



Vietnam Veterans In Canada

General Meeting (2007-09)

Agenda 522

26 April 2007

British Columbia Regiment (DCO), Vancouver, B.C.



Christian Golczynski, 8, accepts the flag from his father's casket. 05 April 2007, Lewisburg, TN.

Moment of Silence

United States and Canadian Military Casualty Reports

Received since 11 April 2007

Master Cpl. Allan Stewart, 30, of Trout Brook, New Brunswick. Stewart was killed on April 11 when a roadside bomb exploded near his Coyote armoured reconnaissance vehicle, approximately 38 kilometres west of Kandahar City, Afghanistan. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Petawawa, Ontario. Stewart was a husband to Christa, and a father of two girls, ages 9 and 12. He had been in the military for nine years. He was on his second tour in Afghanistan and on his third overseas mission, after having been deployed to Bosnia in 2001.

Trooper Patrick James Pentland, 23, of Trout Brook, New Brunswick. Stewart was killed on April 11 when a roadside bomb exploded near his Coyote armoured reconnaissance vehicle, approximately 38 kilometres west of Kandahar City, Afghanistan. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Petawawa, Ontario. Pentland had joined the military three years ago and was working as a driver on his first deployment. He was born on the Canadian military base at Lahr, Germany, and grew up near CFB Gagetown, N.B. Patrick had spent some of his recent leave time with his mother, Gabriele, in Germany.

Pfc. Kyle G. Bohrsen, 22, of Philipsburg, Mont., died April 10 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Sgt. Raymond S. Sevaaetasi, 29, of Pago Pago, American Samoa, died April 11 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Spc. Ismael G. Solorio, 21, of San Luis, Ariz. Solorio died Apr. 9 in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Pfc. Brian L. Holden, 20, of Claremont, N.C. Holden died Apr. 9 in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Pvt. Brett A. Walton, 37, of Hillsboro, Ore. Walton died Apr. 9 in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Cpl. Jason J. Beadles, 22, of La Porte, Ind., died April 12 in Baghdad, Iraq, of a non-combat related injury. The incident is under investigation. He was assigned to the 887th Engineer Company, 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

1ST Lt. Gwilym J. Newman, 24, of Waldorf, Md., died April 12 in Tarmiyah, Iraq, of wounds sustained from enemy small arms fire while on dismounted patrol. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Sgt. Edelman L. Hernandez, 23, of Hyattsville, Md., died April 11 in Korengal Valley, Afghanistan, while on combat patrol. The incident is under investigation. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

Spc. James T. Lindsey, 20, of Florence, Ala., died April 12 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Staff Sgt. Casey D. Combs, 28, of Auburn, Wash. Combs died April 12 in Miri, Afghanistan, when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Sgt. David A. Stephens, 28, of Tullahoma, Tenn. Stephens died April 12 in Miri, Afghanistan, when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Lance Cpl. Daniel J. Santee, 21, of Mission Viejo, Calif., died April 14 from a non-hostile vehicle accident in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Santee was assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Sgt. Larry R. Bowman, 29, of Granite Falls, N.C., died April 13 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. Bowman was assigned to the 513th Transportation Company, 57th Transportation Battalion, 593rd Corps Support Group, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Cpl. Cody A. Putnam, 22, of Lafayette, Ind. Putnam died Apr. 12 in Baghdad, Iraq, when his patrol encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Pfc. John G. Borbonus, 19, of Boise, Idaho. Borbonus died Apr. 12 in Baghdad, Iraq, when his patrol encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Spc. Ryan A. Bishop, 32, of Euless, Texas, died April 14 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated while he was on dismounted patrol. He was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

1st Lt. Shaun M. Blue, 25, of Munster, Ind., died April 16 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Lance Cpl. Daniel R. Scherry, 20, of Rocky River, Ohio, died April 16 from a non-hostile accident in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Scherry was assigned to 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Lance Cpl. Jesse D. Delatorre, 29, of Aurora, Ill., died April 16 from wounds suffered while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Delatorre was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Pfc. Lucas V. Starcevich, 25, of Canton, Ill., died April 16 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when the vehicle he was in struck an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

Sgt. Joshua A. Schmit, 26, of Willmar, Minn. Schmit died Apr. 14 in Fallujah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 1451st Transportation Company, 13th Support Command, Iraq.

Sgt. Brandon L. Wallace, 27, of St. Louis, Mo. Wallace died Apr. 14 in Fallujah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 1451st Transportation Company, 13th Support Command, Iraq.

Pfc. Aaron M. Genevie, 22, of Chambersburg, Pa., died April 16 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas.

Pfc. Steven J. Walberg, 18, of Paradise, Calif., died April 15 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained from enemy small arms fire. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas.

Sgt. Mario K. De Leon, 26, of San Francisco, Calif., died April 16 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained from enemy small arms fire. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

Staff Sgt. Robert J. Basham, 22, of Kenosha, Wis., died Apr. 14 at Camp As Sayliyah in Doha, Qatar, as a result of injuries from a non-combat incident. Basham was assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery Regiment, Kenosha, Wis. His death is under investigation.

Pfc. Richard P. Langenbrunner, 19, of Fort Wayne, Ind., died Apr. 17 in Rustamiyah, Iraq, of injuries suffered from a non-combat related incident. His death is under investigation. Langenbrunner was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Ga.

Pfc. Jason M. Morales, 20, of La Puente, Calif., died April 18 in Baghdad, Iraq, of injuries sustained when his unit came in contact with enemy forces using small arms fire. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and Fort Riley, Kan.

Sgt. Alexander Van Aalten, 21, of Monterey, Tenn., died Apr. 20 in Sangin, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when a land mine detonated near his unit during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Lance Cpl. Jeffery A. Bishop, 23, of Dickson, Tenn., died April 20 from wounds suffered while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Bishop was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Chief Warrant Officer Dwayne L. Moore, 31, of Williamsburg, Va., died Apr. 19 in Mahmudiyah, Iraq, of wounds suffered when he came in contact with enemy forces using indirect fire. Moore was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

Cpl. Wade J. Oglesby, 27, of Grand Junction, Colo. Oglesby died Apr. 18 in Taji, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Cpl. Michael M. Rojas, 21, of Fresno, Calif. Rojas died Apr. 18 in Taji, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Pvt. Michael J. Slater, 19, of Scott Depot, W. Va., died Apr. 21 in Taji, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle rolled over during combat operations. Slater was assigned to the 407th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Pfc. Christopher M. North, 21, of Sarasota, Fla., died Apr. 21, in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his unit came in contact with enemy forces using an improvised explosive device and small arms fire during combat operations. North was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan.

Sgt. William W. Bushnell, 24, of Jasper, Ark., died Apr. 21 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle was struck by a rocket propelled grenade during combat operations. Bushnell was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Staff Sgt. Marlon B. Harper, 34, of Baltimore, Md. died Apr. 21 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when he came in contact with enemy forces using a rocket propelled grenade and small arms fire during combat operations. Harper was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Cpl. Ray M. Bevel, 22, of Andrews, Texas, died Apr. 21 in Yusufiyah, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit during combat patrol operations. Bevel was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

Pfc. Jeffrey A. Avery, 19, of Colorado Springs, Colo., died April 23 in Muqudadiyah, Iraq, from wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated during checkpoint operations. He was assigned to the 571st Military Police Company, 504th Military Police Battalion, 42nd Military Police Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Staff Sgt. Steven R. Tudor, 36, of Dunmore, Pa., died Apr. 21 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his unit came in contact with enemy forces using indirect fire during combat operations. Tudor was assigned to the 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

Casualty Count is now 3751

Since 10 November 2001



Charles A. Dunne Post 75
The American Legion
Department of Washington
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Order of Business

- Opening – three raps of the gavel – all stand.
- To The Colors
- USA and Canadian Casualty Reports
- POW MIA Empty Chair
- Chaplin – Opening Prayer
- One rap of the gavel – take seats
- Roll Call (to determine if a quorum is present)
- Minutes of the previous meeting
- Introduction of Guest or prospective new members
- Committee Reports:
 - Membership
 - Entertainment
 - Parade
 - Finance Officer
 - Balloting on Applications
 - Service Officer Report
 - Sick Call, Relief, and Unemployment
 - Unfinished Business
- 1. Bylaw changes and additional item in bylaws – dues.
- 2. Nominations
 - Good and Welfare of the Legion
 - New Business
- Closing Ceremony
 - Chaplin – Closing Prayer
 - Commander



Charles A. Dunne Post 75
The American Legion
 Department of Washington
 Vancouver, BC, Canada

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 29 MARCH 2007

The March General Meeting was called to order at 1940 hours with Commander O'Malley in the chair. There were five (5) members and one (1) guest present. The Commander in the absence of the Post Chaplain, gave the opening prayer.

