

FULL COMMITTEE HEARING - RESTORING TRUST: THE VIEW OF THE ACTING SECRETARY AND THE VETERANS COMMUNITY

On July 24, 2014, the Committee met to discuss changes made by the Department of Veterans Affairs to address revelations that include extensive patient wait times, manipulation of data, and a systemic lack of accountability within the VA system.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by The Honorable Sloan D. Gibson, Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The Acting Secretary was accompanied by Mr. Danny Pummill, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Philip Matkovsky, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Administrative Operations, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Ms. Verna Jones, Veterans Affairs Director, The American Legion; Mr. Ryan M. Gallucci, Deputy Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; Mr. Carl Blake, Acting Associate Executive Director for Government Relations, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Mr. Joseph A. Violante, National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Mr. Rick Weidman, Executive Director of Government Affairs, Vietnam Veterans of America; and Mr. Alex Nicholson, Legislative Director, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. See "Restoring Trust: The View of the Acting Secretary and the Veterans Community," Serial No. 113-82.

FULL COMMITTEE FIELD HEARING - CHALLENGES IN RURAL AMERICA: VA ACCESS AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE

On August 6, 2014, the Committee held a field hearing to discuss the challenges that veterans of Roswell, New Mexico experience accessing care, including mental health care, through Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 18 and the New Mexico VA Health Care System.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. John Taylor, Veteran; Mr. Richard Moncrief, Veteran; and Ms. Dawn Tschabrun, Chief Executive Officer, Lovelace Hospital.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Ms. Lisa Freeman, Interim Network Director, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 18, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Freeman was accompanied by Dr. James Robbins, Interim Medical Center Director, New Mexico VA Health Care System, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 18, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dr. Lori Highberger, Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Mental Health Lead, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 18, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See "Challenges in Rural America: VA Access and Mental Health Care," Serial No. 113-83.

FULL COMMITTEE FIELD HEARING - CHALLENGES IN RURAL AMERICA: INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND ACCESS TO CARE

On August 14, 2014, the Committee held a field hearing to examine access to care issues for veterans in Southwestern South Dakota, in light of continued concerns about the potential closure of the Hot Springs, South Dakota facility.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Tim Jurgens, Commander, American Legion Department of South Dakota; Mr. Bryan Brewer, President, Oglala Sioux Tribe; Mr.

Robert Nelson, Veteran; Ms. Amanda Campbell, Community Stakeholder; Mr. Patrick Russell, Co-Chair, Hot Springs' Save the VA Committee; and Mr. Larry Zimmerman, Secretary, South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Dr. Steven Julius, Chief Medical Center and Acting Director, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 23, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Julius was accompanied by Mr. Stephen DiStasio, Director, VA Black Hills Health Care System, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 23, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See "Challenges in Rural America: Infrastructure Needs and Access to Care," Serial No. 113-84.

FULL COMMITTEE HEARING - SCHEDULING MANIPULATION AND VETERAN DEATHS IN PHOENIX: EXAMINATION OF THE OIG'S FINAL REPORT

On September 17, 2014, the Committee held a hearing to examine a final report of the VA Office of Inspector General that was released on August 26, 2014.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Richard J. Griffin, Acting Inspector General. Mr. Griffin was accompanied by Dr. John D. Daigh, Jr., M.D., Assistant Inspector General for Healthcare Inspections; Ms. Linda Halliday, Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations; Ms. Maureen Regan, Counselor to the Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations; and Mr. Larry Reinkemeyer, Director, Inspector General Kansas City Audit Office. Also testifying on the first panel was Dr. Samuel H. Foote, M.D., Retired Medical Director, Diamond Community-Based Outpatient Center, Phoenix VA Health Care System; and Dr. Katherine L. Mitchell, M.D., Medical Director, Iraq and Afghanistan Post-Deployment Center, Phoenix VA Health Care System.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by The Honorable Robert A. McDonald, Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Secretary McDonald was accompanied by Dr. Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D., Interim Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the third panel, testimony was provided by Dr. Lisa Thomas, Ph.D., Chief of Staff, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Thomas was accompanied by Dr. Darren Deering, M.D., Chief of Staff, Phoenix VA Health Care System, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See "Scheduling Manipulation and Veteran Deaths in Phoenix: Examination of the OIG's Final Report," Serial No. 113-87.

FULL COMMITTEE HEARING - ASSESSING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VETERANS ACCESS, CHOICE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

On November 13, 2014, the Committee held a hearing to assess the Department of Veterans Affairs' implementation of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014.

On the first and only panel, testimony was provided by the Honorable Sloan Gibson, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Under Secretary Gibson was accompanied by Dr. James Tuchsmidt, M.D., M.M., Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Gregory L. Giddens, Executive Director, Enterprise Program Management Office, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Hearing entitled, "Assessing the Implementation of the

Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014,” had not been printed at the time of this report’s submission to the House and therefore has not been assigned a House Serial No.

FULL COMMITTEE HEARING - VA’S LONGSTANDING INFORMATION SECURITY WEAKNESSES CONTINUE TO ALLOW EXTENSIVE DATA MANIPULATION

On November 18, 2014, the Committee held a hearing to explore how VA’s longstanding information technology security weaknesses may be allowing continued data manipulation among VA’s various computer systems.

On the first and only panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Stephen Warren, Executive in Charge and Chief Information Officer, Office of Information & Technology, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Warren was accompanied by Mr. Stan Lowe, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Information & Technology, Office of Information Security, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Tina Burnette, Executive Director for Enterprise Risk Management, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Testimony on the first panel was also provided by Ms. Sondra McCauley, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. McCauley was accompanied by Mr. Michael Bowman, Director, Information Technology and Security Audit Office, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Also testifying on the first panel was Mr. Greg Wilshusen, Director of Information Security Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office. Hearing entitled, “VA’s Longstanding Information Security Weaknesses Continue to Allow Extensive Data Manipulation,” had not been printed at the time of this report’s submission to the House; and therefore has not been assigned a House Serial No.

FULL COMMITTEE HEARING - EVALUATING FEDERAL AND COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

On December 11, 2014, the Committee held a hearing to assess and evaluate federal and community efforts made to eliminate Veteran homelessness.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Baylee Crone, Executive Director, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans; Mr. Steve Berg, Vice President for Programs and Policies, National Alliance to End Homelessness; Mr. Jack Downing, President and Chief Executive Officer, Soldier On; Mr. Phil Landis, President and Chief Executive Officer, Veterans Village of San Diego; Mr. Mike Graber, Veteran, IMPACT Veterans Services, and Mr. Jon Sherin, Volunteers of America.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by The Honorable Keith Kelly, Assistant Secretary, Veterans Employment and Training Service, U.S. Department of Labor; and Ms. Lisa Pape, Executive Director of Homeless Programs, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Pape was accompanied by Mr. Thomas O’Toole, Acting Director, National Center for Homelessness Among Veterans, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Statements for the record were provided by Friendship Place; National Rural Health Association; United States Interagency Council on Homelessness; and Vietnam Veterans of America. Hearing entitled, “Evaluating Federal and Community Efforts to Eliminate Veteran Homelessness,” had not been printed at the time of this report’s submission to the House; and therefore has not been assigned a House Serial No.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND
MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES
Second Session

SUBCOMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE HEARING—LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON H.R. 2018; H.R. 2088; H.R. 2119; H.R. 2529; H.R. 3671; H.R. 3876; H.R. 4095; H.R. 4102; H.R. 4141; AND, H.R. 4191

On March 26, 2014, the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a legislative hearing on H.R. 2018, the Honor Those Who Served Act of 2013; H.R. 2088, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to establish claims adjudication centers of excellence; H.R. 2119, the Veterans Access to Speedy Review Act; H.R. 2529, the Veteran Spouses Equal Treatment Act; H.R. 3671, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the eligibility for a medallion furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to signify the veteran status of a deceased individual; H.R. 3876, the Burial with Dignity for Heroes Act of 2014; H.R. 4095, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2014; H.R. 4102, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify that the estate of a deceased veteran may receive certain accrued benefits upon the death of the veteran, and for other purposes; H.R. 4141, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into enhanced-use leases for excess property of the National Cemetery Administration that is unsuitable for burial purposes; and, H.R. 4191, the Quicker Veterans Benefits Delivery Act.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by The Honorable Al Green, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (TX-9), The Honorable Timothy J. Walz, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (MN-1), The Honorable Jeff Denham, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (CA-10), The Honorable Ander Crenshaw, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (FL-4), and The Honorable Steve Stivers, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (OH-15).

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Jeffrey Hall, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Mr. Alexander Nicholson, Legislative Director, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Heather Ansley, Esquire, MSW, Vice President of Veterans Policy, VetsFirst, a program of United Spinal Association; and Ms. Diane M. Zumatto, National Legislative Director, AMVETS.

On the third panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Zachary Hearn, Deputy Director for Claims, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, The American Legion; Mr. Anthony A. Wallis, Legislative Director and Director of Government Affairs, Association of the United States Navy; and Mr. Brendon Gehrke, Senior Legislative Associate, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

On the fourth panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Thomas Murphy, Director, Compensation Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Murphy was accompanied by Ms. Patricia Lynch Watts, Director, Legislative and Regulatory Service, National Cemetery Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. David Barrans, Deputy Assistant General Counsel, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See "Legislative Hearing on H.R. 2018, H.R. 2088, H.R. 2119, H.R. 2529, H.R. 3671, H.R. 3876, H.R. 4095, H.R. 4102, H.R. 4141, and H.R. 4191," Serial No. 113-60.

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ASSISTANCE AT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION – OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, DELEGATION MEETING WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

On January 15, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs attended the bipartisan Roundtable discussion held on the Oakland, California, VA Regional Office. There are 21 congressional districts served by the Oakland Regional Office; accordingly, a meeting was held with the Under Secretary for Benefits, The Honorable Allison A. Hickey, to discuss the state of the Oakland Regional Office and to evaluate the services provided to California veterans by the Veterans Benefits Administration.

SITE VISIT – PORTLAND, OREGON; SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

On January 20, 2014, through January 24, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs conducted a series of oversight visits in Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon. This travel entailed visits to the Seattle Regional Office, the Disability Rating Activity Site (DRAS), as well as the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) in Bremerton and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and the Portland Regional Office. Staff attended sensing panels with servicemembers while on this travel, to determine the current state of the IDES program, as well as potential areas for improvement. Additionally, staff conducted oversight visits to several locations of the National Cemetery Administration, including the Willamette National Cemetery, Roseburg National Cemetery, and Eagle Point National Cemetery.

SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING - BEYOND TRANSFORMATION: REVIEWING CURRENT STATUS AND SECONDARY EFFECTS OF VBA TECHNOLOGY

On February 5, 2014, the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on the current status, and secondary effects, of technology of the Veterans Benefits Administration. This hearing focused on the status of the Veterans Benefits Management System 6.0 (VBMS), VA's implementation of concurrent strategy for its work-credit system within the new electronic framework of the Regional Offices, the multi-year initiative known as Veterans Relationship Management (VRM), and the secure electronic transmission of disability benefit claimants' Service Treatment Records between the Healthcare Artifacts and Image Management Solution (HAIMS) of the Department of Defense and VA's VBMS.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Gerald T. Manar, Deputy Director, National Veterans Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; Mr. Jeffrey C. Hall, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Mr. Zachary Hearn, Deputy Director for Claims Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division, The American Legion; Mr. Frank Logalbo, National Service Director, Wounded Warrior Project; and Mr. Eric Jenkins, Rating Veterans Service Representative, Winston Salem Regional Office, American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), AFL-CIO and the AFGE National VA Council.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Ms. Diana Rubens, Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Rubens was accompanied by Richard Hipolit, Esquire, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Lorraine Landfried, Deputy Chief

Information Officer for Product Development, Office of Information Technology, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Additional testimony on the second panel was provided by Major General Richard W. Thomas, Director, Healthcare Operations, Defense Health Agency. General Thomas was accompanied by Dave Bowen, Director, Health Information Technology, Defense Health Agency. See “Beyond Transformation: Reviewing Current Status and Secondary Effects of VBA Technology,” Serial No.113-51.

SITE VISIT – NEWARK, NEW JERSEY; NEW YORK, NEW YORK

On February 27, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs traveled to Newark, New Jersey, and New York, New York, to conduct oversight of several VA locations that impact veterans’ benefits throughout northern New Jersey and New York, including the Newark electronic Regional Office (eRO) and the New York Regional Office. Additionally, staff conducted oversight visits to several locations of the National Cemetery Administration, including the Cypress Hills National Cemetery, Long Island National Cemetery, and Calverton National Cemetery.

SUBCOMMITTEE ASSISTANCE AT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION – WISCONSIN DELEGATION MEETING WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

On February 27, 2014, the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs assisted the Wisconsin delegation in the coordination of a bipartisan Member-level Roundtable discussion with Department of Veterans Affairs, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits, Danny Pummill, and Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations, Diana Rubens, to review VA’s efforts to address the sizeable backlog of disability benefits compensation claims and to determine what these efforts mean for Wisconsin veterans.

SITE VISIT – LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

On March 20, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs traveled to the Louisville Regional Office and the CACI Scanning Facility. The purposes of this site visit were to review toxic exposure claims related to Camp Lejeune. These claims are centrally processed at the Louisville Regional Office. Staff also addressed recent VA employee complaints on the indexing of electronic files received from the CACI Scanning Facility.

SITE VISIT – PHOENIX, ARIZONA

On March 31, 2014, through April 4, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs accompanied The American Legion on oversight travel to the Phoenix Regional Office. This visit was coordinated with VA, and Department staff participated in The American Legion’s Regional Office Action Review (ROAR) visit and case file review of appealed claims. In addition, staff participated in an American Legion Town Hall, conducted oversight of the Veterans Benefits Administration Call Center and the Phoenix VA Medical Center.

SITE VISIT – JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

On April 14, 2014, through April 18, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs accompanied The American Legion on an oversight trip to the Jackson Regional Office. The main purpose of this trip was to conduct oversight of several issues

at the Jackson Regional Office, including observing the level of VA cooperation during The American Legion's Regional Office Action Review (ROAR) visit, as well as participating in case file review of appealed claims.

