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### REPORT TO THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL December 15, 2021

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) is pleased to report that Mr. Victor Angry and Mr. Carl Bedell were reappointed to serve another term on the Board. Both are vital members who bring a wealth of insight and experience. I am also pleased to report we have four newly appointed members. Mr. David Ashe is an Attorney at Law, specializing in veteran and Social Security disability law. He also served on active duty in the Marine Corps from 1996 – 2003 and is currently a Colonel serving in the Marine Corps Reserve. Ms. Susan Vervaeet Riveland is a U.S. Army Veteran. She is the Project Director for the Virginia Women Veterans' Story Project, which is an ongoing independent oral history project assembling individual recorded narratives of female military veterans in Virginia. Ms. Melissa Watts served many years with the Department of the Army and is currently the Director of Procurement for the Virginia ABC Authority. Ms. Joyce Henderson is a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel and currently works as a Transition Specialist for the Department of the Army. We are looking forward to working with our new members and benefitting from the expertise they will bring to carry our mission forward.

Since our last report, our members have continued to actively advocate for and support veterans and their families across the Commonwealth. As a key stakeholder in the VDVS Strategic Plan, Board members reviewed the Commissioner's strategic priorities, to include suicide prevention, technological improvements, expanding capacity to support requirements for increasing numbers of veterans and family members requiring services, agency infrastructure needs, and strategic communications improvements. The Board plans to establish a work group in 2022 to assist VDVS in developing metrics to measure agency progress in achieving objectives.

Our next meeting is December 16 at the Richmond Times Dispatch. We anticipate hearing details from the Governor's introduced budget and discussions from legislators as we gear up for the 2022 General Assembly Session.

We look forward to continuing work with the JLC to support Virginia's Veterans and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dick  
Chairman