Roll Call of Officers

Commander	present	Adjutant	absent	Sergeant at Arms	present
1st Vice Commander	present	Finance Officer	absent	Historian	present
2nd Vice Commander	present	Service Officer	present	Chaplain	absent

The minutes of the February General Meeting were posted in Agenda 520 and approved as read by the membership present. M/S/C

Introduction of Guests: None

Committee Reports:

Membership: No Report

Entertainment: No Report

Parade: Comrade Snow forwarded email regarding the IMDC parade committee meeting on March 22nd. The International Memorial Day Service is scheduled for the 27th of May. Fall in is at 1400 hours, march off is at 1415 hours and the Service starts at 1230 hours.

The next meeting of the committee will be on the 11th of April at 1915 hours, RCL Branch #83, 5289 Grimmer Ave, Burnaby. All Veterans Organizations are requested to send a representative if possible.

Finance Officer's Report: No Report

Balloting on Applications: None

Service Officer's Report: No Report

Sick Call, Relief and Employment: No Report

Unfinished Business:

1) Nominations. As reported from the February General Meeting, the Nominating Committee made their report for the coming year. There was one minor change to the listing which was that Tom O'Malley accepted the nomination to Post Chaplain. Nominations by the Committee were as follows:

Commander	G. Flowers	accepted
1st Vice Commander	S. O'Grady	accepted
2nd Vice Commander	W. Carmack	accepted
Adjutant	D. Sinclair	accepted
Service Officer	K. Lang	accepted
Sgt. at Arms		
Chaplain	T. O'Malley	accepted
Finance Officer	H. Gillespie	accepted
Historian	T. Snow	accepted

2) Unfinished business – Bylaws.

1st VP Carmack led the discussion on the items in the Post CN75 Bylaws that need to be changed. First of all the meeting place needs to be changed from the Royal Canadian Branch on Commercial Drive to our current meeting place at the Beatty Street Armory. Next, the number of members in good standing required to have a quorum needs to be changed to reflect the current realities. The current realities are that often we do not have enough members to have a quorum; we fall short by one or two members, the members are getting older and have trouble regularly making the meetings; if we cannot continue to do business it won't be long before the members drop out and the Post falls apart. A motion was made to revise the bylaws and have 1st VP Carmack write the changes. M/S/C

3) Unfinished Business – Vietnam Era Veteran vs. Vietnam Veteran

Member Keith Lang previously raised the issue of the National Commander, Paul A Morin, now calling himself a Vietnam Veteran while previous material listed him as a Vietnam Era Veteran. Commander O'Malley wrote to the Department and to the 2nd District to find out what action may have been taken since this was written up in the national press.

Because Commander O'Malley's notes were not immediately available, as well as the email from Vice Commander Davis on the matter, he paraphrased what he could remember from the email which was approximately the following:

Dale Davis' advised "One response from National addressing this issue proffered the position that all who serve are veterans and there should be no further categorization thereof. All who served in WWII are considered WWII veterans, including those who served in non-combat areas. All who serve during wartime are considered wartime veterans by the VA and most wartime veteran's organizations, including the Vietnam Veterans of America, which allows Vietnam era veterans to join."

He also wrote: "All reasonable thinking people recognize and appreciate the special contributions of those who served directly in harm's way, risking life and limb; however, to publicly debate the value of one veteran over another may be counterproductive to the ultimate mission of veterans serving veterans, without discrimination or qualification. **Those who seek to restrict, reduce or limit veterans' benefits and services, including many of our elected officials, will likely seize upon our internal debate over character of service to help justify their efforts to limit benefits to certain classes of veterans.** We should be cautious in picking our battles." Full text of the email messages are attached as Addendum # 1

Because the National Commander was not censured, Keith reiterated that he then felt he should resign from the American Legion. W. Carmack then addressed Keith's feelings and reminded Keith that rather than resigning, he could do better by working from within the Legion to address such problems.

Keith Lang made a motion to censure Paul A. Morin, National Commander. "Post 75, The American Legion, Department of Washington, hereby censures Paul A. Morin, the National Commander of the American Legion for not recanting changes to his biography which were made for his campaign for the top job in the American Legion. The changes were that he was formerly listed as a Vietnam Era Veteran and he now claimed the appellation of Vietnam Veteran." M/S/C

The motion of censure passed without dissent.

Good and Welfare of the Legion: All correspondents that were presented for action by the membership was completed.

New Business: Commander O'Malley advised the membership that Service Officer training is coming up on May 26th 2007 at Post 43 in Sedro Woolley.

Level 1 will be taught in the morning beginning at 0830 followed by Level 2 at 1300.

Since there was no further business to come before the Post Membership, the Commander lead the Post in closing prayer and turned the meeting over to the Vietnam Veterans In Canada at 2030 hours.

Comrade Commander, I move this report be accepted as read.

Theodore Snow
Post Adjutant

Tom O'Malley
Post Commander

Attendance 29 March 2007

Kenneth Payne	
Keith Lang	
Tom O'Malley	Commander
W. Carmack	1 st Vice Commander
Steve O'Grady	2 nd Vice Commander
Larry Reid	Service Officer
Don Sinclair	Historian
Gerry Flowers	Sgt-At-Arms
S. Carmack	
Alina Baugh-Allen	



Charles A. Dunne Post 75
The American Legion
Department of Washington
Vancouver, BC, Canada

26 April 2007

As time has gone by, the need for a few changes to our Post's Constitution and Bylaws has become apparent.

The following sections of the existing Constitution and Bylaws have been included for reference, followed by the formal appropriate Resolutions for changes.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

Section 1. Post Meetings. Regular and special meetings of the Post shall be as specified in the Bylaws, and all members in good standing shall be notified of scheduled meetings.

Section 2. Executive Committee Meetings. Regular and special meetings of the Executive Committee shall be as specified in the Bylaws, and each member of the Executive Committee shall be notified of scheduled meetings.

Section 3. Quorum. A quorum at a Post meeting, regular or special, shall require the presence of five members in good standing. A quorum at an Executive Committee meeting, regular or special, shall require the presence of seven members of the Executive Committee in good standing.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS/ REVISIONS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended or revised at a regular meeting of the Post by a two-thirds vote of those members in attendance, provided a quorum is present, and provided that the following have been accomplished prior to the vote:

The Post Adjutant shall transmit a copy of the proposed amendment or revision to the entire membership at least one month prior to the meeting at which the vote will be taken and shall identify the meeting date of the required reading and of the vote.

The proposed amendment or revision shall be read to the membership in attendance at the regular meeting just prior to the one at which the vote will be taken, and an opportunity for questions and discussion will be provided at the meeting at which it is read.

Section 2. An amendment or revision approved in accordance with Section 1 shall not become effective until approved by the Department Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XI POST BYLAWS

The Bylaws of this Post may be adopted, amended, or revised in accordance with its provisions therefore, except that no action shall be taken based on that adoption, amendment, or revision until approved by the Department Executive Committee.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings

The meetings of the Post shall be held at RCL 179, 6th and Commercial, Vancouver, B.C. Canada, on the third Monday of each month at 2000 Hours, except the meetings in February, July, August and December will be canceled. The location, date, and time may be changed by specific action of the Post membership at a regular meeting, provided all members in good standing are notified at least one week in advance of the changed meeting.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Post Commander, by a majority of the Post Executive Committee, or on written demand of any ten (10) members in good standing of the Post. As much advance notice of the special meeting shall be given as the exigencies of the particular situation allow.

ARTICLE IX DUES

Section 1. Annual Dues

The annual dues for membership in this Post shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), including Department and National dues.

The Post shall pay Department and National dues for those elected by the Post to Life Membership.

Those who are Paid Up For Life (PUFL) members will have their Post dues paid by National through Department from the income National derives from the PUFL lump sum dues payment.

Annual dues shall be payable October 20th for the succeeding year.

The Post, at its discretion, may admit to membership without payment of dues any permanently disabled person otherwise qualified for membership, who on account of the disability is financially unable to make full payment of dues.

The Post, at its discretion, may require such person to pay the National and Department dues or may elect to pay those portions from Post funds.

The Post, at its discretion, may grant Life Membership in this Post to any member in good standing for long and/or outstanding service to the Post, with the Post then paying such member(s) National and Department dues as long as that individual remains a member of this Post.

No member shall be reported to Department or National Head- quarters as being in good standing until the member has paid his/her dues for the current year in full or as provided in "d" or "e" above.

Section 2. Delinquency/Suspension /Forfeiture

A member whose dues are not paid by January 1 is delinquent. A delinquent member whose dues remain unpaid on February 1 shall be suspended from all privileges of membership. A suspended member whose dues remain unpaid on June 30 shall forfeit membership in the American Legion.

Section 3. Reinstatement

A delinquent member whose dues are paid on or before February 1 shall be automatically reinstated as a member in good standing for the remainder of that year. A member who has been suspended or whose membership has been suspended or whose membership has been forfeited may be reinstated as a member in good standing by vote of the Post membership and payment of current dues for the year in which rein-statement occurs.