SUBCOMMITTEE ASSISTANCE AT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION – ALABAMA DELEGATION MEETING WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

On April 29, 2014, the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs assisted the Alabama delegation in the coordination of a bipartisan Member-level Roundtable discussion with Department of Veterans Affairs, Under Secretary for Benefits, The Honorable Allison A. Hickey, to review VA's efforts to address the sizeable backlog of disability compensation benefits claims and to determine what these efforts mean for Alabama veterans.

SITE VISIT - WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

On May 12, 2014, through May 16, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs travelled to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to conduct oversight of several programs at the Winston-Salem Regional Office, including the pre-discharge programs known as Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) and Quick Start (QS), in preparation for the DAMA hearing held on those programs on May 29, 2014.

SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING - DEFINED EXPECTATIONS: EVALUATING VA'S PERFORMANCE IN THE SERVICEMEMBER TRANSITION PROCESS

On May 29, 2014, the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on the Veterans Benefits Administration's role in the transition from Servicemember to veteran, with a particular focus on the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES), as well as the Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD), and Quick Start (QS) programs.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Ms. Nancy E. Weaver, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Warrior Care Policy, Department of Defense. Ms. Weaver was accompanied by Mr. Dave Bowen, Director of Health Information Technology, Defense Health Agency, Department of Defense. Additional testimony on the first panel was provided by Ms. Diana Rubens, Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Rubens was accompanied by Mr. Thomas Murphy, Director of Compensation Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Ms. Linda A. Halliday, Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Halliday was accompanied by Ms. Nora Stokes, Director, Bay Pines Benefits Inspection Division, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and Mr. Ramon Figueroa, Project Manager, Bay Pines Benefits Inspection Division, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the third panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Eric Jenkins, Rating Veterans Service Representative, Winston Salem Regional Office, American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO and the AFGE National VA Council; Ms. Debra J. Gipson, Individual Servicemember; Mr. Geraldo Avila, National MEB/PEB Representative, The American Legion; Mr. Paul Raymond Varela, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; and Brendon Gehrke, Senior Legislative Associate, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the

United States. See “Defined Expectations: Evaluating VA’s Performance in the Servicemember Transition Process,” Serial No.113-71.

SITE VISIT - PHOENIX, ARIZONA

On June 8, 2014, through June 11, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs accompanied The American Legion to Phoenix, Arizona to observe and assist with The American Legion’s efforts in Phoenix at its Veterans’ Crisis Command Center (VCCC), as well as a community town hall. While in Phoenix, Subcommittee staff also accompanied The American Legion to a meeting with the administration of the Phoenix VA Medical Center, and conducted a brief oversight visit to the Phoenix Regional Office.

SITE VISIT – PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

On July 2, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Staff Memorial Affairs travelled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to conduct oversight and investigation of the Philadelphia Regional Office. During this visit, staff discovered a notepad in the possession of the Acting Regional Office Director, which contained circled text of the names of two Regional Office whistleblowers and a notation, with derogatory language, with text noting to ignore Congressional staff. This discovery was highlighted in a subsequent Committee hearing, as illustrative of the bureaucratic arrogance that pervades segments of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SUBCOMMITTEE ASSISTANCE AT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION – OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, DELEGATION MEETING WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

On July 23, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs attended the follow-up bipartisan Roundtable discussion held on the Oakland, California, Regional Office, including Members from the 21 congressional districts served by the Oakland Regional Office; this meeting was held with the Under Secretary for Benefits, Allison A. Hickey, to discuss the updated state of the Regional Office and to evaluate the services provided by the Veterans Benefits Administration to California veterans.

SITE VISIT – LEESBURG, VIRGINIA

On August 5, 2014, through August 7, 2014, and again August 18, 2014, through August 22, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs traveled to Leesburg, Virginia to observe VA’s Specialized Adjudication Review Course (SPARC) training. In Fiscal Year 2014, VA was allocated an additional \$10 million to train employees who were identified as requiring assistance with production or quality. Subcommittee staff had received numerous calls from employees at various Regional Offices (ROs), voicing concern over the lack of quality and preparation of this training. Accordingly, staff attended the last session, of the four sessions held, to review curricula, observe the course training, and receive feedback from participants and instructors.

SITE VISIT – PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

On August 28, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to observe two Philadelphia Regional Office (RO)

town halls, which were conducted pursuant to the national directive of VA Secretary, Bob McDonald.

SITE VISIT – ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

On September 2, 2014, through September 3, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs traveled to St. Petersburg, Florida to attend a town hall and meet with employees of the St. Petersburg Regional Office. Staff also met briefly with the Regional Office Director, attended an AFGE monthly meeting, and observed a Veteran Service Center Management (VSCM) briefing on newly rescinded employee performance standards.

SITE VISIT – CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY; PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

On September 10, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs travelled to Camden, New Jersey, to observe a Philadelphia Regional Office town hall held by Regional Office staff, to assess the attendance, participation, and conduct of the town hall, as well as to hear the concerns of local veterans and other stakeholders.

SITE VISIT – RENO, NEVADA; LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

On September 15-16, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs travelled to Reno, Nevada, and Las Vegas, Nevada, to observe two town halls conducted by the Reno Regional Office to assess the attendance, participation, and conduct of the town halls, as well as to hear the concerns of local veterans and other stakeholders.

SITE VISIT – ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

On September 16, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs travelled to Roanoke, Virginia to observe a town hall sponsored by the Roanoke Regional Office (RO). Due to the town hall's unannounced cancellation, staff instead held meetings with the RO's public affairs staff, the Assistant Director, the Acting Veterans Service Center Manager, and a Veterans Benefits Administration contractor who reports directly to VA Central Office.

SITE VISIT – ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

On September 22, 2014, staff for the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs traveled to Roanoke, Virginia to attend a re-scheduled town hall, to assess the attendance, participation, and conduct of the town hall, as well as to hear the concerns of local veterans and other stakeholders.

SITE VISIT – PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

On October 2, 2014, through October 3, 2014, in conjunction with an October 3, 2014 Subcommittee field hearing, staff of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to conduct oversight of the Philadelphia Regional Office, the Philadelphia National Cemetery, and the Washington Crossing National Cemetery.

SUBCOMMITTEE FIELD HEARING— RHETORIC V. REALITY: INVESTIGATING THE CONTINUED FAILURES OF THE PHILADELPHIA VA REGIONAL OFFICE

On October 3, 2014, the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a field hearing on alleged malfeasance at the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Regional Office. The hearing reviewed various concerns with Veterans Benefits Administration operations at the Philadelphia Regional Office (RO), to include management and leadership, claims processing, and employee morale. The Subcommittee also elicited testimony on several issues addressed in a prior Committee hearing, and in preliminary report of the VA Office of Inspector General.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Ms. Kristen Ruell, Authorization Quality Services Representative, Pension Management Center, Philadelphia Regional Office, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Linda Halliday, Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Halliday was accompanied by Ms. Nora Stokes, Director, OIG Bay Pines Benefits Inspection Division, Office of Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General; Mr. Al Tate, Audit Manager, Atlanta Audit Division, Office of Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Jeffrey Myers, Benefits Inspector, San Diego Inspection Division, Office of Audits and Evaluations Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Testimony on the first panel was also provided by Ms. Diana Rubens, Director, Philadelphia Regional Office, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Walter Tafe, Director, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Burlington County, New Jersey; and Mr. John Dorrity, MSW, CVA, Bureau of Veterans Services, Ocean County, New Jersey. See “Rhetoric v. Reality: Investigating the Continued Failures of the Philadelphia VA Regional Office,” Serial No.113-88.

SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING— FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY COMPENSATION FUND: INQUIRY INTO THE ADEQUACY OF PROCESS IN VERIFYING ELIGIBILITY

On November 20, 2014, the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing focused on the claims approval process for the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund, the status of this program, and the existing system to determine eligibility for benefits, including relevant documentation.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Brad Flohr, Senior Advisor for Compensation Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Brigadier General David K. “Mac” MacEwen, 59th Adjutant General of the U.S. Army, Department of the Army; and Mr. Kevin Pratt, Assistant Director for Military Records, National Personnel Records Center, National Archives and Records Administration. Hearing entitled, “Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund: Inquiry into the Adequacy of Process in Verifying Eligibility,” had not been printed at the time of this report’s submission to the House; and therefore has not been assigned a House Serial No.

SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING— TIMELESS HONOR: REVIEWING CURRENT OPERATIONS OF OUR NATIONAL CEMETERIES

On December 9, 2014, the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing focusing on the state of various veterans’ cemeteries, including upkeep, new initiatives, and areas for improvement.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by The Honorable Ronald E. Walters, Acting Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Patrick K. Hallinan, Executive Director, Army National Cemeteries Program, U.S. Department of Defense; and The Honorable Max Cleland, Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Ms. Ami Neiberger-Miller, Director of Outreach and Education, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors; and Ms. Diane M. Zumatto, National Legislative Director, AMVETS. Hearing entitled, "Timeless Honor: Reviewing Current Operations of our National Cemeteries," had not been printed at the time of this report's submission to the House; and therefore has not been assigned a House Serial No.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Second Session

SUBCOMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE HEARING – LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON H.R. 2942; H.R. 3056; H.R. 3614; H.R. 4031; H.R. 4037; H.R. 4038; H.R. 4147; H.R. 4150; AND, H.R. 4151

On March 25, 2014, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a legislative hearing on H.R. 2942, to amend title 38, United States Code, to reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs ; H.R. 3056, the Warriors' Peer-Outreach Pilot Program Act; H.R. 3614, the Military Skills to Careers Act; H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014; H.R. 4037, the Improving Veterans' Access to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Act of 2014; H.R. 4038, the Veterans Benefits Administration Information Technology Improvement Act of 2014; H.R. 4147, the Student Veterans IT Upgrade Act; H.R. 4150, the Veterans Employment and Training Service Longitudinal Study Act of 2014; and, H.R. 4151, the Veterans Education Survey Act of 2014.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Curtis L. Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Coy was accompanied by John Brizzi, Esquire, Deputy Assistant General Counsel, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Additional testimony on the first panel was provided by The Honorable Keith Kelly, Assistant Secretary, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, U.S. Department of Labor. Mr. Kelly was accompanied by Ms. Demetra Nightingale, Chief Evaluation Officer, U.S. Department of Labor.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Steve Gonzalez, Assistant Director, National Economic Commission, The American Legion; Mr. Pete Hegseth, Chief Executive Officer, Concerned Veterans for America; Mr. Ryan Gallucci, Deputy Legislative Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; and Mr. William Hubbard, Vice President of External Affairs, Student Veterans of America. See "Legislative Hearing on H.R. 2942; H.R. 3056; H.R. 3614; H.R. 4031; H.R. 4037; H.R. 4038; H.R. 4147; H.R. 4150; and H.R. 4151," Serial No.113-59.

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

SITE VISIT – WASHINGTON, DC

On February 19, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity travelled to the America Works DC location, to conduct oversight on program functionality. Focus was placed specifically how America Works utilizes VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program and Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP), and potential ways that America Works' program can assist in job placement for veterans.

SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING – A REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF VA’S VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

On February 27, 2014, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing to assess and evaluate the performance of VA’s Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Daniel Bertoni, Director for Education, Workforce and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; Heather Ansley, Esquire, MSW, Vice President of Veterans Policy, VetsFirst, a program of United Spinal Association; and Mr. Paul Varela, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Jack Kammerer, Director, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See “A review of the Effectiveness of VA’s Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program,” Serial No.113-55.

SUBCOMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION – VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

On March 27, 2014, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity attended a Roundtable discussion in the Members’ Room at the Library of Congress on veteran employment opportunities in the private sector. This Roundtable was hosted by The Honorable Michael H. Michaud, Committee Ranking Member, and The Honorable Mark Takano, Subcommittee Ranking Member.

SITE VISIT – ST. CLAIR COUNTY, ILLINOIS; ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

On April 14, 2014 through April 18, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity travelled to St. Clair County, Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri to conduct oversight of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) at Scott Air Force Base and the Regional Processing Office for education claims at the St. Louis VA Regional Office. The purpose of this trip was to review the curriculum and quality of instruction provided to the airmen as part of the new TAP GPS program, and to examine how VA currently processes education claims as well as the efficiency of VA’s IT programs to process these claims in a timely manner.

SUBCOMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION – TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS

On April 29, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity attended a Roundtable discussion hosted by the Minority staff of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. The purpose of this Roundtable was to discuss veteran transition issues and the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), as well as mental health and TBI issues that Servicemembers face when transitioning out of the military and into the civilian sector.

SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING – DEFINING AND IMPROVING SUCCESS FOR STUDENT VETERANS

On May 8, 2014, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing to assess and evaluate the importance of higher education for veterans.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Michael Dakduk, Vice President of Military and Veterans Affairs, Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities (APSCU); Mr. William Hubbard, Vice President of External Affairs, Student Veterans of America (SVA); Mr. Ricardo D. Torres, President and CEO, The National Student Clearinghouse; Mr. Thomas

W. Ross, President, The University of North Carolina System, on behalf of The American Council on Education (ACE); and Dr. Melissa Vito, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives and Student Success, The University of Arizona.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Curtis L. Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See “Defining and Improving Success for Student Veterans,” Serial No.113-67.

SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING – EXPLORING JOBS FOR VETERANS IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

On May 20, 2014, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing to evaluate the success veterans can have seeking employment in the energy sector based on their past military experience.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Wesley Carr, President, PEC Safety; Col. Randall Wooten, USAF (Ret.), President, Texas State Technical College (TSTC) in Marshall; and Mr. Tyrone Everett, East Coast & Mid/Southwest Regional Director, Center for Employment Training (CET).

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Jay Hawkins, Vice President for Human Resources, Chesapeake Energy Co; Mr. Mark Szabo, Team Lead for Military Recruiting, Baker Hughes; and Mr. John Simon, Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, on Behalf of: The Center for Energy Workforce Development. See “Exploring Jobs for Veterans in the Energy Sector,” Serial No.113-68.

SITE VISIT – ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, MARYLAND

On May 30, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity travelled to Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, to observe the VA benefits briefing of the revised TAP, Transition GPS, in preparation for a Subcommittee hearing on the implementation of the new TAP model.

SITE VISIT – ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

On August 5, 2014, through August 6, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity travelled to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to conduct oversight of VA’s education programs and to participate on the legislative panel at the National Association of State Approving Agencies’ (NASAA) annual conference.

