

SCOMM

115:8

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Chair:
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Member:
JUDICIARY
COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS
LABOR AND COMMERCE



REPRESENTATIVE LISA MURKOWSKI

Government Hill • Elmendorf • East Anchorage

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May 4, 1999

Mr. Fred Ruppert
2352 Broadmoor Ave
Fairbanks, AK

Dear Mr. Ruppert:

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee meeting of April 27. Your testimony was important to the committee and I found the meeting to be informative and heart-felt.

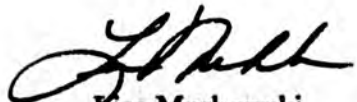
Many participants expressed concern about the proposed elimination of municipal property tax exemption for disabled veterans. House Bill 200 and Senate Bill 151 make the property tax exemption program for seniors and disabled veterans a permissive, rather than mandatory, program for local governments.

It was important for the committee to understand the criteria that is used to rate veteran's disabilities and learn how truly few Alaskan veterans qualify for the disabled veteran property tax exemption. I have contacted the Department of Revenue requesting historical and current data relative to the number of disabled veterans that have requested a property tax exemption.

It is my intent to see that the property tax exemptions for qualifying disabled Alaskan veterans are continued. I understand that both the House and Senate versions of the pending legislation are being revised to do just that. It is evident that your voices and concerns have been heard.

Thank you again for your participation in our committee meeting. Please do not hesitate to call on me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,


Lisa Murkowski
State Representative

*Thank you
for making the
trip down from
Fairbanks. Your
participation was
appreciated.*

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

REPRESENTATIVE LISA MURKOWSKI, CHAIR

MEETING AGENDA

April 27, 1999

5 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. OVERVIEW

A. Veterans Advisory Council

1. Testimony

a. Ret. Lt. Colonel JH (Pat) Carouthers

b. Cliff Dean ~~State~~ Dept Vet Affairs - SE region

B. Disabled American Veterans

1. Testimony

a. Helen Barkley, Senior Vice Commander

b. Fred Rupert, Legislative officer / Judge Advocate

c. Allan Walker

C. ~~American Legion~~ VFW

6,500 members

2. Testimony

a. Gerald Dorsher

b. Gary Kurpias, State Service Officer, ONLINE

c. John Minnick - ONLINE

D. ~~Veterans of Foreign Wars~~ AMERICAN LEGION.

3. Testimony

a. Gary Berry, Department Vice Commander

E. Office of Veteran Affairs

4. ONLINE

a. Chuck McLeod

III. New Business

IV. Adjournment

State 35% doesn't have to be first priority, it can be a contribution (donate property)

State home grant must be submitted. But, move is toward assisted living rather than state home.

3 yrs existence
19 on board

to visit

State Home money is available to complete the study. \$2 total to put toward study. RFP next month. (State input \$40k, vet groups \$12)

F



Background Information on the Disabled American Veterans

Treaties are signed and the battles of nations end, but the personal battles of those disabled in war only begin when the guns fall silent. These men and women must struggle to regain health, reshape lives shattered by disability, learn new trades or professions, and rejoin the civilian world. At each step, they need help to help themselves. For three quarters of a century now, that aid has come from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), a nonprofit organization of more than one million veterans disabled during time of war or armed conflict.

how many in Ah

Formed in 1920 and chartered by Congress in 1932, the million-member DAV is the official voice of America's service-connected disabled veterans -- a strong, insistent voice that represents all of America's 2.1 million disabled veterans, their families and survivors. Its nationwide network of services -- free of charge to all veterans and members of their families -- is totally supported by membership dues and contributions from the American public. Not a government agency, the DAV's national organization receives no government funds.

DAV THE DAV'S MEMBERSHIP

DAV THE DAV'S HISTORY

DAV THE DAV'S NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM

DAV THE DAV'S NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

DAV THE DAV'S NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

DAV THE DAV'S NATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROGRAM

DAV THE DAV'S STRUCTURE



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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS



**Building better lives for
America's disabled veterans.**



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DAV Service Bulletin for February 1999

FEBRUARY 1999

VA PHYSICIAN OPINIONS ON BENEFIT CLAIMS

VHA DIRECTIVE 98-052

Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive 98-052, Modification of Restrictions on VA Physicians to Provide Opinions for VA Patients is attached for your use. This circular removes the restrictions on VA healthcare providers from furnishing opinions in support of claims for their veteran patients. VA is the primary care provider for many veterans.

