

Mr. Nick Kesler, who assists VETE Director Annie Walker on Training & Entrepreneurship issues, stated that he wanted to keep pushing entrepreneurship and employment initiatives and is

willing to work on another work group.

Ms. Lyla Kohistany, who assists VETE Director Annie Walker on Women Veterans issues, stated that she has been working on the Women Veterans Summit. She also mentioned that she has been selected for the George W. Bush Presidential Center about the inaugural class of the *Stand-To* Veterans Leadership Initiative, along with 33 other veterans from around the nation.

Ms. Julie Waters, who assists Virginia War Memorial Director Clay Mountcastle and VVFS with arts and healing issues, passed out a flyer with events at George Mason University's Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas and encouraged everyone to go their website and look at even more events going on with veterans and the arts.

Ms. Alford also mentioned that Dr. Niyati Dhokai Ph.D., Program Manager of the Veterans and the Arts Initiative at the Hylton Performing Art Center, will be one of the award winners at the Women Veterans Summit in June and that the women from her guitar circle will be playing at the reception on the Thursday night of the Summit.

### **Legislators Post-Session Reports**

Senator Reeves stated that he believed a budget would be worked out soon. He mentioned that he was currently without a legislative aide as Ms. Cassy Horn is now working for Gen. Williams and the Department of Military Affairs as their policy director. He said his new LA starts on May 1. He thanked Ms. Alford for her assistance in the past few weeks with various tasks.

Senator Wexton agreed with Senator Reeves' assessment of the senate working toward a budget. She had nothing else to report on.

Delegate Miyares mentioned again his constitutional amendment that will go before the voters in November. He also mentioned a bill he has been working on for a few years to help 100% service connect T&P veterans within 150% of the poverty level with income tax exemption. He needs assistance in researching the economic data of this group since the VA does not keep it to give a more accurate accounting of how many veterans may be eligible to, in theory, bring down the fiscal impact statement that DPB keeps giving the money committees.

### **"Good of the Order" Reports**

Chairman Icenhour began by reminding the members to connect with their Service Line Directors over the summer.

Vice Chairman Dick recommended two books to read: Karl Marlantes' *What It Is Like to Go to War* and Sebastian Junger's *Tribe*. He also mentioned the Richmond International Film Festival will have a Military Spotlight on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> showing the documentary *Thank You For Your Service* and Ms. Alford will be on the panel discussion after.

Ms. Kohistany mentioned a Memorial Day event with Truman National Security Project, which she and Mr. Kesler are both part of, in Alexandria. The TruMemorial Rose Ceremony will take place on Memorial Day at Alexandria National Cemetery, with veterans and frontline civilians

from our community – Kayla Williams, Justin Richmond, and Erica Kaster – will share their stories about meaning of Memorial Day. Conklyn’s Florist in Alexandria has offered a steep discount on roses, which we will then place on headstones in the cemetery to honor those who are buried there.

**Public Comment**

There were no individuals seeking to make public comment.

**Closing Remarks**

Chairman Icenhour reminded the members that the next meeting will be held September 6, at 10 a.m. at the DVS Henrico Office.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES**

**Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center**  
**1601 Broad Rock Rd., Richmond, VA**  
**April 26, 2018**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA – As Amended**

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Jim Icenhour, BVS Chairman* (10:00 – 10:02)
- II. Roll Call and Quorum Determination – *Jim Icenhour, BVS Chairman*, (10:02 – 10:05)
- III. Introduction of DVS staff and guests, introduction of new legislative members – *Jim Icenhour, BVS Chairman* (10:05 – 10:20)
- IV. Approval of Agenda and Nov. 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes – *Jim Icenhour, BVS Chairman* (10:20 – 10:25)
- V. Reports (10:25 – 10:35)
  - a. Joint Leadership Council – *Marie Juliano, JLC Chairman*
  - b. Veterans Services Foundation – ~~*Rich Schollmann*~~, *Al Pianalto, VSF Vice Chairman*
- VI. DVS (10:35-11:25)
  - a. Update on construction projects & office openings – ~~*John Newby*~~, *Steven Combs, Deputy Commissioner*
  - b. Review of 2018 DVS legislation and budget – *Carrie Ann Alford, DVS Policy Director*
  - c. Benefits Presentation – *Tom Herthel, Benefits Director*
- VII. New Business: (11:25-11:55)
  - a. Special Presentation, *Jim Icenhour*
  - b. POC Reports, *All Members* (2 minutes each)
  - c. Legislators’ post-session reports, *Senators Reeves & Wexton; Delegates Murphy & Stolle Miyares*
  - d. “Good of the Order” Reports, *All Members*
- VIII. Public comment (11:55 – 12:00)
- IX. Adjourn – *Jim Icenhour, Chairman* (12:00)

