

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2007

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) was held on Wednesday, May 16, 2007, at the American Legion Department of Virginia Headquarters Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue in Richmond.

Members Present

Mason Botts, *Air Force Association*; Robert Gray, *American Ex-POWs*; Connie O'Neill, *American Legion*; Sam Wilder, *AUSA*; John Dozier, *Korean War Veterans Association*; Richard Rinaldo, *Legion of Valor*; Norman Jasper, *Military Order of the Purple Heart*; David Ellis, *NAUS*; Richard Schneider, *Non-Commissioned Officers Association*; John T. Jackson, *Paralyzed Veterans of America*; Thomas Stephen, *Reserve Officers Association*; Frank Sherman, *Roanoke Valley Veterans Council*; Kenneth Smith, *Virginia National Guard Association*; Daniel Boyer, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*; Michala Smith, *WAVES*; Jenny Holbert, *Women Marine Association*; Paul Galanti, *Chairman, Board of Veterans Services*; and Vince Burgess, *Commissioner of Veterans Services*.

Members Absent

Jim Aucoin, *AMVETS*; Frank Wickersham, *MOAA*; R. Goodwin Sacra, *Navy Seabee Veterans of America*; Henry Doctor, *Homeless and Disabled Veterans*; Thomas Snee, *Fleet Reserve Association*; Daniel Miller, *Disabled American Veterans*; and John C. Bonnell, Jr., *Marine Corps League*;

Alternates Present

John Cooper, *AMVETS*; Russell Fenn, *Marine Corps League*; Wes Edwards, *MOAA*; and David Martinez, *Disabled American Veterans*.

Other Alternates Present

Don Kaiserman, *AUSA*; Jack Hilgers, *Legion of Valor*; Kim DeShano, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

Bernie Henderson, *Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth*; Steven Combs, *Virginia Department of Veterans Services*; Anne Atkins, *Virginia Department of Veterans Services*; David Harker, *Virginia Department of Veterans Services*; Don Ferguson, *Office of the Attorney General*; Eutopia Rogers, *Virginia Department of Veterans Services*.

Others Present

Colonel Marie Mahoney J-1, *Virginia National Guard*, Captain William Nash, MC, USN, *United States Marine Corps*; Dennis Stone, *TecAccess*; Lisa Meunier, *Captain, USN (Ret)*.

Agenda Packet

Meeting Agenda; Draft Minutes of the March 14, 2007 meeting; Combat/Operational Stress Control (COSC) in the Marine Corps presentation; VetAccess Disabled Veterans Training Program presentation; Paper: JLC Event During A General Assembly Session; Paper: "Payday" or Short Term Loans; Paper: Do Contributions To Virginia Legislators Motivate How They Will Vote?; Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations 2007 Legislative Agenda - Updated May 16, 2007

Other Handouts

Virginia National Guard Family Assistance Centers pamphlet; Virginia National Guard Family Programs Branch Out Expo flyer; Joint Leadership Council Of Veterans Service Organizations Notional General Assembly Meeting- January 14, 2008; Commonwealth of Virginia, Office of the Governor, Governor Kaine Designates May As Military Appreciation Month; The Military Order of the World Wars, Resolution- Increasing the End Strength of the Armed Forces; Military Order of the World Wars, Resolutions Approved By The Military Order of the World Wars National Convention In Warwick, Rhode Island, August 2-6, 2006 – 1. Support For The War On Terrorism, 2. Policy On North Korea With Attached Document, and 3. Resolution Of Affiliation Between MOWW And The National Society Of Pershing Rifles; Draft – Legislative Objective for 2008; Virginia Citizen Soldier Support Council Minutes – Thursday, April 5, 2007 at the Virginia Science Museum; Resolutions Approved At The 47th VNGA Annual Conference – 28 April 2007, Resolution No. VA-1: Relating To State Tuition Assistance For Members Of The Virginia National Guard, Resolution No. VA-2: Relating To The Youth Challenge Program, Resolution No. VA-3: Relating To The Virginia State Defense Force, Resolution No. VA-4: Relating To The State Recruitment Incentive, Resolution No. VA-5: Relating To State Tax Credits For Employers Of National Guard Members And Self-Employed Members Of The National Guard, Resolution No. VA-6: Relating To A State Retirement Benefit For Members Of The Virginia National Guard, Resolution No. VA-7: Relating To A State Tax Exemption For Active Members Of The Virginia National Guard, Resolution No. VA-8: Relating To The Qualifications Of The Adjutant General, and Resolution No. VA-9: Relating To The Payment Of Service Members' Group Life Insurance Premiums For Members Deployed To A Combat Zone.