SITE VISIT – ORLANDO, FLORIDA

On October 22, 2014, through October 23, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity travelled to Orlando, Florida, to conduct oversight of VA’s education programs and participate on the legislative panel at the National Association of Veterans’ Program Administrators’ annual conference. Staff attended several workshops for school-certifying officials, including a discussion conducted by VA on GI Bill benefits and the administration of the in-state provision of Public Law (P.L.) 113-146, the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014.

SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING – THE ROLE OF THE STATE APPROVING AGENCIES IN ENSURING QUALITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS

On November 19, 2014, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing to assess the role State Approving Agencies (SAA) play in veterans' education and training programs.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Ryan M. Gallucci, Deputy Director, National Veterans Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; Mr. William Hubbard, Vice President of Government Affairs, Student Veterans of America; Mr. Steve Gonzalez, Assistant Director, National Veteran Employment and Education Division, The American Legion; and Mr. Keith Glindemann, Vice President and Legislative Chair, National Association of Veterans' Programs Administrators.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Curtis L. Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity, Veterans Benefit Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Coy was accompanied by Major General Robert Worley II, USAF (Ret.), Director, Education Service; Veterans Benefit Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dr. Joseph W. Wescott, President, National Association of State Approving Agencies. Hearing entitled, "The Role of the State Approving Agencies in Ensuring Quality Education Programs for Veterans," had not been printed at the time of this report's submission to the House; and therefore has not been assigned a House Serial No.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Second Session

SUBCOMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE HEARING— LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON H.R. 183; H.R. 2527; H.R. 2661; H.R. 2974; H.R. 3508; H.R. 3180; H.R. 3387; H.R. 3831; H.R. 4198; AND, DRAFT LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

On March 27, 2014, the Subcommittee on Health held a legislative hearing on H.R. 183, the Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act; H.R. 2527, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide veterans with counseling and treatment for sexual trauma that occurred during inactive duty training; H.R. 2661, the Veterans Access to Timely Medical Appointments Act; H.R. 2974, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the eligibility for beneficiary travel for veterans seeking treatment or care for military sexual trauma in specialized outpatient or residential programs at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; H.R. 3508, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the qualifications of hearing aid specialists of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; H.R. 3180, to amend title 38, United States Code, to include contracts and grants for residential care for veterans in the exception to the requirement that the Federal Government recover a portion of the value of certain projects; H.R. 3387, Classified Veterans Access to Care Act; H.R. 3831, the Veterans Dialysis Pilot Program Review Act of 2014; H.R. 4198, the Appropriate Care for Disabled Veterans Act; and, Draft legislation to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by The Honorable Michael Grimm, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (NY-11); The Honorable Dina Titus, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (NV-1); The Honorable Jackie Walorski, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (IN-2); The Honorable Sean Duffy, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (WI-7); The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (OH-9); The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (AZ-9); The Honorable David P. Roe, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (TN-1); and The Honorable Jeff Denham, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (CA-10).

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Ms. Joy J. Ilem, Deputy National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Alethea Predeoux, Associate Director of Health Analysis, Paralyzed Veterans of America; and Mr. Aleks Morosky, Senior Legislative Associate, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

On the third panel, testimony was provided by Dr. Madhulka Agarwal M.D., M.P.H., Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Agarwal was accompanied by Mr. Philip Matkovsky, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Renée L. Szybala, Esquire, Acting Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See “Legislative Hearing on H.R. 183; H.R. 2527; H.R. 2661; H.R. 2974; H.R. 3508; H.R. 3180; H.R. 3387; H.R. 3831; H.R. 4198; and, Draft legislation to authorize major medical facility

projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2014 and for other purposes,” Serial No. 113-61.

SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING— LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON H.R. 4720; H.R. 4887; H.R. 4977; H.R. 5059; H.R. 5475; H.R. 5484; AND H.R. 5686

On November 19, 2014, the Subcommittee on Health held a legislative hearing on H.R. 4720, the Medal of Honor Priority Care Act; H.R. 4887, the Expanding Care for Veterans Act; H.R. 4977, the Creating Options for Veterans Expedited Recovery Act (COVER); H.R. 5059, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act (SAV); H.R. 5475, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to newborn children; H.R. 5484, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2014; and H.R. 5686, the Physician Ambassadors Helping Veterans Act.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by The Honorable Tim Walberg, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (MI-7); The Honorable Gus Bilirakis, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (FL-12); The Honorable Tim Walz, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (MN-1); The Honorable Doug Collins, Member, U.S. House of Representatives, (GA-9); and The Honorable John Culberson, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (TX-7).

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Christopher Neiweem, Legislative Associate, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Mr. Brad Adams, Staff Attorney, Swords to Plowshares; Mr. Aleks Morosky, Deputy Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; and Mr. John Rowan, National President, Vietnam Veterans of America.

On the third panel, testimony was provided by Dr. Rajiv Jain, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Patient Care Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Jain was accompanied by Jennifer Gray, Esquire, Staff Attorney, Office of General Counsel, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Hearing entitled, “Legislative Hearing on H.R. 4720, H.R. 4887, H.R. 4977, H.R. 5059, H.R. 5475, H.R. 5484; H.R. 5686,” had not been printed at the time of this report’s submission to the House; and therefore has not been assigned a House Serial No.

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

SITE VISIT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA AND VENTURA, CALIFORNIA

On February 19, 2014, through February 20, 2014, staff for the Subcommittee on Health accompanied the Subcommittee Chairman on oversight travel to Los Angeles, California and Ventura, California to evaluate the clinical operations of the West Los Angeles Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Ventura County Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center.

SUBCOMMITTEE FIELD HEARING - AN EXAMINATION OF VETERAN ACCESS TO TRADITIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY

On February 20, 2014, the Subcommittee on Health held a field hearing on the provision of mental health care services to Southern California veterans through the Greater Los Angeles Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare System.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Ms. Kimberly Evans Logie, LMFT, Director, Military Collaborative of Ventura County; Ms. Lyndsey Hale, Veterans Liaison,

VITAS Innovative Hospice; Ms. Julie Sardonia, M.A., LMFT, Founder/Executive Director, Reins of H.O.P.E., H.O.P.E. for Warriors Program; and Mr. Mike McManus, USAF (Ret.), Veteran Service Officer, Ventura County Human Services Agency.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Ms. Donna M. Beiter, RN, MSN, Director, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, VISN 22, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Beiter was accompanied by Dr. Daniel Flynn, Oxnard Community-based Outpatient Clinic, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, VISN 22, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Jane Twombly, LMFT, Ventura Vet Center, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, VISN 22, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See “An Examination of Veteran Access to Traditional and Alternative Forms of Mental Health Therapy,” Serial No.113-52.

SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING - VA ACCOUNTABILITY: ASSESSING ACTIONS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT

On February 26, 2014, the Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on the progress made regarding physician staffing and productivity standards of the Veterans Health Administration, treatment for veterans who experienced military sexual trauma, pain management programs, and procurement reform.

On the first and only panel, testimony was provided by The Honorable Robert Petzel M.D., Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Petzel was accompanied by Dr. Robert L. Jesse, M.D., Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Madhulika Agarwal, M.D., M.P.H., Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Rajiv Jain, M.D., Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Patient Care Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Phillip Matkovsky, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Administrative Operations, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See “VA Accountability: Assessing Actions Taken in Response to Subcommittee Oversight,” Serial No.113-54.

SUBCOMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION - ANALYZING ORGANIZATIONAL OBSTACLES TO IMPROVING QUALITY CARE FOR VETERANS

On May 22, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Health hosted and attended a Roundtable discussion entitled, “Analyzing Organizational Obstacles to Improving Quality Care for Veterans.” The Roundtable provided an opportunity for the Subcommittee, the Department, key stakeholder groups, and representatives from the veterans’ service organizations to thoroughly discuss organizational impediments to quality care throughout the VA health care system and analyze actions needed to overcome them. Particular topics of discussion included: the lack of a standard organizational chart for Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) and VA Medical Centers (VAMCs); the lack of a base set of medical positions for VAMCs; and, the inconsistent implementation of key VHA policies, which has led to significant deviations from the standards of care and, in some cases, patient harm and preventable death.

Attendees present included: Dr. Robert L. Jesse, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Carolyn Clancy, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Safety, and Quality, Veterans Health

Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. John D. Daigh, Jr., Assistant Inspector General for Healthcare Inspections, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Debra Draper, Director, Veterans Health Care, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Ms. Lana McKenzie, Associate Executive Director of Medical Services, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Mr. Carl Blake, National Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Dr. Samuel Spagnolo, President, National Association of VA Physicians and Dentists; Mr. Tim McClain, President, Humana Government Business; Dr. Scott Wise, Chief Operating Officer, Community Based Outpatient Clinics, Humana Government Business; Mr. Ian de Planque, Deputy Legislative Director, The American Legion; and, Mr. Adrian Atizado, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans.

SUBCOMMITTEE FIELD HEARING - AN EXAMINATION OF RURAL AND NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN ACCESS TO CARE

On August 27, 2014, the Subcommittee on Health held a field hearing to evaluate and assess non-VA care, telehealth, and transportation services available to Native American veterans, as well as rural veterans located in northern Michigan and throughout the Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Fred Kiogima, Tribal Chairman, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians; Mr. Curtis Chambers, Veteran; Mr. Carl Archambeau, Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2780; LTC Linda Fletcher, USA (Ret), Executive Director, A Matter of Honor; and Mr. Charles R. Lerchen, ACVSO, Director of Veterans Services Grand Traverse, Leelanau, and Benzie Counties.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Paul Bockelman, Director, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 11, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Bockelman was accompanied by Ms. Peggy Kearns, Director, Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, VISN 11, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. James Rice, Director, Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center, VISN 12, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See "An Examination of Rural and Native American Veteran Access to Care," Serial No.113-85.

SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING - VA'S CAREGIVER PROGRAM: ASSESSING CURRENT PROSPECTS AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

On December 3, 2014, the Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) Family Caregiver Program, established by Public Law (P.L.) 111-163.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Randall B. Williamson, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; and Mr. Rajeev Ramchand, Senior Behavioral Scientist, RAND Corporation.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Dr. Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Chief Patient Care Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. McCarthy was accompanied by Mr. Michael Kilmer, Chief Consultant of Care Management and Social Work; and Ms. Margaret Kabat, Acting National Director, Caregiver Support Program Veterans, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Statements for the record were provided by Disabled American Veterans; Paralyzed Veterans of America; the Wounded Warrior Project; and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Hearing entitled, "VA's Caregiver Program: Assessing Current Prospects and Future Possibilities," had not been printed at the time of this report's submission to the House; and therefore has not been assigned a House Serial No.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON H.R. 3593, H.R. 4261, H.R. 4281, AND OTHER DRAFT LEGISLATION

On March 25, 2014, the Subcommittee held a legislative hearing on H.R. 3593, the VA Construction Assistance Act of 2013; H.R. 4261, the Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014; the H.R. 4281, Protecting Business Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2014; and other draft legislation.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Ms. Stella S. Fiotes, Executive Director, Office of Construction and Facilities Management, Office of Acquisition, Logistics and Construction, at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Fiotes was accompanied by Mr. Tom Leney, Executive Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Gregory Wilshusen, Director, Information Security Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Mr. Raymond Kelley, Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Diane Zumatto, National Legislative Director, AMVETS; Mr. James H. Binns, Chairman, Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses; Mr. Louis Celli, Legislative Director, The American Legion; Mr. Davy Leghorn, Assistant Director, Veterans Employment and Education Division, The American Legion; and Mr. Frank Wilton, Chief Executive Officer, American Association of Tissue Banks. See "Legislative Hearing on H.R. 3593, H.R. 4261, H.R. 4281, and other Draft Legislation," Serial No. 113-58.

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING - VENDORS IN THE OR – VA'S FAILED OVERSIGHT OF SURGICAL IMPLANTS

On January 15, 2014, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing to assess and evaluate VA's tracking and handling of, and vendor involvement in, surgical implants administered at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Randall Williamson, Director, Health Care, U.S. Government Accountability Office. Mr. Williamson was accompanied by Mr. Wayne McElrath, Director, Forensic Audit and Investigative Services, U.S. Government Accountability Office; and Mr. Roscoe Butler, Assistant Director for Health Care, National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, The American Legion.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Philip Matkovsky, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Administrative Operations, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Matkovsky was accompanied Dr. Thomas Lynch, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health Clinical Operations, at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See "Vendors in the OR – VA's Failed Oversight of Surgical Implants," Serial No.113-49.

SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING - VA and HUMAN TISSUE: IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR VETERANS SAFETY

On April 2, 2014, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on VA's continuing problems with tracking and management of biological implants.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Philip Matkovsky, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Administrative Operations, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Matkovsky was accompanied by Dr. William Gunnar, M.D., National Director of Surgery, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dr. Michael Icardi, M.D., National Director of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Ms. Marcia Crosse, Director, Health Care, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

On the third panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Frank Wilton, Chief Executive Officer, American Association of Tissue Banks. See "VA and Human Tissue: Improvements Needed for Veterans Safety," Serial No.113-62.

SUBCOMMITTEE FIELD HEARING - CONSTRUCTION CONUNDRUMS: A REVIEW OF CONTINUED DELAYS AND COST OVERRUNS AT THE REPLACEMENT AURORA, COLORADO VAMC

On April 22, 2014, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a field hearing to review continued delays and cost overruns occurring at the replacement VA Medical Center in Colorado.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Ms. Lorelei St. James, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Mr. Kirk Rosa, State Commander, Department of Colorado, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; Mr. Ralph Bozella, Chairman, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, The American Legion; Mr. Dave Davia, Executive Vice President and CEO, Colorado Association of Mechanical and Plumbing Contractors; and Mr. Michael Gifford, MPA, IOM, President, Associated General Contractors of Colorado.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Glenn Haggstrom, Principal Executive Director, Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Haggstrom was accompanied by Ms. Stella S. Fiotes, Executive Director, Office of Construction and Facilities Management, Office of Acquisition, Logistics and Construction, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See "Construction Conundrums: A Review of Continued Delays and Cost Overruns at the Replacement Aurora, Colorado VAMC," Serial No.113-65.