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

### **JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES April 26, 2018**

The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) met on December 20, 2017.

At that meeting the JLC Legislative Chair set our Legislative Initiatives for the 2018 General Assembly session. Six initiatives, covering issues for active duty, veterans and National Guard, were voted on and approved for 2018. Four became legislation, one needed a budget amendment only, and we had House and Senate versions of the budget amendment. I have attached our end of session matrix for review.

Our meeting schedule for 2018:

May 2, 10 a.m., American Legion, Dept. of Virginia HQ, Richmond  
July 25, 10 a.m., American Legion, Dept. of Virginia HQ, Richmond  
October 17, 10 a.m., National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle  
December 19, RTD Hanover Plant, Mechanicsville

The Council provides advice and assistance to the Governor, General Assembly and the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) on matters of concern to the veterans community and provides a conduit of information to and from the veterans service organizations on policy and legislation, pending and enacted, as well as information on existing services.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Juliano  
Chairman

**Status of JLC 2018 Initiatives – as of March 10, 2018 – SINE DIE**

<b>INITIATIVE</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<b>JLC 2018-01</b> <i>Residency Requirement, Constitutional Amendment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Resolution</i>	That the 2018 General Assembly pass resolutions identical to the one passed by the 2017 General Assembly (HJ562), thereby continuing the process to amend Virginia’s Constitution to provide parity for surviving spouses of 100% disabled veterans and those Killed in Action.	<b>Budget Amendment:</b> Item 83 #8h (Del. Mirayres) FY19: \$100,000 FY20: \$0 <i>To fund informational advertising for a voter referendum to pursuant to the passage of the HB/HJ.</i>  <b>Legislation:</b> HB71/HJ6 (Miyares) – <b>2/7: Passed House (98-0); 3/1: Passed Senate (40-0)</b> SB900/SJ76 (Stuart) – <b>2/12: Passed Senate (40-0); 2/28: Passed House (98-0)</b> <b>Governor signed both on 3/23</b>
<b>JLC 2018-02</b> <i>Electronic Return of Voted Ballots by Overseas Military</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation and provide budget support of a pilot program for the electronic return of absentee ballots by Virginia’s deployed military service members to enfranchise their voting privileges.	<b>Budget Amendment:</b> Item 83 #2h (Del. Landes) FY19: \$1,452,757; FY20: \$622,757 Item 83 #3h (Del. Tran) FY19: \$500,000 FY20: \$500,000 Item 83 #3s (Sen. DeSteph) FY19: \$100,000 FY20: \$0  <b>Legislation:</b> HB1058 (Del. Tran) – <b>2/7: Laid on the Table</b> HB1139 (Del. Landes) – <b>2/7: Laid on the Table</b> SB559 (Sen. DeSteph) – <b>2/12: Passed Senate (31-9); 3/6 Left in House Appropriations</b>
<b>JLC 2018-03</b> <i>Veteran Entrepreneur Capital Resources Program (VECRP)</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation and provide budget support, in the amount of \$1,000,000 in FY19 and \$1,000,000 in FY20, to establish a Veteran Entrepreneur Capital Resources Program.	<b>Budget Amendment:</b> Item 120 #4h (Del. Keam & Del. Hodges) FY19: \$1,100,000; FY20: \$1,100,000 Item 120 #1s (Sen. McPike & Sen. Barker) FY19: \$1,000,000; FY20: \$1,000,000 <b>2/18: Budget amendments not included in House or Senate budget</b>  <b>Legislation:</b> None needed
<b>JLC 2018-04</b> <i>Income Tax Subtraction for Certain Low-Income 100% Disabled Veterans</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly approve an individual income tax subtraction for 100% service-connected disabled veterans with a federally adjusted gross income, not exceeding 250% of the federal poverty level for a four-person household, who have not already claimed another exemption.	<b>Budget Amendment:</b> Item #5s (Sen. Reeves) Language Only  <b>Legislation:</b> HB792 (Del. Miyares) – <b>2/5: Continued to 2019</b> SB473 (Sen. Reeves) – <b>1/31: Passed By Indefinitely (PBI)</b>
<b>JLC 2018-05</b> <i>Removing Combat Requirement for VMSDEP</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly remove the requirement that a veteran’s disability rating be combat related. Instead, a permanent service-connected disability rating of at least 90%, plus satisfaction of the other requirements currently in the Code, would qualify a veteran’s spouse or child for VMSDEP benefits.	<b>Budget Amendment:</b> Item 141 #2h (Del. Leftwich) FY19: \$900,000; FY20: \$900,000 Item 466 #1s (Sen. Stuart) FY19: \$900,000; FY20: \$900,000  <b>Legislation:</b> HB748 (Del. Leftwich) – <b>2/5: Laid on the Table</b> HB1332 (Del. Torian) – <b>2/13: Left In Committee</b> SB259 (Sen. Stuart) – <b>2/7: Continued to 2019</b>
<b>JLC 2018-06</b> <i>Increase State Tax Subtraction for National Guard to \$5,000</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly increase the state income tax subtraction level for members of the Virginia National Guard from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.	<b>Budget Amendment:</b> None  <b>Legislation:</b> None