The Post, at its option, may also require a member whose membership has been forfeited to pay one (1) year's arrears in dues as a condition of reinstatement, and if such a member wishes to reinstate continuous membership, all years' arrears in dues must be paid at the current annual dues rate.

ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS/REVISIONS

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended or revised at a regular meeting of the Post by a majority vote of those members in attendance, provided a quorum is present and provided that the following had been accomplished prior to the vote.

The Post Adjutant shall transmit a copy of the proposed amendment or revision to the entire membership at least one month prior to the meeting at which the vote will be taken and shall identify the meeting date of the required reading and of the vote.

The proposed amendment or revision shall be read to the membership in attendance at the regular meeting just prior to the one at which the vote will be taken, and an opportunity for questions and discussion will be provided at the meeting at which it is read.

Section 2. As specified in the Constitution, Article XII, no action based on such amendment or revision shall be taken until approved by the Department Executive Committee.



Charles A. Dunne Post 75
The American Legion
Department of Washington
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Special Resolution 2007-01

To amend the Constitution of the Post with regard to the number of persons required to have a quorum at Post Meetings and at Post Executive Committee Meetings.

Article IV, Section 3 of the Constitution from the existing text:

*“Section 3. Quorum. A quorum at a Post meeting, regular or special, shall require the presence of **five** members in good standing. A quorum at an Executive Committee meeting, regular or special, shall require the presence of **seven** members of the Executive Committee in good standing.”*

to the following:

*“Section 3. Quorum. A quorum at a Post meeting, regular or special, shall require the presence of **three** members in good standing. A quorum at an Executive Committee meeting, regular or special, shall require the presence of **a majority** of the members of the Executive Committee in good standing.”*



Charles A. Dunne Post 75
The American Legion
Department of Washington
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Special Resolution 2007-02

To amend the Bylaws of the Post with regard to the place and time of meetings.

Article VIII, Section 1 of the Bylaws from the existing text:

“The meetings of the Post shall be held at RCL 179, 6th and Commercial, Vancouver, B.C. Canada, on the third Monday of each month at 2000 Hours, except the meetings in February, July, August and December will be canceled. The location, date, and time may be changed by specific action of the Post membership at a regular meeting, provided all members in good standing are notified at least one week in advance of the changed meeting.”

To the following:

“The meetings of the Post shall be held at the British Columbia Regiment Armoury (DCO) 620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, at least once each calendar month, according to a schedule agreed to before the end of each previous year.

The location, date, and time may be changed by specific action of the Post membership at a regular meeting, provided all members in good standing are notified at least one week in advance of the changed meeting.”



Charles A. Dunne Post 75
The American Legion
Department of Washington
Vancouver, B.C.

Special Resolution 2007-03

To amend the Bylaws with regard to Annual Dues.

Article IX, Section 1, First Paragraph reads:

“The annual dues for membership in this Post shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), including Department and National dues.”

To the following:

“The annual dues for membership in this Post shall be determined annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Post.”

VVIC Meeting Business

Announcements and Acknowledgements

International Memorial Day Service and Parade

Also a reminder that the service will be held on the 27th of May at the Field of Honour, Mountain View Cemetery, 33rd and Prince Edward Street,(one block west of Fraser Street) at 1430 hours. Fall in is at 1400 hours and march off is at 1420 hours. The VVIC is with the American Legion group.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is Monday, the 14th of May at 1915 hours at RCL Branch #83, upstairs. It is located at 5289 Grimmer Ave. Burnaby. Grimmer Ave is one block south of Kingsway off of Royal Oak. It would be nice to see a representative from the VVIC there.

Ted Snow

President's Remarks (D. Sinclair, AUS)

Greetings, Glad to be back home after the trip of a life time. I will briefly touch on my travels through France & Belgium, and discuss in detail some aspects of the trip at a later date as I have much to disseminate.

Vimy Memorial; was awe-inspiring on seeing the Monument from a distance approaching the Village of Vimy, the winding road up to the Ridge and the expanse of the terrain that was fought for and taken on that Easter Monday morning 90 years ago.

The refurbished Monument today now has the respect it so justly deserves. This Battle gave Canada its sense of self as a Nation.

I could not help but think of my grandfather as he toiled away pounding the approaches with creeping barrages as the whistle blew for the Canadians to "Go over the Top."

My travels took me to Flanders in Belgium as I followed my grandfather's war diary, as the war progressed. For those of you who have family who were here and are buried in the many Commonwealth War Graves (CWGC) scattered around the battle sites it will not fail to bring a tear to your eyes on reflecting back to the immensity of it all.

The weather was clear and warm as I traveled around the Ypres Salient passing quiet farmland. Deceiving one into thinking that was the case in 1917! Places; that held names like

“Essex Farm, Pilkem Ridge, St Julian, Kitcheners Wood, Tyne Cot, Hell Fire Corner, Maple Leaf Avenue, Hill 62, Canadian Memorial, Sanctuary Wood, Polygon Wood, Mousetrap Farm, Menin Gate,” and of course Passchendaele.

Along the way I meet many locals, and on telling them I was Canadian visiting the area with a family member buried here I was taken in and asked if I would stay an chat and have a refreshment.

The Flemish people of Flanders are very warm and eager to spend time answering your questions. I met many like minded folk from all over the commonwealth; I handed out VVIC Business Cards to all. I was fortunate through sheer luck to meet a Belgian Guest/Pub House owner after inquiring at the tourist center in Ieper at Cloth Hall.

This lead me to extend my trip by several days just to listen to the story that unfolded about a unique secret operation conducted by the British that went on in the area during 1914-18 Not only did I get to meet 2 of the 3 men whose passion has lead them to devote their lives to this subject but was given a Book on the subject autographed by both.

Beneath Flanders Fields, The Tunneller’s War 1914-18

I will attempt to set up a special showing and discussion of what I learned after consulting with the CO of the British Columbia Regiment and possibly the CO of the Seaforth Highlanders and other interested parties as well.
Details at the meeting.

Will tackle the Business of the group once I get my “sea legs” back shortly.

Don

1st Vice President’s Remarks (G. Flowers, USMC)

2nd Vice President’s Remarks (T. O’Malley)

Chief of Staff’s Remarks (S. O’Grady, AUS)

Master At Arms Remarks (K. Payne, USN)

General Collection

Minutes of the previous meeting

Finance Officer's Report

1. Final 2006 Annual Financial Report

Intelligence Officer's Report

1. Expat stations report
2. Web expansion update

Service Officer's Report

1. P. Knauth, AUS
2. R. Troyer

Inspector General's Report

Quartermaster's Report

Legislative matters:

Listed below are the proposed bills currently before the 210th Congress of the United States.

House Bills

H.R.0023: Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval

Transport Service) during World War II. Sponsor: Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (84). Companion bill S.0961.

H.R.0025: Fair Tax Act of 2007. A bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by repealing the income tax and other taxes, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, and enacting a national sales tax to be administered primarily by the States. Sponsor: Rep Linder, John [GA-7] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (57)

H.R.0067: Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep McIntyre, Mike [NC-7] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (None)

H.R.0081: Montgomery GI Bill Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that members of the Armed Forces and Selected Reserve may transfer certain educational assistance benefits to dependents, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Bartlett, Roscoe G. [MD-6] (introduced 1/4/07) Cosponsors (2).

H.R.0089: Combat-Related Special Compensation Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend eligibility for combat-related special compensation (CRSC) paid to certain uniformed services retirees who are retired under chapter 61 of such title with fewer than 20 years of creditable service. Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (22). Companion bill S.986. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9240191>

H.R.0092: Veterans Timely Access to Health Care Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish standards of access (i.e. 30 days) to care for veterans seeking health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, would allow referral to civilian care in cases where the standard is not met, would require the VA to annually report its

performance in meeting those access standards, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Brown-Waite, Ginny [FL-5] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (8). To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to

<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9240456>

H.R.0109: Disabled Veteran Small Business Eligibility Expansion Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to make service-disabled veterans eligible under the 8(a) business development program. Sponsor: Rep Davis, Jo Ann [VA-1] (introduced 1/4/07) Cosponsors (1).

H.R.0112: G.I. Advanced Education in Science and Technology Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the payment of stipends to veterans who pursue doctoral degrees in science or technology. Sponsor: Rep Davis, Jo Ann [VA-1] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (None).

H.R.0136: Identity Theft Notification Act of 2007. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide that individuals and appropriate authorities are notified by the Commissioner of Social Security of evidence of misuse of the Social Security account numbers of such individuals. Sponsor: Rep Gallegly, Elton [CA-24] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (4).

H.R.0140: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the amounts reimbursed to institutional providers of health care services under the TRICARE program to be the same as amounts reimbursed under Medicare, and to require the Secretary of Defense to contract for health care services with at least one teaching hospital in urban areas. Sponsor: Rep Green, Gene [TX-29] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (10). To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9329026&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9329026&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.0156: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) to the survivors of former prisoners of war (POWs) who died on or before 30 SEP 99, under the same eligibility conditions as apply to payment of DIC to the survivors of former prisoners of war who die after that date. Sponsor: Rep Holden, Tim [PA-17] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (18). To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9240856>

H.R.0191: Senior Citizens Tax Elimination Act. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the inclusion in gross income of Social Security benefits. Sponsor: Rep Paul, Ron [TX-14] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (10).

