



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF  
VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

101 N. 14<sup>TH</sup> ST., 17<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
RICHMOND VA 23219

*Air Force Association*  
*American Legion*  
*AMVETS*  
*Association of the United States Army*  
*Disabled American Veterans*  
*Fleet Reserve Association*  
*Fifth Baptist Veterans Ministry*  
*Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America*  
*Korean War Veterans Association*  
*Legion of Valor of the U.S., Inc.*  
*Marine Corps League*  
*Military Order of the Purple Heart*  
*Military Officers Association of America*  
*Military Order of the World Wars*  
*Navy Mutual Aid Association*  
*Navy Seabee Veterans of America*  
*Non-Commissioned Officers Association*  
*Paralyzed Veterans of America*  
*Reserve Officers Association*  
*Roanoke Valley Veterans Council*  
*Veterans of Foreign Wars*  
*Vietnam Veterans of America*  
*Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association*  
*Virginia National Guard Association*  
*Women Marines Association*

**JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**  
**REPORT TO THE BOARD OF VETERAN SERVICES**  
**April 16, 2021**

The Joint Leadership Council met virtually December 16, 2020 and discussed advocacy of the eight JLC adopted initiatives for the 2021 General Assembly Session.

During the month of December, JLC members contacted their local Delegates and Senators to ask for support of the 2021 Initiatives. Additionally, six of the initiatives received Patron support as introduced bills, with two also have member support with corresponding budget amendment requests. A seventh initiative was supported through the budget bill introduced by Governor Ralph Northam and approved by the General Assembly. One recommendation was not picked up by a General Assembly member. In addition Senator Reeves introduced a bill in response to a JLC letter advocating for exemption of VSO Honor Guards from paramilitary activities. JLC members attended subcommittee/committee meetings to speak in support of proposed legislation.

Of the nine initiatives (including Senator Reeves' bill) only two can be deemed to be a success. A status summary of the JLC 2021 initiatives is attached and posted on the JLC webpage at: <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2>

The JLC adopted its 2021 Work Plan at the December meeting, with the first 2021 meeting scheduled for May 14. During that meeting, we will request candidates for Chair & Vice Chair nominations and we will hold orientation for all new members. We do not know yet if the meeting will be held in-person or virtually.

The JLC looks forward to working closely with the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services in support of the Compact with Virginia Veterans and his strategic priorities to be a part of entry for Veterans services and for continued investment into the VDVS team. We look forward to our continued and vital partnership with the Board of Veterans Services in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

William B. Ashton  
Chairman