**ATTACHMENT 3**  
**VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT**  
**To the Board of Veterans Services**  
**April 26, 2018**

The Veterans Services Foundation Board of Trustees has held one Board meeting and a Development and Finance Committee meeting since the last Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations meeting on December 20, 2017. The Veterans Services Foundation and the Development and Finance Committees all met on March 29, 2018 at the American Legion Department Headquarters in Richmond.

In recognition of Vietnam War Veterans Day in the Commonwealth of Virginia (March 29), Secretary Hopkins, presented pins to the Vietnam Veterans who served in the military from 1961-1975. Those honored were Jim Boyd, Jack Hilgers, Jack Lanier, Tom Mulrine, Al Pianalto, Judy Reid and Frank Wickersham.

A Development Committee meeting was held prior to the full Board of Trustees meeting. The Development Chairman, Frank Finelli reported that while revenue is down, this is an excellent time to increase outreach to the donor base by extending appreciation and providing details on how donations are spent. The Chairman presented a Development plan and expressed that the involvement of each trustee and a strong collaboration with DVS was critical for this fundraising endeavor to be successful.

A Finance Committee meeting took place at the same time as the Development committee meeting occurred. Finance Chairman, Senator Walter Stosch, reviewed the role of the finance committee. After studying the new statute, it is clear that the trustees have new responsibilities. The overall charge of the trustees is to receive funds primarily through donations and to account for those funds in several different ways. The Finance Chairman presented a few items that he requested the Finance Committee members to consider. a). Establish a minimum reserve balance of \$800,000; b). Request DVS to submit adjustments to the budget based on the availability of cash balances and expected revenue; c). Consider a policy to address overspending in certain activities; d). Review inactive sub-funds and determine if the funds could be reallocated in an effort to consolidate the number of funds; e). Reimburse VSF trustees for mileage in compliance with state travel regulations as other DVS support boards are receiving.

The recommendations to establish a reserve fund of \$800,000 and the mileage reimbursement for VSF board members to that of other DVS support boards were approved by the trustees. The other recommendations will take more time to implement.

As of February 27, 2018, the Veterans Services Foundation had received donations totaling \$337,223.05. Overall, donations are down and spending has increased. A donation received from the PGA (Dominion Energy Charity Classic) on March 3, 2018 for \$146,153.23 was not included in the February report.