H.R.0207: Depleted Uranium Screening and Testing Act. A bill to provide for identification of members of the Armed Forces exposed during military service to depleted uranium, to provide for health testing of such members, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Serrano, Jose E. [NY-16] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (13).

H.R.0243: Combat Military Medically Retired Veteran's Fairness Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the payment of Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) to members of the Armed Forces retired for disability with less than 20 years of active military service who were awarded the Purple Heart. Sponsor: Rep Weller, Jerry [IL-11] (introduced 1/5/07). Cosponsors (9).

H.R.0303: Retired Pay Restoration Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt. Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced

1/5/07). Cosponsors (102). To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to

<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9240026>

H.R.0315: Healthy Vets Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with community health care providers to improve access to health care for veterans in highly rural areas, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Pearce, Stevan [NM-2] (introduced 1/5/07). Cosponsors (15). To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9328981&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9328981&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.0327: Veterans Suicide Prevention Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a comprehensive program designed to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans. Sponsor: Rep Boswell, Leonard L. [IA-3] (introduced 1/9/07). Cosponsors (152). Passed 3/21/07

H.R.0333: Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50% to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to eliminate the phase-in period for concurrent receipt, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt and combat-related special compensation to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Marshall, Jim [GA-8] (introduced 1/9/07). Cosponsors (32). To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to <http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9226426&type=ML>

H.R.0339: Veterans Outpatient Care Access Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve access to medical services for veterans seeking treatment at Department of Veterans

Affairs outpatient clinics with exceptionally long waiting periods.
Sponsor: Rep Duncan, John J., Jr. [TN-2] (introduced 1/9/07).
Cosponsors (2).

H.R.0343: Military Retiree Health Care Relief Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit to military retirees for premiums paid for coverage under Medicare Part B. Sponsor: Rep Emerson, Jo Ann [MO-8] (introduced 1/9/07).
Cosponsors (6). To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to
[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9329391&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9329391&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.0402: Veterans' Disability Compensation Automatic COLA Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans. Sponsor: Rep Knollenberg, Joe [MI-09] (introduced 1/11/07). Cosponsors (25). To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to
[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9330146&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9330146&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.0447: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that World War II merchant mariners who were awarded the Mariners Medal shall be provided eligibility for DVA health care on the same basis as veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart. Sponsor: Rep Fortenberry, Jeff [NE-1] (introduced 1/12/07). Cosponsors (None).

H.R.0463: Honor Our Commitment to Veterans Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to terminate the administrative freeze on the enrollment into the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs of veterans in the lowest priority category for

enrollment (referred to as "Priority 8"). Sponsor: Rep Rothman, Steven R. [NJ-09] (introduced 1/12/07). Cosponsors (36).

H.R.0551: Home Ownership for America's Veterans Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to the eligibility of veterans for mortgage bond financing, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Davis, Susan A. [CA-53] (introduced 1/18/07). Cosponsors (28).

H.R.0579: Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit certain increases in fees (i.e. Tricare) for military health care. Sponsor: Rep Edwards, Chet [TX-17] (introduced 1/19/07). Cosponsors (123). To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9284961&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9284961&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id]) or <http://capwiz.com/trea/issues/alert/?alertid=9289751&queueid=1050771381>

H.R.0585: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the number of individuals qualifying for retroactive benefits from traumatic injury protection coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance. Sponsor: Rep Herseth, Stephanie [SD] (introduced 1/19/07). Cosponsors (2).

H.R.0612: Returning Servicemember VA Healthcare Insurance Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the period of eligibility for health care for combat service in the Persian Gulf War or future hostilities from two years to five years after discharge or release. Sponsor: Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] (introduced 1/22/07). Cosponsors (5).

H.R.0634: American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin Act. A bill to authorize the secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative silver dollars that will be sold with a surcharge that will

help the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial Foundation raise the money needed to construct the Disabled Veterans Memorial. Sponsor: Rep Moore, Dennis [KS-3] (introduced 1/23/07). Cosponsors (293).

H.R.0649: Blind Veterans Fairness Act. A bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to provide that annuities paid by States to blind veterans shall be disregarded in determining supplemental security income (SSI) benefits. Sponsor: Rep Reynolds, Thomas M. [NY-26] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (32).

H.R.0650: A bill to provide for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a pilot program to determine the effectiveness of contracting for the use of private memory care facilities for veterans with Alzheimer's Disease. Sponsor: Rep Reynolds, Thomas M. [NY-26] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (11).
Reynolds, Thomas M. [NY-26] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (12).

H.R.0652: A bill to make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at a discount to certain veterans. Sponsor: Rep Reynolds, Thomas M. [NY-26] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (32).

H.R.0653: Combat Veteran Affidavit Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow the sworn affidavit of a veteran who served in combat during the Korean War or an earlier conflict to be accepted as proof of service-connection of a disease or injury alleged to have been incurred or aggravated by such service. Sponsor: Rep Reynolds, Thomas M. [NY-26] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (11).

H.R.0657: Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for forgiveness of certain overpayments of retired pay paid to deceased retired members of the Armed Forces following their death.

Sponsor: Rep Jones, Walter B., Jr. [NC-3] (introduced 1/24/07).
Cosponsors (18). To support this bill and/or contact your

Representative refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9322811&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9322811&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.0675: Disabled Veterans Adaptive Housing Improvement Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of assistance available to disabled veterans for specially adapted housing and to provide for annual increases in such amount. Sponsor: Rep Herseth, Stephanie [SD] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (1)

H.R.0690: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the minimum age for receipt of military retired pay for non-regular service from 60 to 55. Sponsor: Rep Saxton, Jim [NJ-3] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (62).

H.R.0704 : A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce from age 57 to age 55 the age after which the remarriage of the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran shall not result in termination of dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) otherwise payable to that surviving spouse.

Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 1/29/07).

Cosponsors (3).

H.R.0737: Forgotten Veteran's Retirement Compensation Act. A bill to correct an inequity in eligibility for military retired pay based on nonregular service in the case of certain members of the reserve components completing their reserve service before 1966.

Sponsor: Rep Scott, Robert C. [VA-3] (introduced 1/30/07).

Cosponsors (8).

H.R.0760: Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans

Affairs. Sponsor: Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] (introduced 1/31/07).
Cosponsors (42).

H.R.0784: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to change the effective date for paid-up coverage under the military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). Sponsor: Rep Saxton, Jim [NJ-3] (introduced 1/31/07).
Cosponsors (60). To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to
[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9409496&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9409496&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.0797: Veteran Vision Equity Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve compensation benefits for veterans in certain cases of impairment of vision involving both eyes, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Baldwin, Tammy [WI-2] (introduced 2/5/07).
Cosponsors (64). Passed 3/21/07 and Referred to Senate committee.

H.R.0959: Forgotten Military Widows Annuity Act of 2007. A bill to expand a Department of Defense survivor annuity program (SBP) that covers unremarried surviving spouses of certain members of the uniformed services who died before October 1, 1978, to include any otherwise eligible surviving spouse who remarries after age 55 or whose remarriage before age 55 is terminated. Sponsor: Rep Saxton, Jim [NJ-3] (introduced 2/8/07). Cosponsors (none).

H.R.0991: A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals eligible for veterans health benefits to contribute to health savings accounts. Sponsor: Rep Campbell, John [CA-48] (introduced 2/12/07). Cosponsors (1)

H.R.1041: Veterans Health Care Full Funding Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide an enhanced funding process to ensure an adequate level of funding for veterans health care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish standards of access to care for veterans seeking health care from the Department of

Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Smith, Christopher H. [NJ-4] (introduced 2/14/07). Cosponsors (5).

H.R.1086 : Strengthening America's Military Families Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income the earned income of a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States serving in a combat zone.

Sponsor: Rep Garrett, Scott [NJ-5] (introduced 2/15/07). Cosponsors (6)

H.R.1110 : A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums. Sponsor: Rep Davis, Tom [VA-11] (introduced 2/16/07).

Cosponsors (97). Companion bill to S.773. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9408301&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9408301&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.1115: A bill to amend section 1477 of title 10, United States Code, to provide additional options regarding the designation of the person to receive the death gratuity paid with respect to a member of the Armed Forces who dies without a surviving spouse, but who is survived by a minor child. Sponsor: Rep Latham, Tom [IA-4] (introduced 2/16/07).

Cosponsors (20). Companion Bill is S.659. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9423396&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9423396&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.1197: Prisoner of War Benefits Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide improved benefits for veterans who are former prisoners of war. Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 2/27/07). Cosponsors (1).