This new policy should help veterans obtain necessary medical evidence/opinions often needed to support their claims for disability benefits from their primary care physicians.

ADDITIONAL DISABILITY OR DEATH DUE TO

HOSPITAL CARE, MEDICAL OR SURGICAL TREATMENT,

EXAMINATION, OR TRAINING AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

In a document published on August 24, 1998, in the **Federal Register**, the VA amended its adjudication regulations concerning awards of compensation or dependency and indemnity compensation for additional disability or death due to VA hospital care, medical or surgical treatment, examination, or training and rehabilitation services.

The amendments were established without prior notice and comment. As the result of appellate challenges by the DAV and PVA on the failure to provide prior notice or comment, the VA has rescinded the final rule of August 24, 1998. The rescinded rule will be considered to have no force or effect in any claim decided on or after August 24, 1998.

The VA intends to propose provisions similar to those in the rescinded rule in a document to be published in the Proposed Rules section of a future issue of the **Federal Register**. This will provide interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments.

POVERTY THRESHOLD

The VA published a final rule amending 38 C.F.R. 4.16(a) in the **Federal Register** of August 3, 1990, 55 FR 31579. The amendment provided that marginal employment generally shall be deemed to exist when a veterans earned annual income does not exceed the amount established by the Bureau of Census as the poverty threshold for one person. The provisions of 38 C.F.R. 4.16(a) use the poverty threshold as a standard in defining marginal employment when considering total disability ratings for compensation based on unemployability of an individual.

The Bureau of the Census recently published the weighted average poverty thresholds for 1997. The threshold for one person is \$8,183.00.

VBA NATIONAL TELEPHONE STRATEGY

VBA has developed a new national telephone strategy to improve telephone access for its customers. The primary objective of the strategy is to install a national phone system that will route callers to the employee who has the most knowledge about the designated subject, and can access information needed to provide a comprehensive response. A second objective is to reduce the percentage of blocked calls (busy signals) that veterans encounter in trying to reach a VBA office. A third objective is to provide access to case specific and general information on an automated basis, 24 hours a day. VBAs national telephone strategy is designed to ensure that a veteran who wants to file a claim or check on the status of his or her claim is routed directly to the appropriate case management team.

A fact sheet detailing the new national telephone strategy is attached for your review. Regional Office Directors have also been advised to provide a copy of the fact sheet to all veteran service organizations.

BENEFIT PAYMENTS AND YEAR 2000 (Y2K) ISSUES

VBA is confident that all benefit payments will continue uninterrupted in the new century. To make certain of this, VBA is working closely with its partners who help produce and deliver Compensation and Pension, Vocational Rehabilitation, Insurance and Educational benefit payments.

Many of VAs payment applications are Y2K compliant now. The VA will have tested its ability to produce benefit payments that are Y2K compliant before the end of 1998. VBA is examining all regular, recurring payments to determine if they can be paid in late December 1999 rather than January 2000. This will allow an additional month for detection and solution of any problems which may occur when the year 2000 begins. Decisions have been made for payment of the following benefits on the dates noted:

Benefit Name - Date of Payment

Compensation and Pension - December 30, 1999

Restored Entitlement Program for Survivors (REPS) - December 30, 1999

Spina Bifida Payments - December 30, 1999

Chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation - December 30, 1999

Chapter 32, Veterans Educational Assistance Program - December 30, 1999

Chapter 32, Section 901 - December 30, 1999

Chapter 35, Dependents Educational Assistance - December 30, 1999

Chapter 1606, Montgomery Bill, Selected Reserve - December 30, 1999

Most Insurance payments already occur in the last rather than first week of the month. For Chapter 30, Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty, the monthly certification is mailed at the end of the month, and upon receipt of the certification from the veteran, the check is released. There are no plans to change this payment process for Chapter 30. However, VBA is developing a contingency plan in the event there is a problem with the certification processing in early January 2000 so that checks would not be delayed.

VBA is also examining other benefit payment systems to determine if the pay date will be moved up from January 2000. Further information on other benefits will be made available as these decisions are made.

SGLI/VGLI ACCELERATED DEATH BENEFIT ENACTED

Holders of Servicemens Group Life Insurance (SGLI) or Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) who have been diagnosed as terminally ill will be able to receive up to half the face value of the SGLI/VGLI policy. The President signed the new authority into law on Veterans Day (November 11) as part of the Veterans Programs Enhancement Act. Because the legislation specified that it would take effect 90 days after enactment, the implementation date will be February 8, 1999.