The next Veterans Services Foundation Board meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2018 at the American Legion Department Headquarters, Richmond.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rich Schollmann  
Veterans Services Foundation Chairman

**ATTACHMENT 4**

**2018 SESSION**

**ENROLLED**

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 207**

*Commending the Virginia Department of Veterans Services Benefits section.*

Agreed to by the Senate, March 6, 2018  
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 7, 2018

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services Benefits section won the Governor's Technology Award in the IT as Efficiency Driver - Government to Government category for the BeneVets Automated Claim Application; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's prestigious Governor's Technology Awards program recognizes public sector information technology projects that improve government service delivery and efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the BeneVets Automated Claim Application allows the agency to develop and submit veterans' claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs entirely through electronic processes; and

WHEREAS, the Application eliminates extensive paper usage, significantly reduces postage and supply cost, and, most importantly, decreases the time it takes for a veteran's claim to move through the state and federal process; and

WHEREAS, since 2014, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services Benefits section has greatly enhanced and increased its ability to serve veterans in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services Benefits section works to provide veterans with timely and ethical education and assistance in obtaining the federal benefits earned through their service and sacrifice to the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services Benefits section traces its history to the War Claims Bureau in the 1920s; the Virginia Department of Veterans Services was formed in 2003 to consolidate veterans' benefits, health care, and cemeteries under one agency; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services Benefits section adopted a comprehensive strategy to address underfunding, inefficient processes, and low morale and to ultimately provide better service to the Commonwealth's veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services Benefits section now comprises an operations office, a training office, and a Center of Excellence, which are all focused on transparency, accountability, veteran feedback, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services Benefits section established a quality assurance team, appeals team, legal liaison, and state liaison and utilized the BeneVets Automated Claim Application system and an award-winning electronic filing system to increase accuracy and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services Benefits section implemented new training programs and standards to give employees the tools for success, and it hired outreach coordinators to build strong relationships with the community; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services opened several new Benefits offices and renovated or relocated others throughout the Commonwealth to add modern furnishings and equipment; and

WHEREAS, since 2014, Virginia Department of Veterans Services Benefits section offices assisted more than 550,000 veterans and filed more than 100,000 compensation and pension claims worth more than \$8 billion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia Department of Veterans Services Benefits section for winning the 2015 Governor's Technology Award in the IT as Efficiency Driver - Government to Government category for the BeneVets Automated Claim Application; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia Department of Veterans Services as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the work and achievements of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services Benefits section to enhance the quality of life of veterans in the Commonwealth.

**ENROLLED**

**SJ207ER**



Del. Jason Miyares, Del. Kathleen Murphy, Senator Jennifer Wexton, Senator Bryce Reeves, Benefits Director Tom Herthel, Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs, BVS Chairman Jim Icenhour (L-R)

**ATTACHMENT 5**

**2018 SPECIAL SESSION I**

**INTRODUCED**

18200150D

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 583**

Offered April 24, 2018

*Commending Paige D. Cherry.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patron—Heretick  
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WHEREAS, Paige D. Cherry, a veteran and the current treasurer of the City of Portsmouth, ably served the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia as grand master from 2016 to 2018; and

WHEREAS, a native of North Carolina, Paige Cherry served his country in the United States Army as a field artillery officer and operations research analyst and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his meritorious actions during Operation Desert Storm; and

WHEREAS, Paige Cherry continued to serve the military as a civilian employee, working at Fort Monroe Hampton, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, and, most recently, the United States Coast Guard's Health, Safety & Work Life Center in Norfolk, providing oversight for 42 clinics; and

WHEREAS, desirous to be of further service to his fellow residents, Paige Cherry served on the Portsmouth City Council and subsequently ran for and was elected to the office of city treasurer in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Paige Cherry first joined the Freemasons on December, 8, 1990, in Garstedt, Germany; he later affiliated with Morning Star Lodge No. 3 in Portsmouth, where he served as worshipful master from 1994 to 1995 and secretary from 1995 to 2006; and

WHEREAS, Paige Cherry served on several district and grand lodge committees, including as assistant district deputy grand master of the 3rd Masonic District for 11 years; and

WHEREAS, Paige Cherry has also volunteered his time and leadership to enhance the community as a member of the Virginia Board of Veterans Services, the Trustee Board of Zion Baptist Church, and the Portsmouth Kiwanis Club and as a life member of the NAACP; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Paige D. Cherry hereby be commended for his service as grand master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia from 2016 to 2018; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Paige D. Cherry as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for his contributions to the Portsmouth community.

**INTRODUCED**

HR583