

Dear Members, it continues to be a great pleasure to serve you in the area of Veterans Affairs. During the year, we have endeavored to report on those matters that would enhance the lives of our military members and their families; we sincerely hope that the information has proven to be helpful. I would also like to thank the Home Office for their efforts to collect and provide me with timely and helpful information.

Our nation continues to be engaged in conflicts and disasters inside and outside our borders, please continue to be benevolent in support of the many charities tasked with assisting those impacted; our service organizations deserve our support as they support the troops and their families. Katrina and previous hurricanes have a massive amount of displacement for our people, please exercise care and concern with people that you encounter as this include those that are providers as well as those seeking service.

I continue to be concerned by the delay in benefits due our military members and their families, the long delays should not exist and the Veterans Administration should ramp up its processing and evaluation of claims for the servicemembers and/or their survivors. We very much desire that our Association begin to focus on the approval/award process with VA Benefits, I will make myself available to a conference with VACO Benefits base on first hand experience with the VA.

VA, ABC Radio Networks Partner on Outreach to Veterans to approximately 25 million veterans through public service campaign. This is a valuable outlet, however, I question the ability of this program to meet needs of the minority veterans that primarily listen to stations targeted to their need; perhaps we can encourage VA to expand this program to reach a large segment of the veterans.

Again, it has been a great please to serve the Association and should the President desire I am willing to continue to serve the CORPS.

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