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COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MARTIN J. RUE
Superintendent
(815)433-1761

LaSalle County Courthouse
Room A103
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: Aug. 21, 2003

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
Jim DeMoss	VFW 5506	Deputy	795-2959
Ken Hausken	VFW 5506	DL2	795-2466
FRANK SUMER	LEGION #375	Vice Chair	223-0782
DELBERT SPITZ	VFW #4079	Adl	538-2023

[Handwritten signatures]

TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND SERVICE TO VETERANS OF ALL WARS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MARTIN J. RUE
Superintendent
(815)433-1761

LaSalle County Courthouse
Room A103
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: July 23, 2003

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
<i>Ralph Adla</i>	<i>A.L. 235</i>	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>795-5436</i>
<i>Ken Hauke</i>	<i>VFW 5506</i>	<i>DE2</i>	<i>795-2466</i>
<i>Jim DeMond</i>	<i>VFW 5506</i>	<i>AWT</i>	<i>795-2959</i>

TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND SERVICE TO VETERANS OF ALL WARS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

**COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

MARTIN J. RUE
Superintendent
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Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: March 26/03

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
Ralph Allen	Legion 235	Chairman	795-5436
Jim Ruby	Legion 549	Chaplain	246-9740
Albin Spitz	VFW 4079	Welfare	538-2023
Rudwig Sikole	VFW 4079	Alternate	539-6936
Ken Hank	VFW 5506	Dir	795-2466
Frank R. Dura	Legion 355	PERM	223-8782
Jerry Welch	Park Post 375		223-6879
George Dewarzel	CWV 1229	Dir	523-4179
Bob Perry	CWV 1229	Alt	223-7056
Nick Nekrosina	Am Legion 426	Pres	224-2204

TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND SERVICE TO VETERANS OF ALL WARS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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Room A103
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: April 23, 2003

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
Ralph Adla	AL 235	Chairman	795-5436
Frank L. Lutz	AL 375	VICE CHAIR	223-0782
Jerry Welch	AL 375	SO.	223-6889
Jim DeMaio	VFW 5506	DEL	795-2959
Ken Harkner	VFW 5506	DEL	795-2466
Bob Reuz	CWV 1229	Chf.	223-7056
Joseph Quaszel	CWV 1225	Del	223 4179
Nick Netrovian	Am Legion 426	Del	224-2204

TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND SERVICE TO VETERANS OF ALL WARS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MARTIN J. RUE
Superintendent
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LaSalle County Courthouse
Room A103
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: Feb. 26, 2003

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
Jim Kirby	549	Chaplain	246 9740
Rudwig Nikole	4079	alt.	539-6936
Alfred Spitz	4079	Welfare office	538-2023
Ralph Adler	235	Chairman	795-5436
Joseph Swaszko	1289 CWV	Del	223 4179
Nick Nekrasius	Amy Legion 426	Del	224 2204
Ken Hauke	VFW 5506	DEL	795-2466

TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND SERVICE TO VETERANS OF ALL WARS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MARTIN J. RUE
Superintendent
(815)433-1761

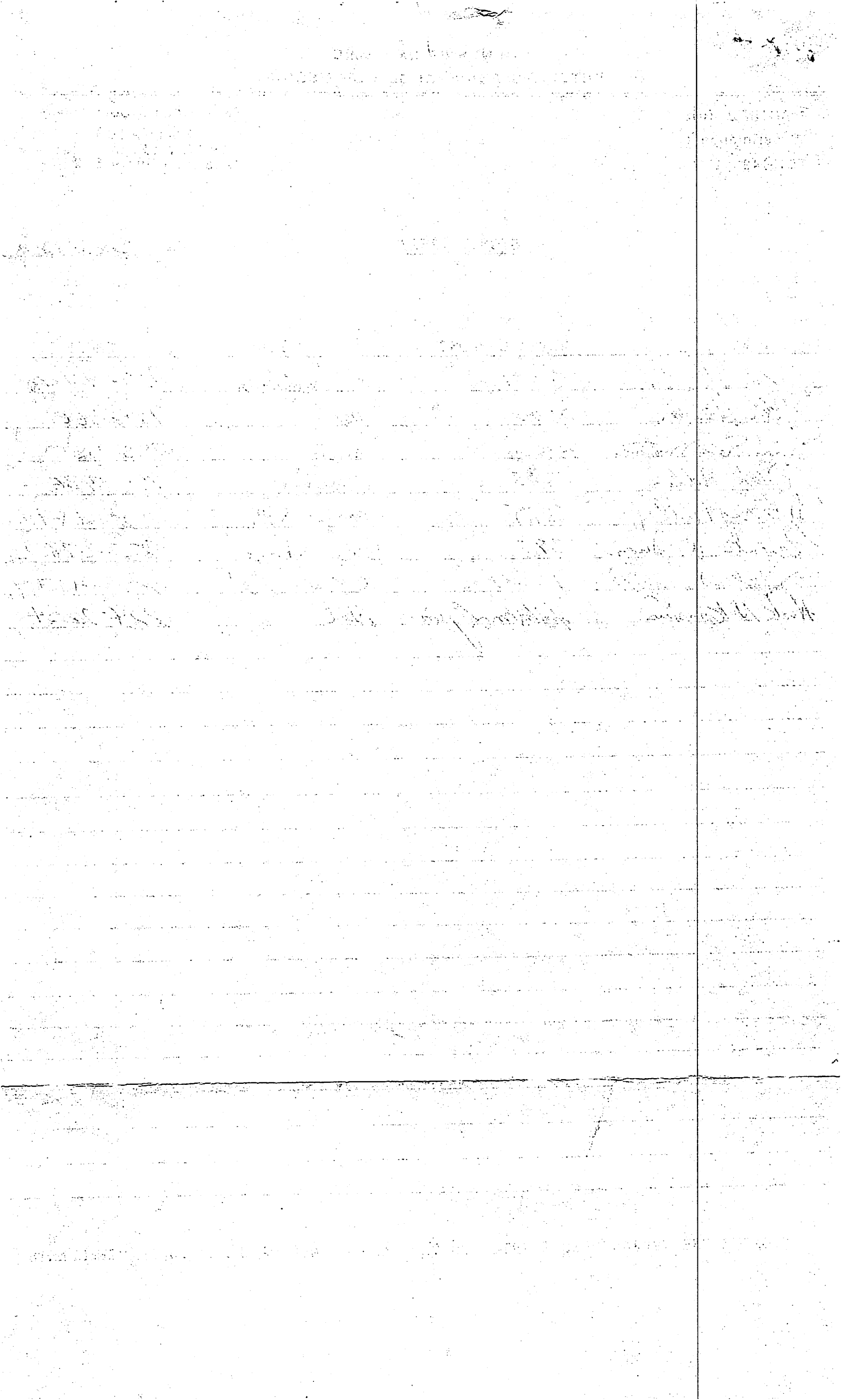
LaSalle County Courthouse
Room A103
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: Jan 22, 2003

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
Jim Kirby	549	Chaplain	296 9740
Ken Hawker	5506	Del	795-2466
Jim DeMora	5506	ANT.	795-2959
Ralph Adler	235	Chairman	795-5436
Jerry Wulfe	375	adj SO	223-6879
Frank R. Swaz	375	Vice Chair	223-8782
Joseph Dussan	1229	Cur. Del	223-4179
Mark Netrossin	1229	Del	224-2204

TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND SERVICE TO VETERANS OF ALL WARS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS



COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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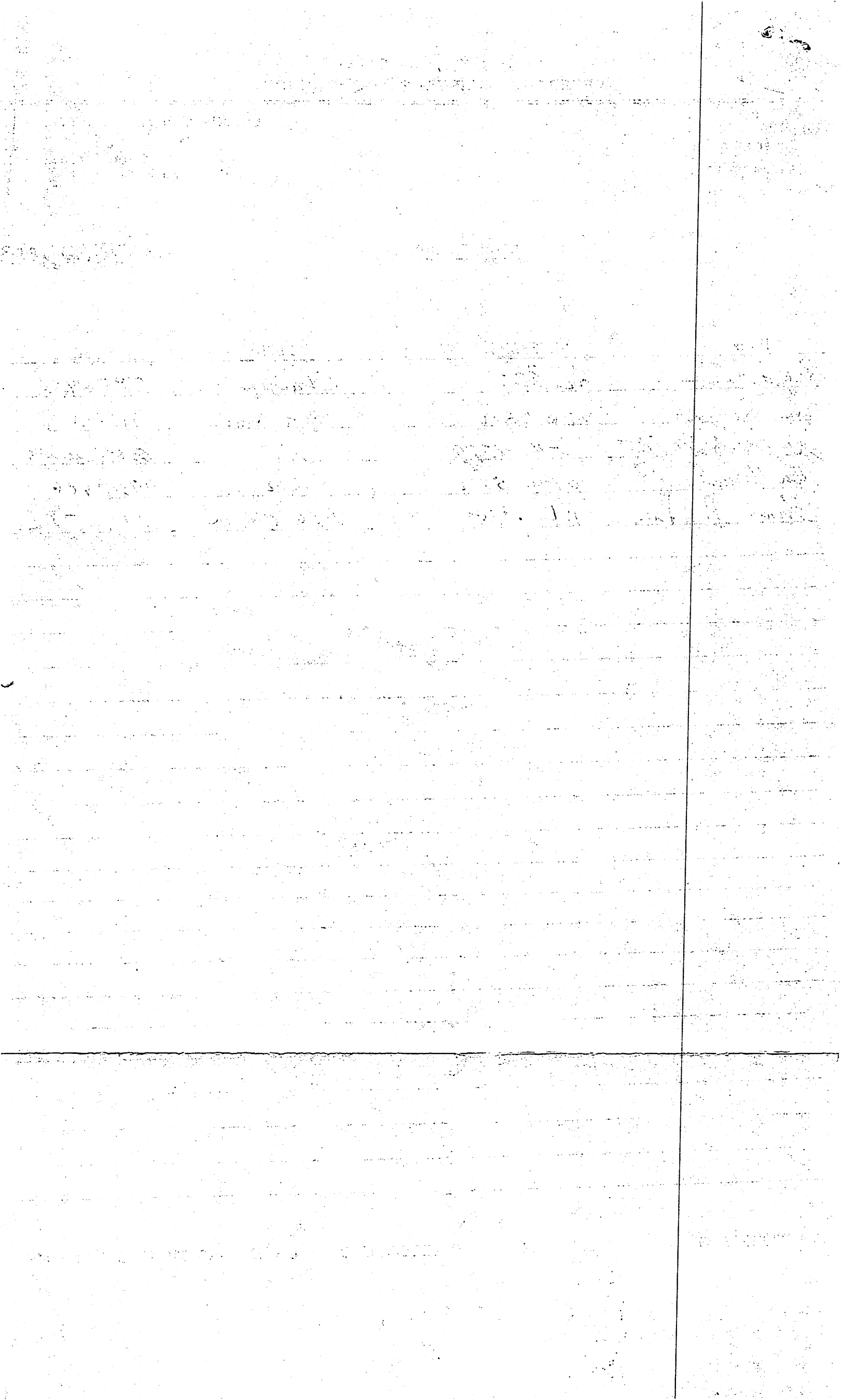
LaSalle County Courthouse
Room A103
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: Oct 22 2003

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
Ralph Adle	AL 235	Chairman	795-5436
Jim DeMoss	VFW 5506	ALT. DEL	795-2959
Delbert Spitz	VFW 4079	Del	538-2023
Ken Hauke	VFW 5506	DEL	295-2466
Frank A. Am	AL 375	Vice Chair	223-6782

TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND SERVICE TO VETERANS OF ALL WARS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS



Minutes of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission meeting of October 22, 2003.

Meeting opened in due form by Chairman Ralph Adler. Roll call of officers was taken showing our Chaplain and Sgt. At Arms excused and all other officers present.

Minutes of previous meeting were read. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Adler stated the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business was discussed. All questions pertaining to old business were answered.

New Business: The Service Officer's Report was read. All questions pertaining to the Service Officer's Report were answered. Motion was made by Frank Suarez, seconded by Ken Hausken that the Service Officer's Report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

Chairman Adler reminded everyone that our annual meeting and election of officers for next year would be held on November 19, 2003. As our bylaws require, Superintendent Rue will send a letter to each delegate and alternate reminding them that their post should submit the names of their delegate and alternate for the year 2003-2004 so they will be able to vote in the November 19, 2003 annual meeting.

Motion was made by Frank Suarez, seconded by Delbert Spitz that the meeting adjourns. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegate Delbert Spitz, VFW Post 4079; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Frank Suarez, American Legion Post 375; Alternate Jim DeMoss, VFW Post 5506; and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of January 22, 2003.

Meeting opened in due form by Chairman Ralph Adler. Roll call of officers was taken showing all officers present.

Minutes of previous meeting were read. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Adler stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: Questions were asked by the Delegates and Alternates as to the status of adding the additional 80 beds to our LaSalle Veterans' Home. Superintendent Rue stated there are currently 270 veterans waiting for admission to our LaSalle Veterans' Home. He suggested that all people should write letters to their State of Illinois Senators and Representatives requesting the legislation be submitted to add those additional 80 beds and legislation for the funding of that project. He further stated that the architect and engineer's plans for construction were finalized over a year ago, so that part is done.

New Business: The Service Officer's Report was read. All questions pertaining to the Service Officer's Report were answered. A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius, seconded by Frank Suarez that the Service Officer's Report be approved as presented.

A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius, seconded by Frank Suarez that a letter be sent from our Commission to Jack Leininger thanking him for his years of service on our Commission. Motion passed.

Delegates and Alternates asked questions pertaining to our LaSalle Veterans' Clinic's inability to take in more veterans. Superintendent Rue answered their questions and explained that all Category seven veterans who enroll in the VA health care system after January 17, 2003 will be placed in Category eight.

Delegates and Alternates were concerned about our procedures for canceling meetings due to the prediction of severe storms. It was the consensus that our Chairman or Superintendent is empowered to cancel any meetings scheduled by calling all Delegates and Alternates the morning of the meeting in which our National Weather Service is predicting severe storms for that afternoon or evening.

