



In Service to America®

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

Homeless Veterans Committee

M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

Crowne Plaza Hotel

8 October 2009

5:00 – 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APRIL 09 MINUTES WERE APPROVED VIA INTERNET
3. Presentation by Rebuilding Together and the help they provide to veterans with special needs and their willingness to help with homeless programs as well. A link will be added to our web page with their information.

Ric Davidge provided the committee with Alaska's plan to ending homelessness in five years. It is short and concise and the committee will look at assisting Alaska in any way possible in implementing their plan.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

- A. VA homeless advisory committee – REAPPOINTED FOR TWO MORE YEARS
- B. Attended the NCHV Annual Conference in May.
- C. Provided written testimony last week to the House Veteran's Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Health relative to:
 - a. H.R. 2504 Increased Authorization for Grant and Per Diem Program Referred to: House Committee on Veterans' Affairs which provides for increased authorization from \$150 million to \$200 million to be appropriated for comprehensive service programs (Grant and Per Diem Program) for homeless veterans.
 - b. H.R. 2559 Help Our Homeless Veterans Act Referred to: House Committee on Veterans' Affairs which directs the VA Secretary to carry out a national media campaign directed at homeless veterans and veterans at risk of becoming homeless.
 - c. H.R. 2735 Referred to: House Committee on Veterans' Affairs which makes certain improvements to the comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans, which include: creating a separate grant fund for service center personnel, changing the rate of payment from a per diem daily cost of care to an annual cost of providing services, allowing VA to increase the rate of payment to reflect the cost of providing services, and allowing providers to use per diem funds to match other funding sources.
 - d. H.R. 3073 Referred to: House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. This bill directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to provide assistance to veterans who are at risk of becoming homeless. The program will provide funding for payments to an eligible veteran's landlord, mortgage company, or utility company for amounts of rent, mortgage, or utility bills that are in arrears, as well as security deposits for rental properties.
 - e. Two draft bills concerning per diem payments and reform and expansion of HUD-VASH
- D. Went on The Hill today to meet with Senate staffers on the following bills and provided letters of support for each:
 - a. S. 252, Veterans Health Care Authorization Act of 2009 Referred to: Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs; Action: Reported out of Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, May 21, 2009. Would establish a pilot program on financial support for entities that coordinate the provision of supportive services to formerly homeless veterans residing on certain military property.
 - b. S. 1160, Homes for Heroes Act of 2009 Referred to: Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Would establish a supportive housing program for very low-income veterans, with housing assistance financed by HUD and supportive services financed by VA.
 - c. S. 1237, Homeless Women Veterans and Homeless Veterans with Children Act of 2009 Referred to: Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs; Would expand the Grant and Per Diem program for homeless veterans with special needs by including male homeless veterans with minor

- dependents as a new category. Would create a program to provide employment assistance to women veterans and women veterans with dependent children. Authorization is \$10 million.
- d. S. 1366 Referred to: Senate Committee on Finance; Would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate a portion of their income tax payment to provide assistance to homeless veterans.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Motion will come from the committee to place the following individuals on the Homeless Veterans Committee at no additional cost to National:

Marsha Four, Vice Chair

Ric Davidge

Jerry Yamamoto

Pat Bessigano

Tom Berger

TP Hubert

Frances Rowan

Suzanne Blohm-Weber

Nancy Switzer

Sharon Hodge – VVA Staff Support

John Driscoll – Special Advisor

MEETING ADJOURNED