H.R.1211: Resuming Education After Defense Service Act of 2007. A

bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide entitlement to educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill for members of the Selected Reserve who aggregate more than two years of active duty service in any five year period, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Matheson, Jim [UT-2] (introduced 2/27/07). Cosponsors (61).

H.R.1214: Veterans' Survivors Education Enhancement Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and enhance educational assistance for survivors and dependents of veterans. Sponsor: Rep Ramstad, Jim [MN-3] (introduced 2/27/07). Cosponsors (3).

H.R.1222: Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act. A bill to restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes. This measure would fulfill the promises made to young recruits that quality health care would be available to them when they retired after a career in uniformed service to our country. It would also allow military retirees to opt out of the Tricare military health system and enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefit (FEHB) plan if Tricare does not provide them adequate health care. Sponsor: Rep Van Hollen, Chris [MD-8] (introduced 2/28/07). Cosponsors (50).

H.R.1223: Keeping Faith with the Greatest Generation Military Retirees Act. A bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive Medicare part B premiums for certain military retirees. Sponsor: Rep Van Hollen, Chris [MD-8] (introduced 2/28/07). Cosponsors (41).

H.R.1226: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the basic educational assistance program of the DVA. Sponsor: Rep Johnson, Timothy V. [IL-15] (introduced 2/28/07). Cosponsors (None).

H.R.1265: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Equity Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to authorize the

Administrator of the Small Business Administration to award contracts to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans under the section 8(a) program. Sponsor: Rep Buyer, Steve [IN-4] (introduced 3/1/07). Cosponsors (1).

H.R.1268: Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act. A bill to ensure dignity in care for members of the Armed Forces recovering from injuries.

Sponsor: Rep Mitchell, Harry E. [AZ-5] (introduced 3/1/07).

Cosponsors (32). Companion Bill is S.713

H.R.1272: Veterans' Pension Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the pension program of the DVA. Sponsor: Rep Berkley, Shelley [NV-1] (introduced 3/1/07). Cosponsors (7).

H.R.1273: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to restore plot allowance eligibility for veterans of any war and to restore the headstone or marker allowance for eligible persons. Sponsor: Rep Berkley, Shelley [NV-1] (introduced 3/1/07). Cosponsors (None)

H.R.1284: Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2007. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2007, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. Sponsor: Rep Hall, John J. [NY-19] (introduced 3/1/07). Cosponsors (14). Passed 3/21/07 and referred to Senate committee.

H.R.1315: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide specially adaptive housing assistance to certain disabled members of the Armed Forces residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member. Sponsor: Rep Herseth, Stephanie [SD] (introduced 3/5/07). Cosponsors (None).

H.R.1318: Veterans' Benefits Protection Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal the authority for agent or attorney representation in veterans benefits cases before the Department of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Rep Lewis, Ron [KY-2] (introduced 3/5/07). Cosponsors (1).

H.R.1330: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend the time limit for the use of education assistance by members of the Selected Reserve and members of the reserve component supporting contingency operations and certain other operations. Sponsor: Rep Carney, Christopher P. [PA-10] (introduced 3/6/07). Cosponsors (28).

H.R.1354: Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for members of the Armed Forces, veterans of the Global War on Terrorism, and other veterans, to require reports on the effects of the Global War on Terrorism, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Moran, James P. [VA-8] (introduced 3/6/07). Cosponsors (46).

H.R.1418: Reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act. A bill to provide for the expansion and improvement of traumatic brain injury programs. Sponsor: Rep Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [NJ-8] (introduced 3/8/07). Cosponsors (2). Companion bill to S.793.

H.R.1426: Veterans' Access to Local Health Care Options and Resources Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide veterans enrolled in the health system of the DVA the option of receiving covered health services through facilities other than those of the Department. Sponsor: Rep Latham, Tom [IA-4] (introduced 3/9/07). Cosponsors (5). Companion bill to S.815.

H.R.1428: National Guard and Reserve Retirement Modernization Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the eligibility age for receipt of non-regular military service retired pay for members of the Ready Reserve in active federal status or on active duty for

significant periods. Sponsor: Rep Latham, Tom [IA-4] (introduced 3/9/07). Cosponsors (12).

H.R.1435: Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Backlog Reduction Act of 2007. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a pilot program to reduce the backlog of claims for benefits pending with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Rep Baca, Joe [CA-43] (introduced 3/9/07). Cosponsors (5).

H.R.1436: Retired Pay Restoration Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the DVA for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation. It would eliminate the phase-in period for retirees who are paid at the 100%-disabled rate due to individual unemployability (IU). It also would extend concurrent receipt (CRDP) to otherwise-qualified disabled retirees with disabilities rated less than 50%. Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 3/9/07). Cosponsors (1).

H.R.1444: A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make interim benefit payments under certain remanded claims, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Hall, John J. [NY-19] (introduced 3/9/07). Cosponsors (None).

H.R.1470: Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act. A bill to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers. Sponsor: Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] (introduced 3/12/07). Cosponsors (None).

H.R.1471: BACK Veterans Health Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit eligible veterans to receive direct access to

chiropractic care. Sponsor: Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] (introduced 3/12/07). Cosponsors (None).

H.R.1477: Disabled Veterans Commissary and Exchange Store Benefits Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend military commissary and exchange store privileges to veterans with a compensable service-connected disability and to their dependents. Sponsor: Rep Fortenberry, Jeff [NE-1] (introduced 3/12/07). Cosponsors (None).

H.R.1490: A bill to provide for a presumption of service-connectedness for certain claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Donnelly, Joe [IN-2] (by request) (introduced 3/13/07). Cosponsors (19).

H.R.1521: Universal Health Act of 2007: Repeal of the Late Enrollment Penalty in Medicare Part D. A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the Medicare prescription drug benefit late enrollment penalty. Sponsor: Rep Kagen, Steve, M.D. [WI-8] (introduced 3/14/07). Cosponsors (17).

H.R.1527: Rural Veterans Access to Care Act . A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow highly rural veterans enrolled in the health system of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive covered health services through providers other than those of the Department, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Moran, Jerry [KS-1] (introduced 3/14/07). Cosponsors (2).

H.R.1538: Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the management of medical care, personnel actions, and quality of life issues for members of the Armed Forces who are receiving medical care in an outpatient status, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Skelton, Ike [MO-4] (introduced 3/15/07). Cosponsors (28). Passed 3/29/07 and referred to Senate

committee. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9600206&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9600206&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.1552: Medicare Patient Access to Physical Therapists Act of 2007. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize physical therapists to evaluate and treat Medicare beneficiaries without a requirement for a physician referral, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Pomeroy, Earl [ND] (introduced 3/15/07). Cosponsors (55).

H.R.1554: Chiropractic Health Parity for Military Beneficiaries Act. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic health care services and benefits for certain new beneficiaries as part of the TRICARE program. Sponsor: Rep Rogers, Mike D. [AL-3] (introduced 3/15/07). Cosponsors (1).

H.R.1570: Bataan Death March Compensation Act. A bill to provide compensation for certain World War II veterans who survived the Bataan Death March and were held as prisoners of war by the Japanese. Sponsor: Rep Mica, John L. [FL-7] (introduced 3/19/07). Cosponsors (None).

H.R.1589: Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act . A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the offset from surviving spouse annuities under the military Survivor Benefit Plan for amounts paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as dependency and indemnity compensation, to repeal the optional annuity authority for the dependent children of a member when there is an eligible surviving spouse, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Brown, Henry E., Jr. [SC-1] (introduced 3/20/07). Cosponsors (2). To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9550256&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9550256&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.1627: Social Security Number Fraudulent Use Notification Act of 2007. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to require that the Commissioner of Social Security notify individuals of improper use of their Social Security account numbers. Sponsor: Rep Myrick, Sue Wilkins [NC-9] (introduced 3/21/07). Cosponsors (None).

H.R.1660: A bill to direct the VA Secretary to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the southern Colorado region. Sponsor: Rep Salazar, John T. [CO-3] (introduced 3/22/07). Cosponsors (3).

H.R.1710: A bill to modify the calculation of back pay for persons who were approved for promotion as members of the Navy and Marine Corps while interned as prisoners of war during World War II to take into account changes in the Consumer Price Index. Sponsor: Rep Hooley, Darlene [OR-5] (introduced 3/27/07). Cosponsors (None).

H.R.1732: A bill to provide alternative retired pay rates under title 10, United States Code, and alternative disability compensation rates under title 38, United States Code, for members of the Armed Forces with a combat-related disability, with such rates based on the average monthly salary for high school graduates in the U.S., and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Bartlett, Roscoe G. [MD-6] (introduced 3/28/07). Cosponsors (8).

H.R.1745: Uniting America's Military Families Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to waive inadmissibility based on a misrepresentation in the case of an immediate relative of an active duty or reserve member of the Armed Forces and to extend the V nonimmigrant visa program for spouses and children of such a member. Sponsor: Rep Ortiz, Solomon P. [TX-27] (introduced 3/28/07). Cosponsors (6).