Motion by Joe Iwaszek, seconded by Jim Kirby that we adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Jim Kirby, American Legion Post 549; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Joseph Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Frank Suarez, American Legion Post 375; Alternates Jim DeMoss, VFW Post 5506; Jerry Welch, American Legion Post 375; and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR JANUARY 2003

.CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 20 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 3 veterans
3. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 526 for 2 veterans.
4. Sent out birth, death, DD214, and marriage certificates to service offices for 6 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 43 veterans to discuss, explain or inquire as to the status of their case.
6. Sent out 3 Form 180 to St. Louis for veterans personnel records.
7. Sent out 25 requests for medical records to various doctors, hospitals, etc for various veterans.
8. Sent copy of veteran's records to 2 veteran
9. Sent medals received to 1 veteran.
10. Sent letter to 8 veteran placing their file on inactive status.
11. Sent out various VA forms to 9 veterans to sign and return.
12. Sent VA Form 4142 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
13. Sent VA Form 534 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 6 veterans
15. Sent application for headstone to sexton for 3 veteran.
16. Sent application for headstone to Washington DC for 2 veterans
17. Sent VA Form 530 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
18. Sent VA Form 8940 to Veterans Administration for veterans.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 7 veteran.
20. Sent VA Form 527 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
21. Sent Request for Reconsideration to SSA reference denial of disability benefits for 3 veteran.
22. Sent 21 medical records for veterans to Social Security office.
23. Sent VA Form 5655 to VA for 0 veterans.
24. Sent VA Form 9 to VA for 6 veterans.
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 20 veterans.
26. Sent VA Form 1900 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
27. Sent Request for Presidential Memorial Certificate to VA Regional Office for 0 veterans' widows.
28. Sent NA Form 13055 to National Personnel for 1 veterans.
29. Sent various SSA forms for 20 veterans to Hearing Office for Social Security Disability

30. Sent 10 memos to National Service Offices to check progress of client's claims.
31. Sent VA Form 516 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
32. Sent VA Form 518 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
33. Sent VA Form 686c to Veterans Administration for 2 veterans.
34. Sent VA Form 10-10t to Veterans Medical Centers for 1 veterans.
35. Sent VA Form 10-10F to Veterans medical Centers for 0 veterans.
36. Sent VA Form 674 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
37. Sent 0 request for waiver of overpayment to the Social Security Administration.
38. Sent 0 requests for review of ALJ decision denying claim for benefits.
39. Sent 0 VA Form 149 to veterans pertaining to upgrade of discharges.
40. Sent VA Form 517 for 0 veteran.
41. Sent 0 requests for Aid & Attendance for veterans.
42. Sent 0 request for Outpatient Fee Basis Card for veteran to Hines VAMC
43. Sent VA Form 5490 for 0 veteran.
44. Sent 0 claim to Court of Veterans Appeals (BVA) for their consideration and review.
45. Sent 0 VA Form 0304 to Veterans Administration for spina bifida benefits for children.
46. Sent VA Form 293 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
47. Sent VA Form 4502 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
48. Sent VA Form 4555 to Veterans administration for 0 veteran.
49. Sent VA Form 5281 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran

AWARDS

1. Veteran Awarded increased S/C Compensation, IUE (50%-70%) (diff \$1676) 11/02, \$1676; 12/2-11/3, \$2408 monthly, \$28,816 (Total \$30,572) (Westend, Vietnam)
2. Veteran awarded increased S/C Compensation (50%-70%), IUE, (diff \$1600), 12/01-11/02, \$19,200; 12/02-11/03, \$2318 monthly, \$27,816 (Total \$47,016) (Streator, Vietnam)
3. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, 11/02-12/02 \$1932; 1/03-12/03, \$979 monthly, \$11,748 (Total \$13,680) (Eastend, Vietnam)

4. Veteran's spouse awarded SSD benefits, retroactive payment from 8/2000-12/2002, \$9653; 1/03-11/03, \$356 monthly, \$4272 (total \$13,925) (Streator, Vietnam)
5. Veteran awarded 100% s/c Compensation, 8/02-11/02 \$9,418; 12/02-11/03, \$2318 monthly, \$27,816 (Total \$36,964) (Troy Grove, Korea)
6. Veteran awarded 50% s/c Compensation 9/02-11/02, \$609 monthly, \$2436; 12/02-11/03, \$625 monthly, \$7500 (Total \$9936) (Westend, Gulf War)
7. Veteran awarded 20% s/c compensation 8/01-11/01, \$194, monthly, \$776; 12/01-11/02, \$199 monthly, \$2388; 12/02/11/03, \$201 monthly, \$2412 (Total \$5576) (Marseilles, Vietnam)
8. Veteran awarded increased s/c compensation, (40%-60%) (diff \$172) 9/2001-11/01, \$516; 12/01-8/02, (\$175 diff), \$1400; 9/02-11/02, \$2287 monthly, \$6861; 12/02-11/03, \$2318, \$27,816 (Total \$36,593) (Sheridan, Vietnam)
9. Veteran's spouse awarded SSD benefits, 6/03-11/03 (\$930 monthly, \$5580; 12/03-11/04, \$949 monthly, \$11,388 (Total \$16,698) \$27,444 (Total \$45,571) (Peru, WWII)
10. Veteran awarded retroactive payment (10%-70%), 1/99-12/02, \$42,016; 1/03-11/03 \$1008 monthly, \$12,096 (\$Total \$54,112) (Ottawa, Vietnam)

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS:	\$	54,573.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	187,033.00
TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS:	\$	220,769.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	860,803.00
TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE:	\$	1,081,572.00

EXPLANATION OF VA FORMS:

1. Form 526-APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION OR PENSION
2. VA Form 4138-STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM
3. VA Form 180-REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS
4. VA Form 534-APPLICATION FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION OR DEATH PENSION BY SURVIVING SPOUSE OR CHILD.
5. VA Form 21-22-APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE ORGANIZATION
6. VA Form 518-IMPROVED PENSION EVR (Surviving Spouse with no children)
7. VA Form 530-APPLICATION FOR BURIAL BENEFITS
8. VA Form 535-APPLICATION FOR DIC (DISABILITY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION) BY PARENTS
9. VA Form 512V-SECTION 306 EVR (VETERAN)
10. VA Form 686C-DECLARATION OF MARITAL STATUS
11. DD Form 149- APPLICATION FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS UNDER THE PROVISION OF TITLE 10 U.S.CODE, SECTION 1552
12. VA Form 10-10-APPLICATION FOR MEDICAL BENEFITS
13. VA Form 5655-FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT
14. VA Form 512S- SECTION 306 EVR (Surviving Spouse)
15. VA Form 8416-REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING MEDICAL, LEGAL, OR OTHER EXPENSES.
16. VA Form (1-9)-APPEAL TO BOARD OF APPEAL
17. VA Form 517 IMPROVED PENSION ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION REPORT (VETERAN WITH CHILDREN)
18. VA Form 527-INCOME-NET WORTH AND EMPLOYMENT STATEMENT
19. VA Form 519-CERTIFICATION OF INFORMATION FOR VA PURPOSES
20. VA Form 4125-CLAIM FOR ONE SUM PAYMENT
21. VA FORM 8940-VETERANS APPLICATION FOR INCREASED COMPENSATION BASED ON UNEMPLOYABILITY
22. VA FORM 1900-DISABLED VETERANS APPLICATION FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
23. VA FORM 1990-APPLICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
24. VA FORM 5281-APPLICATION FOR REFUND OF EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS
25. VA FORM 4125-REQUEST FOR LUMP SUM PAYMENT
26. VA FORM 5490-APPLICATION FOR SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
27. VA FORM 0304-APPLICATION FOR SPINA BIFIDA BENEFITS.
28. VA FORM 4502-APPLICATION FOR AUTOMOBILE OR OTHER CONVEYANCE OR ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT
29. VA FORM 4555-VETERAN'S APPLICATION IN ACQUIRING SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING OR SPECIAL HOME ADAPTATION GRANT.
30. VA FORM 8678-APPLICATION FOR CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

Melanie R. Sopko & Gary Sopko

4409 Kangley Avenue
Streator, Illinois 61364
815-672-3914
815-674-8251
frog63@email.uophx.edu

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February 25, 2003

Dear Angels and All,

I have to address this to my angels. I have always believed in them, but I now know three of mine. This is a message and a thank you to everyone. If it were not for Cynthia Ketchum, Martin Rue and Mary Ann Berry, I would not be where I am today emotionally, spiritually, financially and most of all five minutes away from my dad.