SUBCOMMITTEE FIELD HEARING -ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SERVICES: ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS FOR VETERANS

On April 24, 2014, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a field hearing to assess and evaluate the Department of Veterans Affairs' ability to provide accessible mental health care and other health care services for veterans suffering from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Derek Duplisea, Regional Alumni Director, West, Wounded Warrior Project; Ms. Ariana Del Negro, Co-Founder, Veterans

Leadership Assistance; Captain Charles Gatlin, USA (Ret.), Veteran; Mr. David Anderson, Veteran and American Legion Commander, Post 51, Sacaton, Arizona; Mr. Jerry Boales, Veteran and Chairman, Rock Soldiers for Wounded Warriors; Mr. John Davison, father of a Wounded Warrior; and Mr. Bradley Hazell, Veteran.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Dr. Lisa Kearney, PhD, Senior Consultant, National Mental Health Technical Assistance, Office of Mental Health Operations, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Kearney was accompanied by Dr. Joe Scholten, M.D., National Director of Special Projects, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Jonathan H. Gardner, MPA, FACHE, Director, Southern Arizona VA Health Care System, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Joshua D. Redlin, LCSW, Team Leader, Tucson Vet Center, at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See “Access to Mental Health Care and Traumatic Brain Injury Services: Addressing the Challenges and Barriers for Veterans,” Serial No.113-66.

SITE VISIT – PHOENIX, ARIZONA AND CHEYENNE, WYOMING

On May 13, 2014 through May 15, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations visited the Phoenix VA Health Care System and the Cheyenne VA Medical Center as part of an oversight investigation into data manipulation of patient schedules.

SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING - ASSESSING INADEQUACIES IN VA DATA USAGE FOR AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO VISUALLY - IMPAIRED VETERANS

On May 29, 2014, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing to assess shortfalls and to evaluate potential improvements in VA data usage for visually-impaired veterans.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Glenn Minney, Director of Government Relations, Blinded Veterans Association; Mr. Terry Kebbel, Veteran; and Mr. Travis Fugate, Veteran.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Dr. Maureen McCarthy, M.D., Deputy Chief Patient Care Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Lorraine Landfried, Deputy Chief Information Officer for Product Development, Office of Information Technology, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Landfried was accompanied by Dr. Mary Lawrence, M.D., Deputy Director, Vision Center of Excellence; and Mr. Pat Sheehan, Director, 508 Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See “Assessing Inadequacies in VA Data Usage for and Services Provided to Visually-Impaired Veterans,” Serial No.113-70.

SITE VISIT – ATLANTA, GEORGIA

On June 21, 2014, staff of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations visited with a whistleblower as part of an oversight investigation.

SUBCOMMITTEE OVERSIGHT HEARING—METRICS, MEASUREMENTS AND MISMANAGEMENT IN THE BOARD OF VETERANS’ APPEALS (BVA)

On September 10, 2014, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing to assess shortfalls and to evaluate potential improvements in the BVA appeals process.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Ms. Kelli Kordich, Senior Counsel, Board of Veterans' Appeals, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Zachary Hearn, Deputy Director for Claims, The American Legion; and Mr. Joe Violante, National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Ms. Laura Eskenazi, Executive in Charge and Vice Chairman, Board of Veterans' Appeals, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Eskenazi was accompanied by Mr. James Ridgeway, Chief Counsel for Policy and Procedure, Board of Veterans' Appeals, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See "Metrics, Measurements, and Mismanagement in the Board of Veterans' Appeals," Serial No.113-86.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT AND
OTHER EXECUTIVE BRANCH COMMUNICATIONS

January 10, 2014: Communication 04449, a letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a letter reporting the FY2013 expenditures from the Pershing Hall Revolving Fund for projects, activities, and facilities that support the mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

January 15, 2014: Communication 04503, a letter from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule – Duty Periods for Establishing Eligibility for Health Care (RIN: 2900-AO25) received January 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

January 17, 2014: Communication 04525, a letter from the Deputy Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule – Copayments for Medications in 2014 (RIN:2900-AO91) received January 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

January 28, 2014: Communication 04588, from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, the Department's final rule – Loan Guaranty: Minimum Property and Construction Requirements (RIN: 2900: AO67) received January 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a) (1) (A).

January 28, 2014: Communication 04589, from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule – VA Compensation Service and Pension and Fiduciary Service Nomenclature Changes (RIN: 2900-AO64) received January 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

January 31, 2014: Communication 04626, letter from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule – Community Residential Care (RIN: 2900 – AO62) received January 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

January 31, 2014: Communication 04627, letter from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule – Removal of Penalty for Breaking Appointments (RIN: 2900-AO51) received January 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

February 26, 2014: Communication 04828, from the Director, National Legislative Division, The American Legion, transmitting the financial statement and independent audit of The American Legion, proceedings of the 95th Annual National Convention of the American Legion, held in Houston, Texas from August 23- August 29, 2013, and a report on the Organizations activities for the year preceding the Convention. Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed on February 26, 2014.

March 27, 2014: Memorial 0179, Under Clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following title was presented as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 300 memorializing the Congress and the Department of Veterans to take a stronger role in investigating and eliminating delays in veterans' health care.

April 7, 2014: Communication 05262, from the Deputy Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the

Department's final rule – VA Dental Insurance Program-Federalism (RIN: 2900-AO85) received March 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

April 7, 2014: Communication 05263, from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule – Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program: Changes Related to the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 (RIN: 2900 – AO87) received March 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

April 7, 2014: Communication 05264, from the Deputy Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule – Disclosures to Participate in State prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (RIN: 2900-AO45) received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

April 10, 2014: Petition 0079, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, the following petition and papers were presented, as follows: By the Speaker: A petition of the County of Saratoga Board of Supervisors, New York, relative to Resolution 45-2014 urging the Senate to introduce a companion bill of H.R. 1494 and ensure its passage within the 113th Congressional Session. Referred jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs.

May 1, 2014: Communication 05522, from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting fourth quarterly report of FY 2013 on Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. Referred jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs May 1, 2014.

May 1, 2014: Communication 05523, from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting first quarterly report of FY 2014 on Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. Referred jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs May 1, 2014.

May 8, 2014: Memorial 0200, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following title was presented, as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, relative to House Memorial 2001 urging the Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection between Agent Orange exposure and subsequent illnesses to United States Vietnam War veterans.

May 15, 2014: Communication 05685, from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the second quarterly report of FY 2014 on Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. Referred jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs on May 15, 2014.

May 21, 2014: Communication 05748, from the Adjutant General, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., proceedings of the 114th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, held in Louisville, Kentucky, July 21-24, 2013, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1332.

May 28, 2014: Communication 05810, from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule – Loan Guaranty: Ability-to-Repay Standards and Qualified Mortgage Definition under the Truth in Lending Act (RIN: 2900-AO65) received May 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

June 19, 2014: Memorial 213, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following title was presented, as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Resolution No. 23 urging the Congress to support the veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013.

June 19, 2014: Memorial 214, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following title was presented, as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Resolution No. 22 urging the Congress to grant veterans benefits to Filipino Veterans who fought in World War II.

June 19, 2014: Memorial 215, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following title was presented, as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Resolution No. 19 urging the Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States veterans who served in the waters defined by the Combat Zone and in the airspace over the Combat Zone in Vietnam.