To qualify for the accelerated benefit, the policyholder must be diagnosed as having a life expectancy of less than 12 months. Policyholders so diagnosed may elect to receive the payment as a lump sum. Increments of less than 50 percent will also be available. The individuals subsequent SGLI/VGLI premiums will be reduced to reflect the remaining face value of the policy. The election may not be made more than once, and it will be irrevocable.

Under the new law, the accelerated death benefit payment "shall not be considered income or resources for purposes of determining eligibility for or the amount of benefits under any Federal or federally-assisted program or for any other purpose.

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS RULES OF PRACTICE

REVISION OF DECISIONS ON GROUNDS OF

CLEAR AND UNMISTAKABLE ERROR

Provided as an attachment to this Service Bulletin is the Final Rule for Board of Veterans Appeals, Rules of Practice - Revision of Decisions on Grounds of Clear and Unmistakable Error. This document amends the Rules of Practice to implement the provisions of section 1(b) of Pub. L. No. 105-111, which permits challenges to Board decisions on the grounds of clear and unmistakable error (CUE).

MILITARY AFFAIRS

The Discharge Review Program was established to review discharges of former members of the various departments of military service. The purpose of the review is to determine whether a particular discharge is proper, just, and equitable under reasonable standards of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and discipline. If not, what change, correction, or modification should be made. Requests for review must be filed with the Discharge Review Board within 15 years of the discharge date. Otherwise, the only recourse is to petition the Board for correction of Military Records for relief. There are two types of review: A Personal Appearance Hearing Review (HR) and a Documentary Record Review (DR). Former members are entitled to a maximum of two reviews within 15 years of the discharge date, provided the first review is a DR. DD Form 293 must be used in requesting a discharge review. It normally takes approximately six months from acceptance of an application to completion of a DR, provided there are no delays in procurement of pertinent records, and 8-12 months for completion of an HR. The applicant and/or any designated representative will be mailed an Acceptance Letter (a letter notifying the applicant that his case has been accepted for review and assigning a docket number to the case) and a Notice of Decision of the Board after completion of review. Failure to keep the Board informed of a current address can result in a loss of rights and/or case closure.

The Discharge Review Board may review any discharge, except one resulting from a sentence by a general court-martial or due to physical disability, or if the application is filed more than 15 years from the date of discharge.

The Board for Correction of Military Records (BCMR) was established by the authority of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and is codified in 10 U.S.C. 1552, which provides that the Secretary of a military department may correct any military record of that department when considered necessary to correct an error or remove an injustice. No correction will be made unless the claimant files an application and that application is filed within three years after discovery of the error or injustice. However, the Board may excuse a failure to file within three years of discovery if it finds it to be in the interest of justice. The application must be filed on DD Form 149. Further, no application will be considered until the applicant has exhausted all effective administrative remedies afforded by existing law and regulations, and such legal remedies as the Board determines are practical and appropriately available to the applicant, i.e., Discharge Review Board, etc.

The BCMR is authorized to take final action on behalf of the Secretary of the particular military department if it falls into one of the following categories:

- Restoration of leave unduly charged to an applicant.
- Promotion retroactively of an applicant.
- Adjustment of enlistment grades.
- Awards of basic allowance.
- Authorizing participation, declination, or modification of an election under the Retired Servicemans Family Protection Plan and or Survivor Benefits Plan.
- Award of available reenlistment bonus, proficiency pay, or enlistment bonus.
- Placement in a temporary or permanent disability retired status, including appropriate percentage of disability, of an applicant.
- Award of reserve participation, credit in computation of years of satisfactory service.
- Change of home of record.

The original and one copy of applications should be forwarded to:

Gregory N. Jones, Supervisor,

National Service Officer

Disabled American Veterans

VARO - Room 1117

1120 Vermont Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20421

Department Service Officers and Hospital Service Coordinators are encouraged to forward applications to the Washington, DC National Service Office.

VA OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL PRECEDENT DECISION

Following is the holding of a VA Office of General Counsel Precedent Decision which provides information on proper application of regulations specific to effective dates for increased ratings. A copy of the complete opinion is attached for your review.