It has been a long eight months in my life. I never thought that at twenty-six I would have an ill parent. I have been sent many angels in this time and the three of you are the only ones I know by name and have met personally.

Cynthia, I honestly believe that it was fate the day that we met last fall at the Hines Extended Care Facility. We spoke briefly in the lobby. In that brief time I received, much needed information that would change my life and most importantly my dads. You took the time to ask me about my dad and his condition and cared how I was coping. You led me to Martin who I spoke to on the phone (that very same day) and he said, "Maybe I can help." I was just shocked at all kindness I received in on day. I did not think that people were like this anymore. Martin immediately called me back and informed me on the information he would need about my father.

Who just leads us down the right roads? All of you did. Mary Ann I have to personally thank you for how expedient you handled things. Thank you for your concern about my father and me and our well-being. Words cannot even explain how thankful I am for the channels you took to complete this task. The three all went beyond and I want you to know how grateful we are.

This letter does not even express how very thankful my dad and I truly are. Martin you even came to the VA to visit my dad. I appreciate that so much. He is very thankful for all of you and is still in awe about his compensation. I am a very lucky girl to know all of you. In addition, even luckier to have run into Cynthia that day. Cynthia, Martin and Mary Ann, please feel free to share our story with anyone I want everyone to know that miracles do happen.

Sincerely,

Melanie Sopko &

*GARY
"SOUP"
SOPKO*

Legislators look to add space to veterans' home

By **STEPHANIE SIEVERS**
Daily Times Springfield Bureau

SPRINGFIELD — With hundreds of veterans waiting to get in and federal money available to help offset some construction costs, legislative efforts are again under way to add 80 beds to the Illinois Veterans Home in La Salle.

The \$12 million expansion could be paid for with \$7 million the federal government returned to Illinois for repairs and construction on earlier veterans' home projects and another \$5 million in state bonds, according to Rep. Frank Mautino, D-Spring Valley.

Because the federal government reimburses states for two-thirds of the cost of improvements made to veterans' homes, Illinois could get about \$8 million back after the project is complete, he said.

Mautino is sponsoring legislation this session to build the addition, which would bring bed totals up to 200 at La Salle. Sen. Pat Welch, D-Peru, is sponsoring similar legislation in the Senate.

Mautino said both lawmakers believe the project is a critical one. There are already 281 veterans waiting to get into the home and the man at the top of the list has been waiting for 15 months, he said.

There are waiting lists at all



Mautino



Welch

four of Illinois' veterans' homes, but La Salle's is the longest. Quincy has the smallest with 13, then Anna with 61 and Manteno with 243, according to John Johnston, acting director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs.

And Manteno has 38 beds sitting empty because the home can't find enough nurses to meet staffing requirements, Johnston said.

With a nursing shortage statewide, James Arrington, administrator of the La Salle home, said staffing could eventually become an issue there as well.

Mautino and the La Salle home have been pushing for more beds for about a decade, but legislation got stalled in the Senate. Despite a state budget crisis, Mautino thinks it may still have a shot this time because the state's share would come out of bond revenue and not the general revenue fund, where a multi-billion dollar shortfall is anticipated.

January 29, 2003

OPEN FORUM

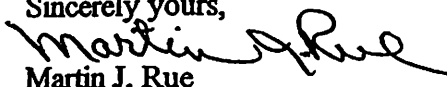
I write in response to the article that appeared on the front page of the NEWS TRIBUNE on January 25, 2003 entitled "Message from I.V.C.C. 'Give Peace A Chance,'" and a follow up article on January 27, 2003 entitled "Peacemakers' gather for discussion in Princeton." Those articles brought back memories of the media frenzy in the late 1960's and early 1970's. In fact, I had to speak at the moratoriums that were held at I.V.C.C. in the early 1970's in support of our soldiers who were fighting in Vietnam and their families who in many instances were being chastised by United States protesters. Those years were the darkest days of Hell in which institutes of higher learning chose to call our United States "soldiers" baby killers, war mongers, rapists, inhuman, immoral, un-Christian, etc. Back then, Hollywood, the news media, and our institutes of higher learning did all they could to destroy the minds of our returning soldiers and their families. They pitted brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor, and lovers against lovers, leaving a stigma on the Vietnam Veteran that still remains today and had not been seen in this country since the Civil War. I sincerely hope that those days do not resurface ever again. Those who were singing "Give Peace a Chance" were anti-capitalist, anti-government, flower children who were for the most part pacifists that oppose our democracy and would not serve in our military under any circumstance. In fact, in the 1950's their chant was "I would rather be Red than Dead."

Today our nation and other nations of the free world face another enemy called terrorism. These enemy combatants are funded by tyrannical leaders of nations that also offer sanctuary in their country for training and supply them with weapons that cause mass destruction to innocent citizens. These tyrannical leaders further blackmail nations of the free world with the threat of using their weapons of mass destruction if we do not grant their demands. We have seen this with the assault on the Kurds, plundering of Kuwait, ravaging in many of the African nations, and the burning of many villages in Asian countries.

The results of those terrorist's actions have left devastating death and destruction in those nations. Let us not forget that millions of innocent civilians were gassed in Germany and butchered in countries such as Cambodia and Africa, to name a few. Let us also not forget that over 3,600 Americans have been killed by radical Islamic terrorists in such attacks as the Marine barracks in Lebanon, the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in Scotland, the plane crash into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and the plane crash into the World Trade Center in New York. This must be stopped and stopped now! In order to have world peace, nations of the free world must stop these terrorists by halting their violence and force. Our armed forces are ready to do just that. They are totally devoted to our government's preservation of freedom for our people. They will protect our nations vital interest anywhere in the world at any given time. They are loyal to our nation and firmly believe in the preservation of our western democratic ideals. Only a fool buries their head in the sand thinking that once the terrorist see that act they will stop their siege on innocent civilians on their own.

As many before me, I have experienced the ravages of war and bare the scars of its actions. I truly wish that no one else would ever have to experience its true horrors for I see no honor in neutralizing others. In the same token, I do not feel that we can sit back and not defend our freedoms or way of life. Taking no action against terrorists only encourages them to continue their actions causing millions of more innocent deaths. As a wise law enforcement officer once said, "You do not shoot a rabid dog to prevent other rabid dogs from biting. You shoot that rabid dog so that they do not bite other people." I truly hope that all wars can be prevented, but feel we have a moral obligation to use whatever force is necessary to prevent terrorists assaults on innocent people. I will pray for peace, back our government's actions, and remain totally in support of our American Soldiers.

