

Lyn Dimery
VFW National Legislative Committee
1763 Dick Pond Road
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Committee on Veterans Affairs
Subcommittee on Health
338 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Mr. Chairman: Good morning to you and your committee.

First, let me thank you for allowing me to speak here today to present the committee with some questions from my fellow veterans on the proposed collaboration of the Ralph H. Johnson VA medical center and the Medical University of South Carolina.

My name is Lyn Dimery; I was born and raised in Horry County, in the town of Aynor South Carolina.

I joined the United States Air Force after High school and retired after 21 years as a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO).

I served in Viet - Nam for 20 months which gave me my eligibility to join one of the greatest and oldest wartime Veterans organization in the United States, The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of American (VFW) and on the 29th of this month we will celebrate our 106th anniversary.

Our National membership is over 1.7 million, and 700 thousand in our Ladies Auxiliary. In the year of 2004 comrades and Ladies had over 2 million hours of volunteer services, in our Communities, VA Hospitals, local Hospitals, Nursing homes and Clinics.

Our organization has been serving Veterans and their families for a long time. Our motto is (Help the dead by serving the living.)

I have been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of American For twenty-five years, and in the year 2000 I had the honor of being elected State Commander of our 18,000.00 members of the Veterans of Foreign wars of the United States in South Carolina.

I served the past 2 years on the National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

I was appointed to the Legislative Committee this year by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Commander In Chief.

I have been working with Veterans, active duty service personell and their families for the past twenty-five years.

During this time I have heard lots of complaints and concerns from veterans and their biggest concern is Veterans Health Care.

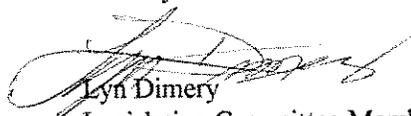
I'm here today to present some questions from Veterans who use this center that concerns them on the collaboration of the VA Hospital and MUSC.

With your permission I would like to present them at this time and hopefully see them addressed in this process.

- a. Is this a sharing agreement?
- b. Who's in charge VA or MUSC?
- c. Who's paying for all this and will MUSC pay their share?
- d. Who gets priority Veterans or civilians?
- e. How will returning Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan how will they be cared for and what priority will they get?
- f. Will this VA medical center lose its name or its identity?
- g. How will Community Based Out-patient Clinics be affected by this collaboration?
- h. How will Veterans who are currently being seen in Community Based Out-patient Clinics who require surgery or in-patient treatment be effected?

Mr. Chairman, thank you and your committee for your time and allowing me to be here and present some of my fellow Veterans concerns on an important issue as this is to all Veterans who use this VA medical Center.

Thank you and God bless our Veterans.


Lyn Dimery
Legislative Committee Member
Veterans of Foreign Wars