June 19, 2014: Memorial 216, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following title was presented, as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Resolution No. 68 urging the Congress to support House Bill 2074.

June 19, 2014: Memorial 218, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following titles was presented, as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to House Resolution No. 663 urging the Congress and the President to restore a presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure for the United States Navy and Air Force veterans who served on the inland waterways, territorial waters and in the airspace of Vietnam, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia.

June 19, 2014: Memorial 219, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following titles was presented, as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Resolution No. 18 supporting the Troop Talent Act of 2013. Referred jointly to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services.

June 23, 2014: Communication 06113, from the Acting Under Secretary and Deputy Secretary, Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, transmitting Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Joint Executive Council Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 8111 (f).

June 24, 2014: Communication 06139, from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management , Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule – Burial Benefits (RIN: 2900-A)82) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

June 25, 2014: Petition 0086, under Clause 3 of Rule XII, the following petition and papers were presented, as follows: By the Speaker: A petition of Ontario County Board of Supervisors, New York, relative to Resolution No. 265-2014 urging the adoption of H.R. 543.

July 15, 2014: Communication 06438, from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department requests be enacted during the second session of the 113th Congress. Referred jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform, Energy and Commerce, Science, Space and Technology, the Judiciary, Rules, Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructures, Financial Services, Foreign Affairs, and Veterans Affairs.

July 18, 2014: Memorial 0268, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following titles was presented, as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the House of Representatives of the state of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 371 urging the Department of Veterans Affairs to follow Federal Housing Administration guidelines as they apply to the site condominiums and view them as single-family homes as long as they meet certain criteria.

July 18, 2014: Memorial 0269, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following titles was presented, as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the Senate of the State of Hawaii,

relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 84 urging the Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States Veterans who served in the waters defined by the Combat Zone and in the airspace over the Combat Zone in Vietnam.

July 23, 2014: Communication 06569 from the Deputy Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule – Grants for Adaptive Sports Programs for Disabled Veterans and Disabled Members of the Armed Forces (RIN: 2900-AP07) received July 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

July 24, 2014: Memorial 0288, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following titles was presented, as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the House of Representatives of the state of North Carolina, relative to House Resolution 1256 honoring the brave men, women, and children who valiantly served our country as Coastwise Merchant Mariners during World War II.

July 25, 2014: Memorial 289, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following titles was presented, as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of North Carolina, relative to House Resolution No. 1256 honoring the brave men, women, and children who valiantly served our country as Coastwise Merchant Mariners during World War II.

July 31, 2014: Communication 06765 from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance – Veterans' Group Life Insurance Regulation Update – ABO, VGLI Application, SGLI-2 –Year Disability Extension (RIN: 2900-AO74) received July 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

August 4, 2014: Memorial 306, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following title was presented, as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island, relative to House Resolution No. 318 urging the Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to the United States Vietnam Veterans who served in the water defined by the combat zone, and in the airspace over the combat zone.

August 4, 2014: Communication 06860 from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule – Schedule for Rating Disabilities – Mental Disorders and Definition of Psychosis for Certain VA Purposes (RIN: 2900-AO96) received July 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

September 9, 2014: Communication 06968, from the Acting Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a letter regarding the state of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

September 10, 2014: Communication 07022, from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule – Specially Adapted Housing Eligibility for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Beneficiaries (RIN: 2900-AO84) received August 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

September 18, 2014: Communication 07335, from the Deputy Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule, Special Home Adaptation Grants for Members of the Armed Forces and Veterans with Certain Vision Impairment (RIN: 2900-AP12) received September 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

September 18, 2014: Communication 07336, from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the

Department's final rule, Substitution in Case of Claimant (RIN:2900-AN91) received September 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

September 18, 2014: Communication 07337, from the Deputy Director, Regulation Policy Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule, Updating Certain Citations in VA Medical Regulations (RIN: 2900-AP04) received September 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

September 18, 2014: Communication 07347, from the Acting Director, Office of the National Drug Control Policy, transmitting 2014 National Drug Control Strategy, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 1504. Referred jointly to the Committees on Judiciary, Agriculture, Armed Services, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, Foreign Affairs, Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, Veterans' Affairs, Homeland Security, Natural Resources, Intelligence (Permanent Select), and Education and the Workforce.

November 12, 2014: Communication 07654, from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, the Department's final rule – Payment or Reimbursement for Certain Medical Expenses for Camp Lejeune Family Members (RIN: 2900-AO79) received September 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

November 12, 2014: Communication 07655, from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, the Department's final rule – Standard Claims and Appeals Froms (RIN: 2900-AO81) receive September 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

November 12, 2014: Communication 07656, from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, the Department's final rule – Hospital Care and Medical Services for Camp Lejeune Veterans (RIN: 2900 – AO78) received September 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a) (1) (A).

November 12, 2014: Communication 07657 from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report on wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration.

November 13, 2014: Communication 07694 from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, the Departments "Major" final rule – Copayments for Medications in 2015 (RIN: 2900- AP15) received October 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

November 18, 2014: Memorial 0322, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following title was presented as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to House Joint Resolution 25, urging Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States veterans.

November 18, 2014: Memorial 0323, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following title was presented as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 24, relating to certain holiday practices at federal Veterans Health Administration Facilities.

November 19, 2014: Memorial 0330, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following title was presented as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 24, relating to certain holiday practices at federal Veterans Health Administration Facilities.

November 20, 2014: Memorial 0333, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, a memorial of the following title was presented as follows: By the Speaker: A memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 385 urging the Congress to investigate

the Department of Veterans Affairs' treatment of military veterans seeking health care at facilities throughout the country.

November 20, 2014: Petition 0112, Under clause 3 of Rule XII, the following petition and papers were presented, as follows: By the Speaker, A petition of the Blinded Veterans Association, Washington, D.C., relative to Resolution 21-14 supporting legislation to require the President, Vice President, and Members of Congress to enroll for VA medical care services and receive health care exclusively from the VA health care system. Referred jointly to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Government Reform in addition to Veterans' Affairs.

November 20, 2014: Communication 08076, from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a letter regarding the use of private sector health care for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

November 20, 2014: Communication 08077, from the Chief Regulations Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule – Technical Corrections Based on Public Law 104-262 (RIN: 2900-AO93) received November 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

November 20, 2014: Communication 08078, from the Chief, Regulations Policy, Tracking and Control, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule – Designee for Patient Personal Property (RIN: 2900-AO41) received November 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

November 20, 2014: Communication 08079, from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, the Department's "Major" final rule – Expand Access to Non-VA Care Through the Veterans Choice Program (RIN: 2900-AP24) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

November 20, 2014: Communication 08080 from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule – Exempting Mental Health Peer Support Services from Copayments (RIN: 2900-AP11) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

November 20, 2014: Communication 08081 from the Chief, Regulations Policy, Tracking and Control, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule – Designee for Patient Personal Property (RIN: 1900-AO41) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801 (a) (1) (A).

November 20, 2014: Communication 08111 from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting fourth quarterly report of FY 2014 on Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. Referred jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs Committees.

December 1, 2014: Communication 08118 from the National Adjutant, Chief Executive Officer, the Disabled American Veterans, transmitting, the 2014 National Convention Proceedings of the Disabled American Veterans.