Sincerely yours,



Martin J. Rue

815-433-1761 (day)

815-224-4286 (evenings)

DATE	COUNTRY/CITY	ATTACK	U.S. KILLED	TERRORIST NATIONALITY
Feb 21, 1970	Switzerland, Zurich	Bombing of Swissair Flight 330	6	Palestinian
Feb 23, 1970	Israel, Halhul (West Bank)	Gunfire at a Bus	1	Palestinian
Jun 10, 1970	Jordan, Amman	Assassination	1	Palestinian
Jan 16, 1972	Israel, Gaza Strip	Gunfire at a Car	1	Palestinian
May 8, 1972	Israel, Tel Aviv	Shoot-out at Airport	1	Palestinian
Mar 1, 1973	Sudan, Khartoum	Execution at Saudi Embassy	2	Palestinian
Jun 2, 1973	Iran, Tehran	Assassination	1	Iranian
Aug 5, 1973	Greece, Athens	Gunfire at TWA Passengers	2	Palestinian
Oct 18, 1973	Lebanon, Beirut	Execution at Bank of America	1	Lebanese
Dec 17, 1973	Italy, Rome	Grenade into Pan Am Plane	14	Palestinian
Sep 8, 1974	Greece, Ionian Sea	Bombing of TWA Plane	17	Palestinian
May 21, 1975	Iran, Tehran	Assassination	2	Iranian
Jun 16, 1976	Lebanon, Beirut	Assassination	2	Palestinian (?)
Aug 11, 1976	Turkey, Istanbul	Attack at Airport	1	Palestinian
Aug 28, 1976	Iran, Tehran	Assassination	3	Iranian
Jun 3, 1978	Israel, Jerusalem	Bombing of Bus	1	Palestinian
Dec 23, 1978	Iran, Ahwaz	Assassination	1	Iranian
Jan 14, 1979	Iran, Kerman	Assassination	1	Iranian
Feb 14, 1979	Afghanistan, Kabul	Execution	1	Afghan
Nov 21, 1979	Pakistan, Islamabad	Mob Attack on U.S. Embassy	2	Pakistani
Aug 9, 1982	France, Paris	Shooting Spree	2	Palestinian
Apr 18, 1983	Lebanon, Beirut	Truck Bombing of U.S. Embassy	17	Lebanese
Sep 23, 1983	United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi	Bombing of Plane	1	Palestinian
Oct 23, 1983	Lebanon, Beirut	Truck Bombing of Marine Barracks	241	Lebanese
Jan 18, 1984	Lebanon, Beirut	Assassination	1	Lebanese
Sep 20, 1984	Lebanon, Beirut	Car Bombing of U.S. Embassy Annex	2	Lebanese
Dec 4, 1984	Iran, Tehran	Execution	2	Lebanese
Jun 14, 1985	Lebanon, Beirut	Execution Aboard TWA Flight 847	1	Lebanese
Oct 4, 1985	Lebanon, Beirut	Execution	1	Lebanese
Oct 7, 1985	Mediterranean Sea	Execution Aboard Ship <i>Achille Lauro</i>	1	Palestinian
Nov 23, 1985	Malta, Luqa	Execution Aboard Plane	1	Palestinian
Dec 27, 1985	Italy, Rome	Assassination at Airport	5	Palestinian
Apr 2, 1986	Greece, Athens	Bombing Aboard TWA Flight 840	4	Palestinian
Apr 5, 1986	Germany, Berlin	Bombing of La Belle Disco	2	Libyan
Apr 17, 1986	Lebanon, Beirut	Execution	1	Lebanese (?)
Sep 5, 1986	Pakistan, Karachi	Assassination Aboard Pan Am Flight 73	2	Palestinian
Dec 21, 1988	Scotland, Lockerbie	Bombing Aboard Pan Am 103	189	Libyan
Jul 6, 1989	Israel, Tel Aviv	Bus Crash	1	Palestinian
Jul 31, 1989	Lebanon, Tyre	Execution	1	Lebanese
Sep 19, 1989	Niger, Agadez	Bombing Aboard UTA Flight 772	7	Lebanese
Mar 27, 1990	Lebanon, Rashaya Al-Fukhar	Assassination	1	Lebanese
Oct 28, 1991	Turkey, Ankara	Car Bomb	1	Lebanese
Feb 26, 1993	U.S., New York City	Bombing of World Trade Center	6	Egyptian
Mar 8, 1995	Pakistan, Karachi	Assassination	2	Pakistani
Aug 21, 1995	Israel, Jerusalem	Bombing of Bus	1	Palestinian
Nov 13, 1995	Saudi Arabia, Riyadh	Car Bombing of Building	5	Saudi
Feb 25, 1996	Israel, Jerusalem	Bombing of Bus	3	Palestinian
May 13, 1996	Israel, Ramallah (West Bank)	Bombing of Bus	1	Palestinian
Jun 25, 1996	Saudi Arabia, Dhahran	Truck Bombing of Khobar Towers	19	Saudi
Nov 12, 1997	Pakistan, Karachi	Assassination in Car	4	Pakistani
Aug 7, 1998	Kenya, Nairobi	Bombing of U.S. Embassy	12	Saudi
Oct 12, 2000	Yemen, Aden	Boat Bombing of <i>USS Cole</i>	17	Saudi
May 9, 2001	Israel, Teqoa (West Bank)	Stoning	2	Palestinian
May 29, 2001	Israel, West Bank	Gunfire on Car	1	Palestinian
Aug 9, 2001	Israel, Jerusalem	Suicide Bombing of Restaurant	2	Palestinian
Sep 11, 2001	U.S., New York City	Plane Crash into World Trade Center	2,823*	Saudi**
Sep 11, 2001	U.S., Washington, D.C.	Plane Crash into Pentagon	189	Saudi**
Sep 11, 2001	U.S., Shanksville, Pa.	Hijacking/Crash of United Flight 93	45	Saudi**
Oct 6, 2001	Saudi Arabia, al-Khobar	Parcel Bombing of Shopping Area	1	Saudi
Jan 23, 2002	Pakistan, Karachi	Execution	1	Pakistani
Mar 17, 2002	Pakistan, Islamabad	Assassination (grenades) in Church	2	Pakistani
Jul 31, 2002	Israel, Jerusalem	Bombing at Hebrew University	5	Palestinian

*This total is for all deaths, including citizens of 77 other countries.
 **Fifteen of the 19 (79%) hijackers were Saudis of al Qaeda.
 SOURCE: Almanac of Modern Terrorism by Jay M. Shafritz, et al (N.Y.:

Facts on File, 1991) and Significant Incidents of Political Violence Against Americans, 10th Anniversary Issue (1997 annual), U.S. Dept. of State (Bureau of Diplomatic Security). Washington, D.C.: November 1998.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of January 22, 2003.

Meeting opened in due form by Chairman Ralph Adler. Roll call of officers was taken showing all officers present.

Minutes of previous meeting were read. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Adler stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: Questions were asked by the Delegates and Alternates as to the status of adding the additional 80 beds to our LaSalle Veterans' Home. Superintendent Rue stated there are currently 270 veterans waiting for admission to our LaSalle Veterans' Home. He suggested that all people should write letters to their State of Illinois Senators and Representatives requesting the legislation be submitted to add those additional 80 beds and legislation for the funding of that project. He further stated that the architect and engineer's plans for construction were finalized over a year ago, so that part is done.