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. at the American Legion Department of Virginia Headquarters Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue in Richmond. Ken Smith led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Swearing In of New JLC Members

Mr. Bernie Henderson swore in Ms. Michala Smith and Mr. John Dozier as new members of the Joint Leadership Council.

Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination

Nineteen of the twenty-three member Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) were recorded as being represented (15 by a primary member; 4 by an alternate member), and a quorum was determined. NAUS representative Mr. David Ellis arrived just after the roll call. The Chairman remarked that the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) representative to the JLC had not attended a JLC meeting in quite a long time, and asked if any other JLC representatives were also FRA

members. Mr. Jasper stated that he was a member of FRA. Chairman Botts asked Mr. Jasper to find out how to contact the state member in charge of FRA and to let him know that the JLC has tried to contact FRA representative Tom Snee, but has been unsuccessful. Chairman Botts stated that he has only attended 2 (of 19) JLC meetings and that FRA need to find a substitute for Mr. Snee.

Review and Approval of March 14, 2007 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March 14, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Cooper identified a correction on page 7 under heading **Virginia National Guard Youth Camp**. Instead of John Dozier it should be John Cooper. Mr. Cooper stated that he received another email from the National Guard Youth Camp and they are looking for assistance so if any organization wants to help out Mr. Cooper has the information.

Mr. Rinaldo had a question about the words in the minutes “discussion followed.” Mr. Rinaldo noticed in some cases it just says discussion followed. He wanted to know if the minutes are supposed to include the meat of the discussion or just a summary of the discussion. Chairman Botts stated that the minutes are not designed to be item for item and word for word. He also stated that a recording is made of each meeting, and that the recordings are available in the DVS files if anyone wants them. Chairman Botts stated that the part before the words “discussion followed” generally addresses everything that was discussed. Mr. Rinaldo suggested eliminating that sentence “discussion followed” if everything has been discussed. Mr. Burgess stated if there was some action taken out of that discussion or something was voiced as a point, have it in the minutes. Mr. Burgess agreed with Mr. Rinaldo that in the future the words “discussion followed” would not be included if indeed the discussion had already been recorded in the minutes. He also stated the idea of putting the meeting recording on the DVS website but it is such a large file and copies of the recording can be provided to anyone who would like to have a full transcript. A **motion** was made by Norman Jasper, seconded by Vince Burgess, and passed unanimously, to adopt the minutes with the change noted above.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Combat/Operational Stress Control in the Marine Corps Presentation

Captain William Nash, MC, USN Combat/Operational Stress Control Coordinator, MRC, M&RA, HQMC gave a presentation on Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome in the Marine Corps. Captain Nash directs programs, policies, and training at Headquarters Marine Corps related to Combat/Operational Stress. Captain Nash stated the Marine Corps has learned and is learning that the stress that they are very good at managing on the battlefield can sometimes lead to long-term mental disorders. It is the responsibility of Marine Corps Leadership to prevent these stress injuries, to lower the stigma associated with them to the point where they can be rapidly identified and brought to treatment. He also quoted his new commandant, General Conway, “that invisible injuries from stress or from traumatic brain injury in Marines must be treated with the same honor and respect as any physical injury.” They also use the expertise of a very broad range of experts that are part of the Combat/Operational Stress Control (COSC) team that are listed in slide two of his presentation. The core message that Captain Nash includes in all his