H.R.1750: A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend from 90 days to one year the period after release of a member of the Armed Forces from active duty during which the member is

protected from mortgage foreclosure under that Act. Sponsor: Rep Wynn, Albert Russell [MD-4] (introduced 3/28/07). Cosponsors (None).

Senate Bills

S.0022: Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen. Webb, Jim [VA] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (9). To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9242071>

S.0057: Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Sponsor: Sen. Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (10).

S.0066: A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to determine the validity of the claims of certain Filipinos that they performed military service on behalf of the United States during World War II. Sponsor: Sen. Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (None).

S.0067: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit former members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces are entitled to travel on such aircraft. Sponsor: Sen. Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (3).

S.0071: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize certain disabled former prisoners of war (POWs) to use DoD commissary and exchange stores. Sponsor: Sen. Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (None).

S.0117: Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2007. A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for members of the Armed Forces, veterans of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), and other veterans, to require reports on the effects of the GWOT, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen. Obama, Barack [IL] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (12).

S.0161: Veterans' Disability Compensation Automatic COLA Act.

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans.

Sponsor: Sen. Thune, John [SD] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (1).

To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

[http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9568626&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9568626&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

S.0207: Voluntary Support for Reservists and National Guard Members Act. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate part or all of any income tax refund to support reservists and National Guard members. Sponsor: Sen. Coleman, Norm [MN] (introduced 1/9/07). Cosponsors (2)

S.0225: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the number of individuals qualifying for retroactive benefits from traumatic injury protection coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance. It would expand retroactive payments of traumatic injury insurance to servicemembers injured outside a combat area between 10 OCT 01 and 1 DEC 05. Sponsor: Sen. Craig, Larry E. [ID]

(introduced 1/9/07). Cosponsors (2). To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9242246>

S.0326: Disabled Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special period of limitation when uniformed services retirement pay is reduced as result of award of disability compensation. Sponsor: Sen. Lincoln, Blanche L. [AR] (introduced 1/17/07). Cosponsors (18). To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9294921>

S.0383: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the period of eligibility for health care for combat service in the Persian Gulf War or future hostilities from two years to five years after discharge or release. Sponsor: Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/24/07). Cosponsors (2).

S.0415: Veterans' Memorials ... Protection Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Revised Statutes of the United States to prevent the use of the legal system in a manner that among other things will stop the award of taxpayer dollars in legal fees to groups filing lawsuits against veterans' memorials and public displays of religion. Sponsor: Sen. Brownback, Sam [KS] (introduced 1/29/07). Cosponsors (17).

S.0423: Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2007. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2007, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. Sponsor: Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/29/07). Cosponsors (9).
[Source: <http://thomas.loc.gov> 31 Jan 07 ++]

S.0439: Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed

services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the VA for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation. Sponsor: Sen. Reid, Harry [NV] (introduced 1/31/07). Cosponsors (20).

S.0479: Joshua Omgig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act. A bill to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans. Sponsor: Sen. Harkin, Tom [IA] (introduced 2/1/07). Cosponsors (19).

S.0604: Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to limit increases in the certain costs of health care services under the health care programs of DoD, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [NJ] (introduced 2/15/07). Cosponsors (9). To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9388371&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9388371&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

S.0617: Veterans Eagle Parks Pass Act. A bill to make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at a discount to certain veterans. Sponsor: Sen. Smith, Gordon H. [OR] (introduced 2/15/07). Cosponsors (3)

S.0643: Disabled Veterans Insurance Act of 2007. A bill to amend section 1922A of title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of supplemental insurance available for totally disabled veterans. Sponsor: Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 2/15/07). Cosponsors (None)

S.0644: Total Force Montgomery GI Bill. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recodify as part of that title certain educational assistance programs for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, to improve such programs, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen. Lincoln, Blanche L. [AR] (introduced 2/15/07).

Cosponsors (11).

S.0648: National Guard and Reserve Retirement Modernization Act. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the eligibility age for receipt of non-regular military service retired pay for members of the Ready Reserve in active federal status or on active duty for significant periods. Sponsor: Sen. Chambliss, Saxby [GA] (introduced 2/15/07). Cosponsors (1).

S.0659 : A bill to amend section 1477 of title 10, United States Code, to provide for the payment of the death gratuity with respect to members of the Armed Forces without a surviving spouse who are survived by a minor child. Sponsor: Sen. Hagel, Chuck [NE] (introduced 2/16/07). Cosponsors (4). Companion Bill is H.R.1115. To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9423746&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9423746&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

S.0671: Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act. A bill to exempt children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical limitations on immigrant visas. Sponsor: Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 2/16/07). Cosponsors (9)

S.0713: Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act. A bill to ensure dignity in care for members of the Armed Forces recovering from injuries. Sponsor: Sen. Obama, Barack [IL] (introduced 2/28/07). Cosponsors (30). Companion Bill is H.R.1268. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9454946&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9454946&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

S.0723: Montgomery GI Bill Enhancement Act of 2007. A bill to provide certain enhancements to the Montgomery GI Bill Program for certain individuals who serve as members of the Armed Forces after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Hagel, Chuck [NE] (introduced 3/1/07). Cosponsors (1).

S.0773: A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums. Sponsor: Sen. Warner, John [VA] (introduced 3/6/07). Cosponsors (16). Companion bill to H.R.1110. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to

<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=9598891&type=CO>

S.0793: Reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act. A bill to provide for the expansion and improvement of traumatic brain injury programs. Sponsor: Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [UT] (introduced 3/7/07). Cosponsors (7). Companion bill to H.R.1418.

S.0815: Veterans Health Care Empowerment Act of 2007. A bill to provide health care benefits to veterans with a service-connected disability at non-DVA medical facilities that receive payments under the Medicare program or the TRICARE program. Sponsor: Sen. Craig, Larry E. [ID] (introduced 3/8/07). Cosponsors (2). Companion bill to H.R.1416.

S.0847: A bill to extend the period of time during which a veteran's multiple sclerosis is to be considered to have been incurred in, or aggravated by, military service during a period of war. Sponsor: Sen. Murray, Patty [WA] (introduced 3/13/07). Cosponsors (None).

S.0848: Prisoner of War Benefits Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide improved benefits for veterans who are former prisoners of war. Sponsor: Sen. Murray, Patty [WA] (introduced 3/13/07). Cosponsors (None).

S.0882: A bill to require a pilot program on the facilitation of the transition of members of the Armed Forces to receipt of veterans health care benefits upon completion of military service, and for other

purposes. Sponsor: Sen. Menendez, Robert [NJ] (introduced 3/14/07). Cosponsors (7).

S. 0935: A bill to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen. Nelson, Bill [FL] (introduced 3/20/07). Cosponsors (20). To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9549971&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9549971&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

S.961: Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen. Nelson, E. Benjamin [NE] (introduced 3/22/07). Cosponsors (7). Companion bill H.R.0023.

S. 0986: Combat-Related Special Compensation Act of 2007. A bill to expand eligibility for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) paid by the uniformed services in order to permit certain additional retired members who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the DVA for that disability and Combat-Related Special Compensation by reason of that disability. Sponsor: Sen. Reid, Harry [NV] (introduced 3/26/07). Cosponsors (2). Companion bill H.R.0089. To support this bill and/or contact your Senator refer to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9581151&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9581151&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

S.994: Disabled Veterans Fairness Act. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the deductible and change the method of determining the mileage reimbursement rate under the beneficiary travel program administered by the Secretary of Veteran Affairs, and

for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen. Tester, Jon [MT] (introduced 3/27/07). Cosponsors (1).

S.1005: Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization Act of 2007. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to improve programs for veterans, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen. Kerry, John F. [MA] (introduced 3/28/07). Cosponsors (4).

S. 1065: Heroes at Home Act of 2007. A bill to improve the diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injury in members and former members of the Armed Forces, to review and expand telehealth and telemental health programs of the DoD and the DVA. Sponsor: Sen. Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] (introduced 3/29/07). Cosponsors (2).

S.1084: A bill to provide housing assistance for very low-income veterans. Sponsor: Sen. Obama, Barack [IL] (introduced 4/10/07). Cosponsors (4).

S.1096: Veterans Housing Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide certain housing benefits to disabled members of the Armed Forces, to expand certain benefits for disabled veterans with severe burns, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen. Cornyn, John [TX] (introduced 4/12/07). Cosponsors (3).

S.1097: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who served honorably during the Cold War era. Sponsor: Sen. Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] (introduced 4/12/07). Cosponsors (1).

[Source: <http://thomas.loc.gov> 13 Apr 07 ++]

Administrative Items:

1. Replacement of burial flag to Legion Post 75.
2. Email addresses on website for 2nd VP, COS, MAA, Service officer.

Old Business:

1. VA Clinic in Bellingham, letter of support.

New Business:

1. Basic Weapons Familiarization Fest (Whatcom County)
2. Security of Proceedings and Expectations of Confidentiality.

New Business from the floor:

The next General Meeting is 10 May 2007 at 1930 hours at the British Columbia Regiment.