New Business: The Service Officer's Report was read. All questions pertaining to the Service Officer's Report were answered. A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius, seconded by Frank Suarez that the Service Officer's Report be approved as presented.

A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius, seconded by Frank Suarez that a letter be sent from our Commission to Jack Leininger thanking him for his years of service on our Commission. Motion passed.

Delegates and Alternates asked questions pertaining to our LaSalle Veterans' Clinic's inability to take in more veterans. Superintendent Rue answered their questions and explained that all Category seven veterans who enroll in the VA health care system after January 17, 2003 will be placed in Category eight.

Delegates and Alternates were concerned about our procedures for canceling meetings due to the prediction of severe storms. It was the consensus that our Chairman or Superintendent is empowered to cancel any meetings scheduled by calling all Delegates and Alternates the morning of the meeting in which our National Weather Service is predicting severe storms for that afternoon or evening.

Motion by Joe Iwaszek, seconded by Jim Kirby that we adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Jim Kirby, American Legion Post 549; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Joseph Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Frank Suarez, American Legion Post 375; Alternates Jim DeMoss, VFW Post 5506; Jerry Welch, American Legion Post 375; and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of November 20, 2002.

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Ralph Adler. A roll call of officers was taken showing all officers present.

Minutes of previous meeting were read. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes Chairman Adler stated the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: Chairman Adler was asked about his meeting with the Fee and Salary Committee. He explained that the Fee and Salary Committee agreed to grant our superintendent a salary increase each year for two years. They will be introducing a resolution before the full county board documenting their requests.

New Business: The election of officers for the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission was held. Superintendent Rue opened up the nominations for each elected position. Through the nomination process those individual selected by the delegates are as follows:

1. Chairman – Ralph Adler
2. Vice-Chairman – Frank Suarez
3. Chaplain – Jim Kirby
4. Sgt. At Arms – Jerry Welch

Jack Leininger made a motion, seconded by Nick Nekrosius that one unanimous ballot be cast for the above dually nominated officers. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Jim Kirby, seconded by Nick Pacetti, that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Nick Pacetti, VFW Post 4668; Jim Kirby, American Legion Post 549; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Ed Stash, American Legion Post 217; Jerry Welch, American Legion Post 217; Frank Suarez, American Legion Post 375; Jack Leininger VFW Post 5506; and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2002
CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 56 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 19 veterans
3. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 526 for 8 veterans.
4. Sent out birth, death, DD214, and marriage certificates to service offices for 30 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 95 veterans to discuss, explain or inquire as to the status of their case.
6. Sent out 24 Form 180 to St. Louis for veterans personnel records.
7. Sent out 114 requests for medical records to various doctors, hospitals, etc for various veterans.
8. Sent copy of veteran's records to 6 veteran
9. Sent medals received to 2 veteran.
10. Sent letter to 17 veteran placing their file on inactive status.
11. Sent out various VA forms to 29 veterans to sign and return.
12. Sent VA Form 4142 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
13. Sent VA Form 534 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 14 veterans
15. Sent application for headstone to sexton for 4 veteran.
16. Sent application for headstone to Washington DC for 2 veterans
17. Sent VA Form 530 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
18. Sent VA Form 8940 to Veterans Administration for 17 veterans.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
20. Sent VA Form 527 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
21. Sent Request for Reconsideration to SSA reference denial of disability benefits for 6 veteran.
22. Sent 40 medical records for veterans to Social Security office.
23. Sent VA Form 5655 to VA for 3 veterans.
24. Sent VA Form 9 to VA for 1 veterans.
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 85 veterans.
26. Sent VA Form 1900 to Veterans Administration for 1 veterans.
27. Sent Request for Presidential Memorial Certificate to VA Regional Office for 0 veterans' widows.
28. Sent NA Form 13055 to National Personnel for 2 veterans.
29. Sent various SSA forms for 30 veterans to Hearing Office for Social Security Disability

30. Sent 12 memos to National Service Offices to check progress of client's claims.
31. Sent VA Form 516 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
32. Sent VA Form 518 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
33. Sent VA Form 686c to Veterans Administration for 6 veterans.
34. Sent VA Form 10-10t to Veterans Medical Centers for 2 veterans.
35. Sent VA Form 10-10F to Veterans medical Centers for 0 veterans.
36. Sent VA Form 674 to Veterans Administration for 2 veterans.
37. Sent 0 request for waiver of overpayment to the Social Security Administration.
38. Sent 0 requests for review of ALJ decision denying claim for benefits.
39. Sent 2 VA Form 149 to veterans pertaining to upgrade of discharges.
40. Sent VA Form 517 for 2 veteran.
41. Sent 1 requests for Aid & Attendance for veterans.
42. Sent 0 request for Outpatient Fee Basis Card for veteran to Hines VAMC
43. Sent VA Form 5490 for 2 veteran.
44. Sent 0 claim to Court of Veterans Appeals (BVA) for their consideration and review.
45. Sent 0 VA Form 0304 to Veterans Administration for spina bifida benefits for children.
46. Sent VA Form 293 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
47. Sent VA Form 4502 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
48. Sent VA Form 4555 to Veterans administration for 0 veteran.
49. Sent VA Form 5281 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran

AWARDS

1. Veteran Awarded increased S/C Compensation, IUE with Housebound benefit, (20%-90%), (diff. \$2081) 1/2000-6/2000, \$12,486; 7/2000-11/2000, (diff. \$888) \$4440; 12/2000-8/2001, \$8244; 9/2001-11/2001, \$6477; 12/2001-11/2002, \$23556 (Total \$55,203) (Ottawa, Vietnam)
2. Veteran awarded increased S/C Compensation 20%-60% (diff. \$591) 1/2002-1/2003, (Total \$7,092) (EastEnd, Vietnam)
3. Veteran awarded increase in S/C Compensation (20%-50%) (diff. \$425 monthly), effective 9/2001-11/2001, \$1275; 12/2001-11/2002, \$5100 (Total \$6375) (Sheridan, Korea)

4. Veteran granted increase in S/C Compensation, (608-90)w/IUE, (\$1373 diff) effective 7/2002-11/2002 \$6865;12/2002-11/2003, \$2193 monthly, \$16476 (Total \$23,341) (LaSalle, Korea)
5. Veteran awarded Dependency Allowance, effective 12/01-11/02, \$888 (Total \$888) (LaSalle, Korea)
6. Veteran awarded 20%, w/(k) 8/2001-11/2001, \$279 monthly, \$1116;12/2001-11/2002, \$3348 (Total \$4464) (Seneca, Vietnam)
7. Veteran awarded Social Security disability benefits, effective 4/2002-11/2002, \$1066 monthly, \$8528; 12/2002-11/2003, \$1081 monthly, \$12,972. (Total \$21,500) (Ottawa, Vietnam)
8. Veteran awarded 20% S/C Compensation, effective 8/2002-11/2002, \$199 monthly, \$796;12/2002-3/2003, \$202 monthly, \$2424 (Total \$3220) (Marseilles, Vietnam)
9. Veteran awarded 100% S/C Compensation retroactive payment \$18,127;12/2002-11/2003, \$2287 monthly, \$27,444 (Total \$45,571) (Peru, WWII)
10. Veteran awarded increased S/C Compensation (30%-70%) (diff.\$439), effective 1/2002-11/2002, \$4829; 12/2002-11/2003, (diff \$452), \$5424 (Total \$10,253) (Tonica, Persian Gulf)
11. Veteran awarded NSC Pension retroactive payment, \$13,400, effective 6/2001-7/2002;8/2002-11/2002, \$796 monthly, \$2388. (Total \$15,788) (LaSalle, Vietnam)
12. Veteran awarded S/C Compensation 30%, effective 2/2002-11/2002, \$306, \$3060;12/2002-11/2003, \$310 monthly, \$3630 (Total \$6690) (Ottawa, Persian Gulf)
13. Veteran awarded Social Security disability benefits, retroactive payment, \$4674;11/2002-12/2002, \$1558; 1/2002-11/2003, \$18,696 (Total \$20,254) (Vietnam, Peru)
14. Veteran awarded 50% S/C Compensation, effective 8/01-11/01, \$609 monthly \$2436;12/01-11/02, \$625 monthly, \$7500 (Total \$9936) (Marseilles, Vietnam)