training is that they are bearing fruit in reducing stigma and making it more likely that Marines will not be stress injured and will be identified when they are. He presented a graphical representation of all the deployment cycle training and health assessments that are required for all deploying units and personnel in the Marine Corps. Captain Nash stated that they are also training in the Marine career schools. They are involved from the beginning to the end of Marine careers. He mentioned a project called De-stress which is funded by the National Institutes of Mental Health and collaborating with the National Center for PTSD and RTI in North Carolina. This online self help program will involve Marines with early deployment-related PTSD. They are advised by a coach and he/she shows them how it works and makes sure they have access to a computer. They would go through a series of 12 training modules where they learn some cognitive, behavioral, and symptom management skills and they are repeatedly accessed through this. If at some point they don't start getting better, that signals a flag and they are referred for treatment. It is totally confidential and doesn't hurt their careers. Captain Nash stated COSC is having their first annual Marine Combat Stress Conference on June 18th and 19th at the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City in Arlington. The conference is aimed first at Marine Leaders but also for mental health people, medical people, and chaplains. Discussion followed. Mr. Jasper asked a question concerning the symptoms of PTSD. Captain Nash stated that continued hyper-arousal, panic attacks, recollections of the traumatic event that cannot be controlled, emotional numbing, flashbacks, and staying away from people are symptoms of PTSD.

Chairman Botts thanked Dr. Nash for his presentation. Chairman Botts suggested that this information needs to be taken back to the VSOs and let them know what the Marines are doing and what programs are there. Also, Chairman Botts stated he would like to offer this group as individual organizations have presence in various areas where Captain Nash might need assistance.

Virginia National Guard Support Programs Presentation

Colonel Marie Mahoney, J-1 is with the Virginia Joint Force Headquarters. Colonel Mahoney deals with several different types of programs such as family programs, veteran's benefits, casualty assistance, and sexual assault response. She states that she is finding more and more that she cannot separate these programs. They are all melding together and as we go forward into the global war on terrorism she finds that the focus is shifting, at least in the National Guard, being more of a strategic reserve than an operational reserve. With the increased response to the global war on terrorism and state and national response, Colonel Mahoney states that the National Guard is really reemphasizing and shifting their focus on taking care of the families, soldiers, and veterans. She stated that parts of the key element of her staff are family assistance centers and transitional assistance advisors. Each state National Guard headquarters is funded through the National Guard Bureau to have contract employees. The family assistance centers are funded based on the deployment levels within the state. Colonel Mahoney stated that they are given an amount of money to be able to contract for employees to help run family assistance centers. Each state is also given enough money for at least one transitional assistance center. The important thing to know about both of these duty positions is that they are charged with taking care of everyone not just National Guard soldiers and family members. They will help individuals from all components to link them up with the services and resources that meet the needs of the particular individuals that they are working with. Colonel Mahoney stated the

National Guard and the reserve components in general are challenged because they don't necessarily have the ability to tap into active duty installation resources. Where there are families in remote areas of the state, they are not able to go to an installation family center to tap into needed resources. Colonel Mahoney states the family resource centers that are provided out of the National Guard Armories are filling the gap. Other organizations that are traditionally establishing partnerships with, such as the veterans service organizations, are helping to meet that need. Colonel Mahoney stated that there is a huge need in the Reunion Re-integration process. She has been addressing that through re-integration meeting and training for families and identifying needs during the ninety day window when the soldiers come home. Colonel Mahoney distributed a flyer about the Branch Out Expo on May 19th which gives family members who live in remote areas from military installations to come gather important information and network with different organizations. Discussion followed.

Chairman Botts thanked Colonel Mahoney for her presentation.

Training for Disabled Veterans Presentation

Dennis Stone from TecAccess presented to members the VetAccess Training Program. Mr. Stone stated that TecAccess specializes in working with people with disabilities and they are experts in how to make electronic and information technology accessible to them. Mr. Stone states that one situation with training disabled veterans is that they cannot do the job that they are trained to do due to various injuries and it affects both active and reserve component members. The program is Commonwealth of Virginia funded and it helps disabled veterans reenter the civilian workforce. Basically, the VetAccess Training Program: (1) provides a safe and supportive environment to disabled veterans, (2) is sensitive to the changes they are experiencing, (3) helps to transition their skills from the military to the civilian workforce, (4) accommodates their special needs in the workplace, and (5) guarantee employment for the successful graduate. Mr. Stone states the Commonwealth of Virginia awarded TecAccess a contract to establish a program (the DVET Program) to train and directly employ Virginia's Disabled Veterans to become IT accessibility consultants, trainers, testers, and IT professionals. Mr. Stone states that they utilize a telework model and assistive technology equipment that can be used from a hospital bed, rehabilitation facility, home, or place of business. Mr. Stone states that this program is tailored to the needs of the organization where a basic skills curriculum is looked at and then the jobs are tailored to what an organization needs. Mr. Stone wants each organization, whether service organization or small business, to consider what job positions TecAccess can fill.