Vietnam Veterans In Canada

Minutes 521

**General Meeting held on 12 April 2007
British Columbia Regiment, Vancouver, B.C.**

VVIC 2nd Vice President Tom O'Malley chaired the meeting.

8 People were on the sign-in sheet and includes family member S. Carmack, Assoc member Brenda Montgomery and this evenings barkeep Miss Holwill.

Moment of Silence and the names of 51 U.S. and Canadian Military Casualties were read out. (45 U.S. casualties and 6 Canadian).

Attachments and Handouts:

- 1: Agenda #521 compiled by VVIC S-2 and includes General Meeting minutes #519.
- 2: Attachment: Insult to Injury- by Linda Robinson of the U.S. News and World Report.
- 3: Attachment: Seeds Planted in Vietnam Flourish in Activism on Iraq- by Brigid Schulte of the Washington Post.

On this date VVIC President Don Sinclair is in France at the Vimy Ridge Ceremonies.

VVIC 2nd Vice President Tom O'Malley's Remarks: Reports that his health is slowly improving and the swelling in his legs is down considerably. Notes that now in the US the Army National Guard is now allowed to use Regular Army bases.

VVIC Master at Arms Ken Payne's Remarks: Comments on the US Bronze Star Medal now being given out too freely. Dr. Bokan to be at the Bellingham Veteran Center on the 19th of April.

VVIC Finance Officer Larry Reid's Report- Ron Hewitt and Jim Pace's VVIC dues now added to our account. Total now in our account totals \$486.00. At our next VVIC General Meeting on the 26th of Apr., a new Financial Report will be tabled.

VVIC Intelligence Officer's Report (S-2)

- 1: Further reports in two weeks to the VVIC website expansion. An info sheet will be sent out to all veterans.
- 2: In the near future we hope to expand or "Expat Station" activities.
- 3: Southern Cross update, perhaps mid July.
- 4: Noted that certain things on our website do get a constant draw.

Administrative Items: Copy of DD-214 for Stan Demerchant of Prince George passed on to Ken Payne in hopes of getting further information.

New Business:

1: Service Officer Training; a class is scheduled on may 26th 2007 at the American Legion Post #43 in Sedro Woolley in Washington state. Level #1 will be taught in the morning with level #2 in the afternoon starting at 1300. This class is open to any Legion member however to attend this session notice of one's attendance must be given in advance. To attend please contact the 2nd District Service Officer Mr. Art Mitchell at (360)629-6824 to reserve a seat.

2: Ideas are needed and wanted in order to raise the VVIC profile campaign.

3: vawatchdog.org- the best source of Veteran information on the web. A casual inquiry is being made to have the VVIC logo added to this site.

On our sick list this week we have our brother and long time VVIC member Sid Tencarre. Sid recently had a little repair work done on his ticker and we understand that the repairs went well and Sid is well on his way to a full recovery. Sid and his lovely wife Dorothy are formerly from Burnaby but moved in 2004 to the Edmonton area to be closer to family. Best of luck Sid, all here do wish you a speedy recovery.

Our next VVIC General Meeting will be held on April the 26th at the BCR on Beatty St., in Vancouver and will be preceded by Post#75 American Legion meeting which will be starting sharp at 19:30.

Meeting Adjourned 2102.

Steve O'Grady,
Chief of Staff



WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY AND HE IS US

-- Veterans' Advocate Jim Strickland: "We veterans are our own worst enemy. We bitch and piss and moan about all the injustice but we refuse to participate."

Veterans' Advocate Jim Strickland provides regular columns for **VA Watchdog dot Org**.

I hadn't ventured into an American Legion Post since the mid 1980s. When I walked in to Post 184 in Thunderbolt, Georgia last night I remembered why. The first impression was that of stale beer and old cigarette smoke, a lot of old cigarette smoke. That was unusual since Georgia has joined the 21st century and banned smoking in most places where people congregate. Off to my right, at about 4:30 in the afternoon, the canteen was bustling with Veterans enjoying their refreshing adult beverages.

I stopped in the gent's room to find those little "Hanoi Jane" targets set in the urinals. They were cute as can be and representative of the overall sophistication and dignity of the rest of the evening.

John Barrow (D) is in his second term as Georgia's 12th District Congressman. I've had a pleasant exchange of letters with him regarding the Veterans Right To Representation Bill. I was nicely surprised last year when he listened to my concerns and signed on as a co-sponsor of that piece of legislation. He earned my vote then and now he works for me, my brothers and my sisters. He is currently touring his district, holding town hall style meetings for Veterans and I was there to listen to what my elected Congressional Representative had to say about Veterans Affairs.

The crowd was small, maybe 40 or a few more people. That there were so few was disappointing for a military community like Savannah.

We're host to the 3rd Infantry Division at Ft. Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield sits in the center of the city. Nearby Beaufort, S.C. is home to Parris Island where Marines have completed boot camp for decades. There are tens of thousands of Veterans and military retirees living here. I looked forward to a standing room only crowd since VA & DOD scandals are all we hear of in the news media today (second only to rumors that even more strange characters have claimed to have sired Anna Nicole's baby).

Surely, Veterans would turn out to grill our Congressman about the important issues that affect us all. Right? It's a shame that didn't happen.

Barrow introduced himself and to his credit, gave a brief talk and scored some quick points. He's obviously done his homework and seems sincere when he says that Veterans are "nickel and dimed to death" in their dealings with VA. His take on travel pay for Vets seeking health care was particularly interesting. More on that in a minute.

Impressive was his willingness to say, "I don't know..." when confronted with a comment that stumped him. A couple of Congressional Assistants were busy taking plenty of notes and I believed him when he vowed to get answers.

Our little soirée began on a positive note as the Q & A began. A Veteran rose up and spoke to the inconveniences of trying to get appointments with local primary care providers and the 2 hour plus travel time to our VA Medical Center in Charleston, S.C. The Vet was well spoken and made good points in favor of a plan to allow certain Vets with certain conditions to use selected local civilian facilities. He made a lot of sense. Representative Barrow commented positively and spoke to how he would look at such a program and addressed both up and down sides of the issue.

Excellent! I was feeling pretty good about using my time to participate in what was going to be an exchange of ideas, information, facts and opinions with a man who was in the position to affect all of our futures. This was going to be great stuff even with such a small turnout!

Soon after that a Vet began a long and rambling discourse of how he had been mistreated by a C & P physician who sent him to get an x-ray. He also seemed to believe that having to travel to Charleston for his exam was a personal affront and one of the worst things that ever happened to him. He was angry and emotional far beyond what I would have expected for this minor bit of travel and I never did understand why getting an x-ray became a major issue. All I got from this sermon was that he'd filed for a disability benefit, received a C & P exam and was waiting for adjudication...all pretty routine stuff.

He had no questions, he only wanted to tell us how bad he had it. Thus began the overall downhill course of the next 90 minutes.

I listened to shouted nonsensical diatribes of how this country is "ruinated" ("America is coming to an end! IT'S ALL OVER!!!") and about the vast conspiracy amongst the VA & DOD to intentionally lose records, screw certain people out of their benefits and then "blackball" them forever. There is "NO HOPE" for this country according to one of my brothers in arms...we are apparently all doomed because of his denial of benefits by VBA.

The "blackball" theory brought a lot of applause and "Oh yeah!" in a boisterous display of support. BTW, the doctors are all in on it too and if you've ever offended any one of them, the rest of them will blackball you too. They apparently all know each other and have clandestine double-secret meetings about us.

The really old guy was there. You know him. He's at all these meetings. It's the same guy each time, I'm sure. He just travels around with his ever patient, poor tired wife and by the time he's called upon to ask his question, he's forgotten what it is but he isn't about to give up his 15 minutes of fame. That stretches to at least 30 minutes and we

don't quite grasp any of what he's said. However, he's an Ancient Warrior and he's allowed to speak uninterrupted as long as he likes. Hey, at least he showed up.

I also learned that the St. Louis fire that destroyed all those records was no accident. It was a vast government conspiracy to steal money and benefits from Vets and all of those records are actually on microfiche probably buried in a secret mountain somewhere. Our Veteran brother who reported this knew that for a fact because he was once a government employee and has met Mr. Robert McNamara, a fine fine man.

Conspiracy theories drew the most applause, rounded out by plenty of hooting and hollering. Government incompetence and untrained and uncaring doctors and other officials were popular themes. There was the one fellow who stood and offered testament to how good his VHA care was and that he owed his very life to the Veterans Health Administration. He wasn't a crowd favorite and received some suspicious looks.

The meeting ended promptly at 7:00 PM. The group had thinned out considerably by then. I had noticed a few had headed to the canteen.

By then I'd reached a couple of conclusions.

We Veterans are our own worst enemy. We bitch and piss and moan about all the injustice but we refuse to participate. When we're given the rare privilege to interact one to one with a Washington D.C. lawmaker, a mover and shaker, we stay home in droves.