15. Veteran awarded 100% S/C Compensation, received \$23,412 retroactive payment, 11/2002-11/2003, \$2422 monthly, \$29,064 (Total \$54,898) (Streator, Vietnam)
16. Veteran awarded payment for S/C disability through outpatient fee basis, (\$5903) (Marseilles, Vietnam)
17. Veteran awarded 10% S/C Compensation, \$103 monthly, effective 2/2002-11/2002, \$927; 12/2002-11/2003, \$105 monthly, \$1260 (Total \$2187) (Eastend, Vietnam)
18. Veteran awarded S/C Compensation, 30%, effective 12/99-11/2000, \$364 monthly, \$4368; 12/2000-11/2001, \$376 monthly, \$4512; 12/2001-11/2002, \$386 monthly, \$4632 (Total \$13,512) (LAsalle, Persian Gulf)
19. Veteran awarded 100% S/C Compensation w/AAA, 8/2002-11/2002, \$2699 monthly, \$10796; 12/2002-11/2003, \$2737 monthly, \$32,844 (Total \$43,650) (Tonica, Vietnam)
20. Veteran awarded 20% S/C Compensation, \$199 monthly, 8/2002-11/2002, \$796; 12/2002-11/2003, \$202 monthly, \$2424 (Total \$3220) (Streator, Vietnam)
21. Veteran awarded Social Security disability benefits, \$1479 monthly, effective 12/2002-11/2003, \$17,748 (Total \$17,748) (Oglesby, Peacetime)
22. Veteran awarded retroactive payment benefits for period 3/97-11/2002, 100% S/C Compensation \$129,888; 12/2002-11/2003, \$2661 monthly, \$31,932 (Total \$161,820) (Streator, Vietnam)
23. Veteran awarded NSC Pension, \$1043 monthly, effective 9/2002-11/2002, \$3129; 12/2002-11/2003, \$1057 monthly, \$12,684 (Total \$15,813) (Ottawa, Vietnam)
24. Veteran awarded Increased S/C Compensation (60% w/IME), effective 10/2001-11/2002, (diff. \$1323 monthly) \$15,876; 12/2002-11/2003, \$26,244 (Total \$42,120) (Marseilles, Vietnam)
25. Veteran awarded 40% S/C Compensation effective 10/2001-11/2001, \$854; 12/2001-9/2002, \$439, \$4829; 10/2002-11/2002, \$2163 monthly; 12/2002-11/2003, \$2193 monthly 31,999 (Total \$31,999) (Westend, Vietnam)

26. Veteran awarded increase in S/C Compensation to 80% w/IUE, received \$32,317 retroactive payment; 12/2002-11/2003, \$2318 monthly, \$27,816 (total \$60,133) (Streator, Korea)
27. Veteran's Widow awarded \$600 for Burial/Plot costs and \$535 for transportation costs due to death of veteran. (Total \$1135) (LaSalle, WWII)
28. Veteran awarded Social Security disability benefits, retroactive payment for period 1/2002-11/2002, \$16,830; 12/2002-11/2003 \$1552 monthly, \$18,624 (Total \$35,454) (Marseilles, Vietnam)
29. Veteran's spouse awarded DIC benefits, effective 4/01-11/2001, \$911 monthly, \$7288; 12/2001-11/2002, \$935 monthly \$11,200; 12/2002-11/2003, \$948 monthly, \$11,376 (Total \$32,844) (Marseilles, WWII)
30. Veteran awarded NSC Pension, effective 4/21002-11/2002, \$777 monthly, \$6216; 12/2002-11/2003, \$807 monthly, \$9684 (Total \$15,900) (Peru, Vietnam)
31. Veteran awarded Social Security disability benefits received retroactive payment for period 1/2001-12/2002, \$1039 monthly, \$25,136; 1/2003-11/2003, \$12,368 (Total \$37,504) (Peru, Peacetime)
32. Veteran awarded 80% w/IUE, effective 8/2002-11/2002, \$2163 monthly, \$8652; 12/2002-11/2003, 42193 monthly, \$26,216 (Total \$34,868) (Marseilles, VietNam)
33. Veteran awarded increased S/C Compensation, (10%-70%) (\$892 diff.), effective 12/98-12/2002, \$42,816; 1/2003-11/2003, \$895 monthly, \$10,740 (Total \$53,556) (Ottawa, Vietnam)

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS:	\$	132,460.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	132,460.00
TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS:	\$	850,803.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	850,803.00
TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE:	\$	983,263.00

COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MARTIN J. RUE
Superintendent
(815)433-1761

LaSalle County Courthouse
Room A103
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Page 1 of 2

U.S.D.V.A. Health Care Concerns

A. Nursing Home Contracts

With our aging veteran population there is a greater need for nursing care beds and U.S.D.V.A. contracts for those beds. In many instances our veterans end up in a hospital for their physical problems and then are transferred to a local nursing home for their extended care needs. If Medicare covers them, they may become eligible for different forms of additional therapy, which the nursing home can provide at an additional cost for care above their daily cost of care. Should the U.S.D.V.A. permit the veterans to use Medicare payments for nursing care before the U.S.D.V.A. contract starts, the nursing home could receive \$100 more a day than they would receive from the U.S.D.V.A. under contract. I would strongly recommend that this be allowed for those nursing homes that wish to bill Medicare

B. Out-patient Clinics

Our LaSalle Veterans' Clinic has been very successful since it has opened. At the present time they cannot take any new patients because our limited staff have all the patients that they can treat and provide quality medical care. We have been referring those that are able to travel to the Aurora VA Clinic or the Joliet VA Clinic. It is my understanding that it now takes about six months to get into the Aurora VA Clinic and four months to get into the Joliet VA Clinic. We must remember that those using the LaSalle Veterans' Clinic live in a geographically remote rural area, which have no transportation system other than individual cars if they can find someone to give them a ride. We must realize also that they are over 100 miles from the closest U.S.D.V.A. hospital and over 60 miles from the nearest U.S.D.V.A. medical clinic. In many instances due to the veterans' age and lack of physical mobility or stamina they do not have access to U.S.D.V.A. medical care even though they are eligible for it. It is my opinion that our LaSalle Veterans' Clinic needs more medical personnel so we can start servicing more area veterans who are asking for their eligible medical entitlements.