Chairman Botts thanked Mr. Stone for his presentation.

Chairman's Report: Board of Veterans Services (BVS)

Paul Galanti stated that the Department of Veterans Services has been spending a lot of time answering the Governor's Executive Order 19 (EO19) directive regarding what the state is doing to help veterans. Mr. Galanti stated that he thought the Governor would be pleased with the department's recommendations. Mr. Galanti states that the Board of Veterans Services will be having a planning retreat that will take place in mid-July. Mr. Galanti talked about the TurboVet program, which is a turbo tax-type program to help the department's service officers help

veterans get their benefits. He states that this program is going to start in the Commonwealth of Virginia thank in large part to Mr. Burgess and the JLC. Mr. Galanti also complimented the JLC for being such an effective group.

Certificate of Appreciation

Steven Combs was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding performance and lasting contributions to the JLC and veteran service organizations.

The JLC recessed for lunch at 11:45.

Chairman Botts called the meeting back to order at 12:15 p.m.

Department of Veterans Services Initiatives

Mr. Burgess talked about Senate Bill 1145 which has been signed by the Governor. He states that this bill will serve veteran owned companies under the SWAM program in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The intent was to model it after the federal program, and while the Virginia program is very close to the federal program, the Virginia program it is restricted to businesses owned by veterans with a 50% or greater service disability (10% or greater for combat disabled). Mr. Burgess stated that Mr. Combs has been working with Stacy Burrs, the Director of the Department of Minority Business Enterprise (DMBE), to implement the new program. He also stated that DVS is trying to put a disabled veteran in DMBE on a part-time basis, with the position being paid for by DVS, to actually make the program happen. Mr. Burgess stated that Armistead Ransone, Director of Finance and Administration for the Department of Veterans Services, is involved to make sure that funding is identified for the part-time position. He states that this will go into effect July 1, 2007.

Mr. Burgess next spoke about the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP). He stated that Mr. Combs has been working with officials from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) to implement the program changes approved by the 2007 General Assembly. The changes to the VMSDEP will go into effect on July 1, 2007.

Mr. Burgess stated that two vendors showed interest in the TurboVet project and that hopefully DVS will award a contract for the project in late May or early June. He emphasized that this is a web based business application that manages all aspect of the veterans benefits claims process for Virginia. The goal here is to be able to link that to the federal system. Mr. Burgess stated that this is the first step of several steps to get to this vision. He also stated that there are issues that have to be worked out with trademark because TurboVet is very synonymous with the TurboTax software program.

Mr. Burgess told the JLC that Sandra Ranicki has been hired as the Administrator for the SitterBarfoot Veterans Care Center. She has extensive experience in the nursing home industry. The last nursing home she ran before coming to SitterBarfoot was a 240-bed home here in Richmond.

Mr. Burgess stated the Executive Order 19 (EO19) report was submitted to the Governor through the Secretary of Public Safety. Twenty-eight recommended initiatives are in the report. Some of these initiatives have already started, such as TurboVet and the DVET project with TecAccess. Mr. Burgess also discussed the potential collaboration between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the state mental health system regarding mental health care for veterans. Mr. Burgess stated that DVS wants to ensure that the projects that are currently underway continue, and that if the projects require funding or policy changes, DVS will pursue that as part of the effort. Mr. Burgess stated that Martha Mead, Project Manager for Executive Order 19, was brought on to put together an implementation plan for these initiatives between now and the end of June. She previously worked for the Department of Mental Health and is very familiar with the legislative process.

Mr. Burgess passed out copies of the draft of the minutes from the most recent meeting of the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council. Also, he passed out copies of the Governor's proclamation recognizing May as Military Appreciation Month.