Effective Dates of Increased Rating Claim - 38 C.F.R. 3.400(o)(2) and (q)(1)(i)

VAOPGCPREC 12-98

HELD:

a. Pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 5110(b)(2) and 38 C.F.R. 3.400(o)(2), where a veteran files a claim for increased rating alleging an increase in disability within one year prior to receipt by VA of the claim and a VA examination or other medical evidence subsequently substantiates an increase in disability, the effective date of the award of increased disability compensation is the date as of which it is ascertainable based on all of the evidence of record that the increase occurred.

b.(1) Section 38 C.F.R. 3.400(q)(1)(i) of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, is applicable to a claim for increased rating based upon new and material evidence submitted prior to expiration of the appeal period or before an appellate decision is issued.

b.(2) When new and material evidence is submitted within the appeal period prior to an appellate decision with regard to a claim for increased rating, the effective date for any increased rating is the date on which the facts establish the increase in disability occurred or the date of the original claim for increase, whichever is later. However, if the facts establish that a veterans disability increased within one year prior to receipt by VA of the original claim for increased rating, the effective date of the increase is the date on which the increase in disability occurred.

U. S. COURT OF VETERANS APPEALS

Pursuant to Public Law 105-368, the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals will be known as the U. S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims effective March 1, 1999

U. S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT

AND U. S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims have developed a body of case law specific to entitlement to veterans benefits. Following are case reviews in which we have highlighted the most recent Court decisions specific to these issues. This information is being brought to the attention of all National Service Officers in order to alert you to the need to review all Veterans Benefits Administration rating board decisions and Board of Veterans Appeals decisions to ensure that Department of Veterans Affairs rating boards are following the precedent decisions of the Courts.

Timeliness of

Motion for Reconsideration

Linville v. West, 98-7063

U. S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

The issue presented to the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit was the date when the veteran filed his Motion for Reconsideration with the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA). In *Linville*, the veterans Motion for Reconsideration was postmarked by the United States Postal Service well within the 120-day judicial appeal period, but was not date stamped by the VA until beyond the 120 day time period for filing an appeal. The CVA deemed his motion filed on the date of the VA "stamp" and therefore, untimely. Mr. Linville asked the Federal Circuit to apply 38 C.F.R. 20.305 and deem his Motion for Reconsideration filed pursuant to its postmark date.

In a decision of January 26, 1999, the Federal Circuit applied 38 C.F.R. 20.305 and determined that a motion for reconsideration is deemed filed pursuant to its postmark date.

Entitlement to Increased Ratings for Partial Period

Fenderson v. West, 96-947, Jan. 20, 1999.

U. S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

The veteran had a period of service from February 1984 to April 1988. In May 1989, the regional office granted service connection for migraine headaches, rated at 10% from the day following discharge from service. A VA examination from May 1990 included an assessment of migraine headaches, "usually associated with severe vomiting"; the examiner noted that headaches occurred once or twice a month, lasted two or three days, and rendered the veteran "completely prostrated" at home. VA progress notes dated in October 1992 included an assessment of migraine headaches "in remission". The Board in a decision of April 1996 denied entitlement to a rating in excess of 10%.

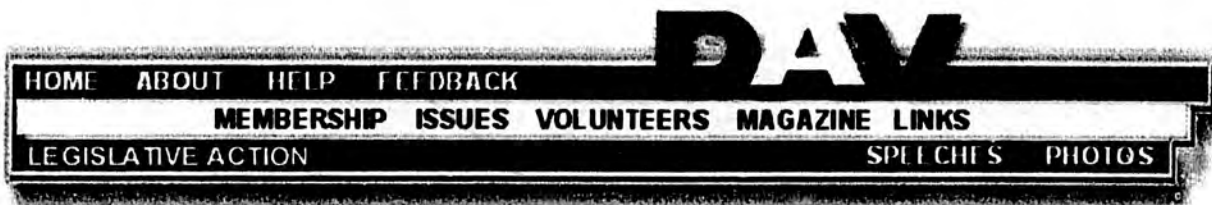
Before the Court, the Appellant argued that evidence from the time of the original claim showed a greater frequency of migraine headaches, and thus warranted a higher disability rating for at least part of the period. The Secretary cited *Francisco v. Brown*, 7 Vet.App. 55, 58 (1994), in which the Court, citing *Brammer v. Derwinski*, 3 Vet.App. 223, 225 (1992), held: "Where entitlement to compensation has already been established and an increase in the disability rating is at issue, the present level of disability is of primary importance."

The Court noted that the *Francisco* rule is not applicable to the assignment of an initial rating for a disability following an initial award of service connection for that disability. At the time of an initial rating "separate ratings can be assigned for separate periods of time based on facts found", a practice known as "staged" ratings. The Court noted that there was ample evidence from the time of the Appellants original application for benefits of symptomatology which would permit a 30% rating for at least the time period between June 1988 and May 1990. The Court held that the Board clearly erred by determining that the criteria for a disability evaluation greater than 10% were not met and vacated the Board decision on this issue and remanded for consideration of a staged rating consistent with this issue.