It seems that since John Barrow is young, relatively new to the job, enthusiastic, smart and an avowed supporter of Veterans and their causes, we Veterans make a decision, en masse, to ignore him. (There must be a vast Veterans conspiracy afoot.)

We don't offer suggestions on how to fix anything. A dozen people stood up last night to shout out personal issues of their dealings with the Veterans Benefits Administration. Each one seemed to think that neither Representative Barrow or any of the rest of us realized that the VBA is not a user friendly agency.

Presumably we were supposed to be shocked (SHOCKED!!!) when we were told that their claim had been waiting a year with no action. We listened to intimate details of negative experiences and poor judgments by BVA as if each one were a revelation. But there were no questions, no ideas to fix the system...only the repetitive drone of the problems we already know about.

Many of us refuse to learn how to use the health care system to our advantage. I've never had an issue with getting an appointment, never had to wait longer than I might have in a similar civilian facility, never been treated with anything but the utmost respect by physicians and I know exactly why. I use the system and I make it work for me.

There really weren't very many questions asked during our "Q & A" time so Barrow

wasn't afforded much opportunity to offer his answers. I had a momentary vision of him hauling in a psychiatrist's couch to each of these meetings and one by one we could lie down and spill our guts, pay our nickel for the session and depart happy. Thankfully, that moment passed rather quickly.

We Veterans won't learn the rules of the game. I would venture to say that most attendees last night had never read a Veterans Benefits guide. Veterans always seem surprised when they discover that there are strict rules to the game. This fascinates me when they act as if there are no rules at all on the civilian side of the coin.

When it finally becomes obvious to them that there are rules and regulations, they decide that the regs don't apply to them in their particular circumstance. When they're handed the required paperwork to complete, rather than just doing so they'll go off about how unfair it all is.

The thinking is always that if a task is inconvenient or doesn't suit the mood of the moment, it should be ignored. Then, when the benefits are denied or health care isn't scheduled correctly, it's the conspiracy that's to blame, never the Veteran. It's much easier and more satisfying to believe that your circumstances are always someone else's fault. Personal responsibility and individual accountability don't apply to us.

I've also concluded that we Vets may have a good friend in Representative John Barrow. I say "may" because he's as yet unproven. Like most Americans, I've lost faith in politicians and my profound distrust runs deep. He has a way to go to earn my respect and trust but he's off to a good start.

Although he's not a Veteran, both his mother and father served. He's a true Southerner with deep family ties to Georgia. I've forgiven him his education as a Harvard trained lawyer...we all have our faults.

Congressman Barrow has been paying close attention to details about our lives. He's introduced legislation (that recently made it through the House) to increase our travel mileage reimbursement rate from the current paltry 11¢ per mile to a whopping 48.5¢ per mile, the same that federal employees presently receive for their travel. He's optimistic that this will pass the Senate and become law.

While that may seem a small step in our favor, it's a step forward any way it's seen. It's a lot more than most other Representatives are doing for us and speaks loudly about his commitment to Veterans causes.

If you're a Veteran who doesn't vote, if you refuse to learn about your benefits or how to use the system, if you don't take time to voice your opinions clearly to Washington, if you aren't active to help other Veterans, if working with your elected leaders is too much trouble for you and if I've offended you, my task is complete.

If you're angry with me that I've pointed my finger directly at you for not attending

meetings with your Congressional Representatives and working to make change rather than just making noise...great!

If you're one of those, it's time for you to get away from the couch and make a difference. Making real change in our circumstances isn't going to be easy. Like teaching an elephant to dance, you're going to have to expend some blood, sweat and tears. You should also try to act smarter than the elephant.

As a Veteran, you have an obligation, a deep and forever lasting responsibility to do more than sit around on your ass moaning about how bad you have it.

There are tens of thousands and more new Veterans joining our ranks right now, today and into the future. They are as frightened and injured and battle weary and confused as any one of us ever was. If you aren't willing to rise up high on your hind legs to help these young Veterans while you help yourself, then step aside, stand quietly at ease and let us get by.

Lead, follow or get the hell out of our way.

Read more about Representative John Barrow here

<http://savannahnow.com/node/258662> and here <http://barrow.house.gov>

Larry Scott --

Policy Shift Cuts Military Disability Retirements

Today's Disability Retirement Squeeze Began Years Ago

Tom Philpott | April 20, 2007

Wary of rising disability retirement costs, the Department of Defense under then-secretary Caspar Weinberger quietly sought and received an internal legal opinion that, to this day, tamps down the number of wounded or ill service members awarded military disability retirement.

The March 25, 1985, memo from the DoD office of general counsel, which only recently came to light, gave Defense health officials a green light to restrain military disability ratings without a change in law.

They did so by directing the services to stop setting disability awards based on all service-connected ailments found during medical evaluations, and start basing them only on conditions that leave members unfit for duty.

The policy change took effect in February 1986 with a revised DoD instruction to services. Its impact can be profound on individuals, particularly in wartime. The Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission is studying the effects and its chairman this month sounded an alarm.

The advantages of receiving disability retirement, which requires a 30-percent or higher disability rating, are great for members with less than 20 years in service. Beside an immediate annuity, disabled retirees and their families gain lifetime access to [TRICARE](#), to base shopping privileges and to a host of other perks tied to "retiree" status.

Veterans with disability ratings of 0 to 20 percent receive only a lump-sum severance payment upon discharge. They can apply to the Department of Veterans Affairs for a higher rating and will often get one, which can mean monthly [VA compensation](#) and improved access to medical care. But VA care isn't available to families and VA doesn't offer base-like support services.

The experience of Army National Guard Spc. Kenneth Parham, 47, shows the impact of the 1986 policy shift on disability awards today. In April 2005, Parham was in the gun turret of a Humvee when it drove over a bomb buried beneath a road outside Kirkuk, Iraq. The explosion tossed his Humvee high into the air. It was Parham's third contact with an improvised explosive device in five months. This one collapsed a lung, fractured ribs and damaged discs in his neck and back.

Today, the once vigorous Parham, who as a civilian drove a moving van and lifted up to 5000 pounds of household goods a day, needs a motorized cart to shop in stores. He has chronic neck and back pain. He must walk slowly, sit frequently and can't lift more than 20 pounds. Because he can't wear a helmet or his carry a rucksack, the Army has found the former Marine unfit for duty. It plans to discharge Parham with a 20-percent rating and about \$40,000 in severance. Next week, he will travel from his home in Lewiston, Idaho, to Fort Lewis, Wash., to appeal that rating decision before a physical evaluation board.

His wife, Cheryl, said a 20-percent rating is so unjust, given how her husband's quality of life and job prospects have plummeted.

"How's he going to support himself the rest of his life," she asked. Service-connected ailments that the Army ignored in setting the 20-percent figure, she said, include [post-traumatic stress disorder](#) with

nightmares, a weakened leg, the sleep apnea, high-blood pressure and arthritis.

Injured war veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan are becoming more aware of the critical 30-percent threshold. Some credit for that goes to retired Army Lt. Gen. James Terry Scott, chairman of the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission. Scott spotlighted the value of 30 percent ratings, and ruffled feathers of DoD officials, before a [Senate hearing last week](#) when he said the higher cost of disability retirement, versus severance pay, gives DoD "a strong incentive" to award 20 percent or less.

No service does it more often than the Army, according to fresh service data released by Scott. From 2000 through 2006, the Army gave ratings of 30 percent or higher to only 13 percent of soldiers deemed disabled. By comparison, the Navy awarded disability retirement to 36 percent of its disabled members. The Air Force number was 27 and the Marines Corps 18 percent.

More troubling, Scott suggested, was data showing Army awarded a 0 percent rating to 13,646 soldiers that it found unfit for duty. The Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force had assigned 0 ratings only to 400 apiece.

Scott said he wasn't speaking for the commission which won't finish its report until fall. But he urged Defense officials to allow the services to begin setting disability awards based on all service-connected disabilities found.

To ease rating disparities across the services, and between DoD and VA, he recommended that the VA alone conduct all medical evaluations and set all disability ratings before members leave service.

Col. Andy Buchanan, deputy commander of the Army's Physical Disability Agency (PDA), said he would quibble with some of the commission's data but clearly there are troubling disparities in ratings between services that can't be explained by "mission differences" alone.

"I know where we're different right now, but I have to find out why," said Buchanan. He has recommended an independent audit of service disability awards to identify the factors creating the service disparities. But Buchanan, in our phone interview, denied that the PDA or individual evaluation boards operate with any concern for how rating decisions impact Army budgets.

The Army does not follow VA criteria to rate every condition. For example, the VA rates some sleep apnea as 50 disabling, higher than the loss of a limb, Buchanan said. Also, unlike the VA, the Army does not presume that every medical condition that surfaces while in service is "service-connected."

"We're pretty rigid – and that may be why we're perceived as stingy -- about following the rules, looking for evidence," Buchanan said.

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