Old Business

JLC Day on the Hill

Mr. Hilgers passed out updates to the hand outs that had been distributed at the last meeting. One of the handouts was about Pay Day Lending. Mr. Hilgers stated that he was asked by several JLC members about the Pay Day Lending bills, specifically, why did some of the senators and delegates strike their bills at the last minute, even though it appeared the bills might pass? Mr. Hilgers stated the bills were struck because there was the possibility that the House of Delegates might place a low percentage cap on Pay Day loans, which would kill the Pay Day Loan industry, and because the Governor has also discussed placing a low percentage cap on Pay Day loans. The legislators struck their bills because they felt that such a cap was inappropriate and it was discussed and they wanted to give another year for the various sides to reconsider or see what can be done. Mr. Hilgers stated that that this issue will come up again next year.

The second handout distributed by Mr. Hilgers was titled "Do Contributions to Virginia Legislators Motivate How They Will Vote?" Mr. Hilgers briefly discussed what was in the handout.

Mr. Hilgers then distributed two additional handouts. Mr. Hilgers stated that he had gone out to several of the Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the JLC, particularly the VFW, American Legion, and DAV, because they do "Storming the Hill" events each General Assembly session. Their input indicated that it would be best to use various methods of communication (letters, e-mails, etc.), followed up with meetings as the General Assembly building, as the best way to reach General Assembly members regarding veterans issues. Mr. Hilgers stated that he listed these options in the handout he distributed. He stated that his handout was sort of a decision paper and that he had received many suggestions that the JLC should do some type of event. One of Mr. Hilgers' handouts gave a brief summary of times and events of his agenda for a Notional General Assembly Meeting 14 January 2008.

Chairman Botts asked for a vote of how many members would be involved with the events of January 14, 2008, and all indicated they would be there. A **motion** was made by Chairman Botts and passed unanimously in favor of Mr. Hilgers' JLC Notional General Assembly Meeting 14 January 2008. Chairman Botts asked for a volunteer to take the lead and volunteers to be on the committee. Chairman Botts made a **motion** that Jack Hilgers head this effort and passed unanimously. Russell Fenn, Connie O'Neill, Don Kaisermann, Sam Wilder, and David Ellis are in the committee for the JLC General Assembly Meeting for January 14, 2008.

Support for the Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation

Mr. Kaisermann stated that he is working with the members of the Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation to raise funds for the construction of the Virginia War Memorial Education Building. Mr. Kaiserman stated that the General Assembly approved \$3.5 million in state funds, contingent upon the Foundation raising \$2 million in private funds. Mr. Kaiserman stated once that goal has been achieved the Secretary of Administration will certify to the Treasury that the private funds have been raised, and that the Treasury will advance a loan of \$3.5 million for the construction. Mr. Kaiserman stated that it would be difficult to raise \$2 million from private citizens, and that the best route may be to seek corporate donations. He offered to be Chair for this effort and encouraged each VSO to obtain contacts of someone they know in a prominent position in a corporation that they think will be willing to contribute.

New Business

Report of the Nominating Committee

Frank Wickersham was not present at today's meeting, so Chairman Botts presented the Nominating Committee's recommendations, which were Sam Wilder for Chairman and Dan Boyer for Vice Chairman. Chairman Botts stated that in accordance with the bylaws, the vote will be done in the next meeting. Chairman Botts stated that if any member is interested in challenging Mr. Wilder and Mr. Boyer for these two positions, they are to talk to Mr. Wickersham and the nominating committee. The nominating committee consisted of Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Miller, Mr. Wickersham, and Mr. Jackson.

JLC 2008 Legislative Agenda

Chairman Botts stated that at the next meeting the JLC will prioritize legislative items for the 2008 Legislative Agenda, and will come up with the right number of items so that the group can be focused. He also stated that the JLC will coordinate with the Board of Veterans Services, the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council, and the Virginia Military Advisory Council so that these four groups together will have a joint list that goes to the Governor.

Mr. Wilder stated that the JLC had a great year with getting a lot of people out to meet with legislators, which is key in educating legislators on JLC objectives. Mr. Wilder stated the position papers, which were new last year, were really good because they gave the group the opportunity to stay on the same level. Mr. Wilder read a letter he received from Delegate Kirk Cox stating, in his opinion, that the key to success was the adoption of a common agenda that all veteran service organizations could support. Mr. Wilder urged for the upcoming year that all veteran service organizations adopt completely the JLC priority agenda as their own agenda. He

suggested that the JLC needs a patron for each objective that will conduct research, publish a JLC position paper, and be able to convince the group that it is important. That paper not only must have the relevant facts and data, but it has to be persuasive. There must be close attention to the intent, the rationale, the wording of each of these objectives. Mr. Wilder stated that when it comes to deciding priorities, the JLC ought to look at important issues but also achievable issues.