KENNETH D. WOLFE

National Service Director

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

- FOR GOD AND COUNTRY -



The American Legion Post 1870
Downtown Athletic Club
19 West Street
New York, NY, 10004

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Post History:

Since 1948, Post 1870 has enjoyed an unique history. Located in the Downtown Athletic Club (DAC) in New York City's Financial District and close to New York's Harbors. The DAC is the home of the famous Heisman Memorial Trophy, which is presented annually to the top Collegiate Football Player in the country. Oil paintings of each winner are proudly displayed throughout the DAC.

Post 1870 sponsors many events and fundraisers for our veterans and their families. These include pizza parties at a VA Hospital, financial gifts to Veteran events and families, art auctions and New York's U.S. Navy Fleet Week, to name a few.

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info@americanlegion.com

Contact the webmaster@siteitrends.com with your comments.
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Welcome To The VFW Official 100th Anniversary Website.

[VFW 100th Anniversary Website](#)

[VFW Main Website](#)

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History

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States traces its roots back to 1899. That year, Veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. In Columbus, Ohio, they founded the American Veterans of Foreign Service. In Denver Colo., they organized the Colorado Society, Army of the Philippines.

In 1901, Philippine Veterans in Altoona and Pittsburgh, Penn., started the Philippine War Veterans. The following year, Philadelphia, Penn., became the home of the American Veterans of the Philippine and China Wars. In 1905, these three groups merged with the American Veterans of Foreign Service.

In 1913, the American Veterans of Foreign Service was amalgamated with the Colorado Society, Army of the Philippines and became the Army of the Philippine-Cuba and Puerto Rico, then changed their name to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

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Legislative Goals

- Maintenance of VA's historic mission to veterans, dependents and survivors.
- A sufficient VA budget providing adequate veterans health care.
- Complete VA eligibility reform.
- Exclusive appropriation subcommittees for VA in both the House and Senate.
- Cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for VA beneficiaries and military retirees equal to the consumer price index.
- Concurrent payment of military retirement pay and full disability compensation.
- Veterans preference in public and private employment.
- Stronger compliance with veterans employment rules under federal contracts.
- Full funding to the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP).
- Proper implementation of the Federal Unemployment Tax Account (FUTA) Trust Fund.
- Vocational training and retraining.
- An open national cemetery in every state.

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National Programs

— Americanism —

VFW's Americanism Program provides materials and information, sponsors events and promotes activities designed to stimulate interest in America's history and traditions, institutions of civic responsibility and patriotism.

— Community Activities —

A key element of VFW membership involvement is community service. VFW's Community Service Program supports these activities with materials and guidelines designed to encourage service in the local community benefitting education, the environment, health services, civic pride and communitiy betterment.

— Voice Of Democracy —

A national audio essay competition, the Voice of Democracy program annually provides more than \$2.7 million in college scholarships and incentives to 10th, 11th and 12th graders across the nation. Competitors begin at their local VFW Post each fall and may progress to their state competition. State first place winners spend a week in Washington, D.C. during the national finals competition.

— Youth Activities —

Working with organizations like the Boy Scouts of America, National Rifle Association, Reserve Officer Training Corps, Junior and Special Olympics, VFW Posts and their Ladies Auxiliaries provide leaders and sponsorship for a variety of youth activities. VFW's Youth Activities Program promotes these efforts. Child identification and missing children booklets will enable a Post to fingerprint and identify children in the community. An annual national youth essay contest is now in place that gives 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students the opportunity to write a patriotic essay and compete for worthwhile awards and prizes.

— Safety —

VFW's Safety Program encourages VFW Posts and Auxiliaries to conduct programs in home, auto and bicycle safety, as well as programs dealing with drug awareness and substance abuse. Annual awards are available to recognize public servants such as firefighters, police officers and emergency medical personnel. Life Saving awards recognizing the heroism and/or safety achievements of individuals in the community are also available.

— Buddy Poppy —

Since 1922, the Buddy Poppy has symbolized aid for needy veterans and their families. Through this VFW program, more than 17 million Poppies are sold each year, generating funds for the national veterans service program, relief for local veterans and their families and the VFW National Home.
<http://www.vfwnationalhome.org>

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House SPECIAL CMTE MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS Minutes



HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
January 28, 1993
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rep. Richard Foster, Co-Chair
Rep. Eldon Mulder, Co-Chair
Rep. Mike Navarre
Rep. Ed Willis
Rep. Pete Kott

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Informal meeting with the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Committee organizational meeting.