Mr. Wilder stated that between today and the next meeting on the 8th of August, the JLC will finalize the list of proposals. He asked each member to let him know as soon as possible what their proposals are so all proposals can be coordinated with all organizations. Also, during that time, the JLC needs to pay close attention to the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council, to the Virginia Military Advisory Council, and to the Board of Veterans Services so that legislative initiatives are coordinated with those groups. Mr. Wilder stated that it was his hope that after the August 8 meeting the JLC would have a final agenda developed. Mr. Wilder stated that in August and September the JLC would probably continue to receive some input from other the other groups. During the October meeting, the JLC would review the results of legislative visits, if any to date, and provide feedback to everybody. For the meeting in December, Mr. Wilder stated that if the Governor's budget was submitted, the JLC would be able to make tactical decisions as to future legislative actions.

Other New Business

Credit Freeze for Deployed Guard and Reservists

Mr. Wilder explained that only individuals were allowed to open up their own credit reports, and in some states they were prevented from doing even that. What that means is that if someone gets your identity, they can go into your account and they can take out a loan or a credit card in your name, and then you are much more subject to damage if you don't have your credit reports frozen where only you can open them up. Chairman Botts stated that he wanted to add a possible adjunct to that from Air Force Association, whose number one state legislative priority was deferring debt for those wounded in combat and number two priority was deferring debt owed by reservists with income hardships when called to active duty. Mr. Wilder stated that this was not a part of this but was similar. Chairman Botts stated that this will be brought up in the next meeting.

VCU Veterans Center

Mr. Wilder stated that some MOAA members believe a veterans center at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) would work at crossed purposes with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) mental health initiatives. There is a question in some peoples minds about whether the VCU center would be an adjunct to USDVA facilities, or does the VCU center take away from what the USDVA is already doing. There was some confusion with the last minutes about who was working with Dr. Steve Danish of VCU on this project. Mr. Combs stated that no one had come forward to work with Dr. Danish. Mr. Wilder stated that more information is needed before continuing this subject.

GI Bill

Mr. Wilder stated that, as he understood it, Virginia is one of the states that still require 12 credit hours for full time credit for the GI bill and lots of other states only require nine hours. Mr.

Wilder asked whether this is something that the JLC should do to help veterans. Mr. Hilgers stated that he has additional information on this subject.

Resolutions for the Virginia National Guard Association.

Mr. Smith called the members' attention to the Resolutions of the Virginia National Guard Association (VNGA). Mr. Smith stated that the Adjutant General is a VNGA member, but that the VNGA does not officially represent the Adjutant General. However, he noted that the Adjutant General knew about the VNGA resolutions. He stated that the Adjutant General is a political appointee and there are certain things that he cannot publicly endorse or not endorse. Mr. Smith said he was not at liberty to tell which ones they were. Mr. Smith states that he will be glad to speak to any of the members who have any questions.

Defer Debt for Veterans That Are Wounded In Combat

Chairman Botts stated that veterans often have issues where they are wounded and hospitalized for a period of time and they are not able to pay the debt so it will get deferred. He stated he has model legislation on that.

Deferring Debt Owed By Reservist with Income Hardship When Called to Active Duty

Chairman Botts noted that several states, including Texas, have begun legislative efforts to defer debt owed by Reserve and National Guard members who are called up for active duty and must leave high paying civilian jobs to serve for periods of one to two years. He stated that he has model legislation on this.

Exempting Military Retired Pay

Chairman Botts stated that this does not involve active duty and this is purely focused on military retirees. He noted that in some states, military retirees don't pay state income taxes. He stated that he has model legislation on this subject.

Certificate Presentation

Chairman Botts stated that Don Kaiserman had brought up the idea of giving something to the American Legion for the use of the Headquarters Building. Chairman Botts stated that he has prepared a certificate for Dale Chapman for his generous help and support. He stated that this certificate will be presented at the next meeting.

Preparation for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the JLC will be Wednesday, August 8, 2007, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the American Legion Department of Virginia Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue in Richmond.

Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.