WITNESS REGISTER

LARRY PATCH, Commander
Veterans of Foreign Wars
HC32, Box 6518
Wasilla, AK 99654
Phone: (907)257-4746
Position Statement: Addressed the committee

SGT. GEORGE PAUL
Alaska National Guard
P.O. Box 22515
Juneau, AK 99802
Phone: (907)463-4562
Position Statement: Addressed the committee

GARY KURPIUS
State Service Officer
Veterans of Foreign Wars
VA Regional Office
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Phone: (907)276-8213
Position Statement: Observer

RICHARD CORNELIUS
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Position Statement: Observer
LEE LEWIS
Veterans of Foreign Wars

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Juneau, AK 99802
Phone: (907)586-1950
Position Statement: Observer

GERALD DORSHER
Veterans of Foreign Wars
P.O. Box 240003
Douglas, AK 99824
Phone: (907)364-3346
Position Statement: Observer

ACTION NARRATIVE

TAPE 93-1, SIDE A
Number 000

CO-CHAIR RICHARD FOSTER called the first meeting of the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee to order at 10:02 a.m. All members were present.

CHAIR FOSTER announced the purpose of the meeting and introduced the Veterans of Foreign Wars delegation. Members of the delegation in attendance were:

Larry Patch, Commander, Juneau
Gary Kurpius, Service Officer, Anchorage
Richard Cornelius, Ketchikan
Lee Lewis, Juneau
Gerald Dorscher, Juneau
Sgt. George Paul, National Guard, Juneau.

Number 131

COMMANDER LARRY PATCH stated that General Cox was looking at cutting the burial program from the budget and putting these funds into services offices. He said the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) supports the General's proposal.

COMMANDER PATCH listed the VFW's proposal:

- a. Support the proposal of General Cox to cut the death gratuity.
- b. Support the flag desecration bill introduced by the Senate.
- c. Veterans Home. A need for a full skilled nursing home.

Number 372

REP. MULDER introduced SGT. GEORGE PAUL from the NATIONAL GUARD in Juneau.

SGT. PAUL addressed the committee by thanking them for funding an appropriation for renovation of the armory located in Juneau. An invitation was extended to the committee to view the new gym floor at the armory. Sgt. Paul stated the gym is utilized by the community of Juneau for various functions, such as youth and adult basketball, fundraising bazaars by various organizations, U. S. Coast Guard functions, and this last year it housed the Boy Scouts visiting for a week from another state.

SGT. PAUL mentioned the policy for using the facility. He said there is a fee, set by the Anchorage office, if there is no volunteer from the Guards to be responsible during a function; and if there is a Guard or active military personnel, then there is no fee.

SGT. PAUL announced that February 8 was the date for their Expo, which was a show of the equipment used by the National Guard.

Number 419

COMMANDER PATCH stated that there are no requirements for the various services they provide, and there is no need to be a member of the VFW because they provide services to all eligible veterans and family members.

Number 537

COMMANDER PATCH stated he discussed with the staff of Senator Murkowski the idea of obtaining the Best Western to be turned over to the state. He said they were looking at having the nursing home located in Mat-Su away from the Anchorage area.

Number 653

CHAIRMAN FOSTER announced there would be an informal meeting of the committee at the armory on February 8 to coincide with the Expo. He asked Sgt. Paul to coordinate the meeting with Liz Walters, a member of Chairman Foster's staff.

Number 754

CHAIRMAN FOSTER announced that the following bills had been assigned to the committee: HB 59, HB 75 and HJR 18.

Number 767

CHAIRMAN FOSTER informed the committee that General Cox's mother was terminally ill and would not be available for a meeting until February 10 or later. Chairman Foster asked that a card signed by the committee be sent to General Cox.

Number 769

CHAIRMAN FOSTER announced the next regular meeting, which was scheduled for March 8. He said Lt. General Ralston would address the committee. He asked that the Governor's conference be reserved and that an invitation be extended to all the legislators.

Number 780

REP. WILLIS asked that the committee sponsor the flag bill.

CHAIRMAN FOSTER asked that Bill Stolz, staff person for Rep. Willis, and Liz Walters, staff person for Rep. Foster, draft the bill for the committee to review and input.

Number 806

CHAIRMAN FOSTER adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.