C. Out-patient and In-patient Fee Basis

Many times our veterans are forced to go to a local hospital in need of life threatening medical care for their service-connected disability. They notify the U.S.D.V.A. In-patient Fee Basis of their admission within 48 hours of their admission for

U.S.D.V.A. authorization of financial costs. U.S.D.V.A. is then liable for the hospital bills due to the veterans' admission for treatment of their life threatening service-connected disability. Where the problem comes into play is if the hospital bills Medicare or a third part insurance company that the veterans entitled too and they pay any part of that bill. In-patient Fee Basis will refuse to pay anything on the remaining bill. The one that suffers is the veteran who becomes liable for the remaining bill. It would be fiscally responsible for the U.S.D.V.A. to pay the remaining bill and it would save them a lot of money. But instead, the U.S.D.V.A. makes the veteran force the hospital to send the money back to Medicare or the insurance company and then the U.S.D.V.A. In-patient Fee Basis will pay the entire bill as per contract payment leaving the veteran owing nothing. In my personal opinion this is fiscally irresponsible and cost prohibited to the U.S.D.V.A. I strongly recommend that in these cases the U.S.D.V.A. pay only the difference owed on the hospital bill, which will save the U.S.D.V.A. millions of dollars, please the veteran, and the medical providers will be happy.

Out-patient Fee Basis has become a true nightmare and one of the most frustrating bureaucracy to try and work with after a veteran has received authorization from them to receive treatment for their service-connected disability from a private health service provider. It is not uncommon for the health service provider to have to wait a year or two for payment of the U.S.D.V.A. authorized medical services they had provided. This puts the veteran in a bad light with the health service provider because most of them expect to be paid immediately after the service is provided. It is not uncommon to have to send four or five billing statements to Out-patient Fee Basis, certified mail return receipt, and still not get the bill paid. The health service provider may then send the medical bills to a collection agency and refuse to provide any medical service to those service-connected disabled veterans without immediate payment from said veteran on completion of that medical service provided. This action will also adversely affect the veteran's credit rating because the collection agency will notify those agencies that provide credit rating information. This action goes totally against the U.S.D.V.A.'s mission of " 'Putting Veterans First' is more than just a slogan. It is a mission statement of the Department." I thought it was the U.S.D.V.A.'s statutory obligation to see that those service-connected disabled combat veterans received medical treatment for their service-connected disabilities even if they reside in geographically remote rural areas having no access to U.S.D.V.A. medical treatment centers. The current broken down Out-patient Fee Basis system must be fixed immediately and its bureaucracy destroyed.

Sincerely yours,



Martin J. Rue, Superintendent
VAC of LaSalle County

Write Your Legislators

Federal

President Bush

1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dick Durbin-D

U.S. Senate
267 Russell Building, Washington, D.C.
20510

no e-mail address established
phone: (202) 224-2152.

Peter Fitzgerald-R

U.S. Senate

555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
phone: (202) 224-2854.

House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert-R

14th District
2369 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C.
20515

e-mail: dhastert@mail.house.gov
phone: (202) 225-2976.

Jerry Weller-R

11th District
424 Cannon HOB, Washington, D.C.
20515

e-mail: jerry.weller@mail.house.gov
phone: (202) 225-3635.

Lane Evans-D

17th District
2335 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C.
20515

e-mail: lane.evans@mail.house.gov
phone: (202) 225-5905.

Ray LaHood-R

18th District
329 Cannon HOB, Washington, D.C.
20515

e-mail: il840@mail.house.gov
phone (202) 225-6201.

(A list of state legislators will appear next Saturday)

Write Your Legislators

State

Governor

George Ryan
State Capitol, Room 207, Springfield
62706

38th Legislative District

Sen. Patrick D. Welch-D
904 Shooting Park Road, Peru 61354

75th District

Rep. Mary K. O'Brien-D
760 E. Division St., Coal City 60416

76th District

Rep. Frank Mautino-D
108 W. St. Paul St., Spring Valley 61362

37th Legislative District

Sen. Todd Sieben-R
137 S. State St., Geneseo 61254
Rep. Gerald Mitchell-R
Sterling, Ill. 61081

44th Legislative District

Sen. Bill Bradley-R
2203 Eastland Drive, Suite 3 Bloomington
87th District

Rep. Dan Rutherford-R
732 W. Madison St., Pontiac 61764

47th Legislative District

Sen. Carl Hawkinson-R
5415 N. University, Ste. 105, Peoria 61614
93rd District

Rep. David R. Leitch-R
3114 N. University, Peoria 61604

94th District

Rep. Donald L. Moffit-R
5 Weinberg Arcade, Galesburg 61401

(A list of federal legislators will appear next Saturday)

Minutes of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission meeting of February 26, 2003.

Meeting opened in due form by Chairman Ralph Adler. Roll call of officers was taken showing Frank Suarez excused and Harry Welch absent. All other officers were present.

Minutes of previous meeting were read. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Alder stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: Supt. Rue shared with the Commission that Representative Frank Mautino and Senator Patrick Welch had introduced legislation requesting the 80 additional beds be added to our LaSalle Veterans' Home and \$12 plus million be provided to fund that project. All other questions pertaining to old business were answered.

New Business: The Service Officer's Report was read; all questions pertaining to the Service Officer's Report were answered. A motion by Nick Nekrosious, seconded by Joe Iwaszek that the Service Officer's Report be approved as presented. Motion passed.

The delegate and alternates discussed an interim vice-chairman to temporarily replace Frank Suarez who has been federalized with the Peru Army Arsenal Reservists. Motion was made by Nick Nekrosius, seconded by Delbert Spitz that Joe Iwaszek be appointed as Interim Vice-Chairman of our LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

Numerous handouts were shared with the delegates and alternates present. Those handouts were discussed and all questions pertaining to them were answered.

Letters of gratitude from Albert D. Latimer and Gary Sopko for the assistance our VAC office provided for them in their compensation claims were handed out to the delegates and alternates. Motion by Jim Kirby, seconded by Ken Hausken that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Jim Kirby, American Legion Post 549; Delbert Spitz, Post 4079; Joseph Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1225; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Ken Hausken, V.F.W. Post 5506; Alternate Ludwig Sikole, Post 4079 and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2003

CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 26 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 3 veterans
3. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 526 for 2 veterans.
4. Sent out birth, death, DD214, and marriage certificates to service offices for 13 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 27 veterans to discuss, explain or inquire as to the status of their case.
6. Sent out Form 180 to St. Louis for veterans personnel records.
7. Sent out 38 requests for medical records to various doctors, hospitals, etc for various veterans.
8. Sent copy of veteran's records to 1 veteran
9. Sent medals received to 2 veteran.
10. Sent letter to 4 veteran placing their file on inactive status.
11. Sent out various VA forms to 7 veterans to sign and return.
12. Sent VA Form 4142 to Veterans Administration for 3 veteran.
13. Sent VA Form 534 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 9 veterans
15. Sent application for headstone to sexton for 2 veteran.
16. Sent application for headstone to Washington DC for 1 veterans
17. Sent VA Form 530 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
18. Sent VA Form 8940 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
20. Sent VA Form 527 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
21. Sent Request for Reconsideration to SSA reference denial of disability benefits for 2 veteran.
22. Sent 14 medical records for veterans to Social Security office.
23. Sent VA Form 5655 to VA for 0 veterans.
24. Sent VA Form 9 to VA for 7 veterans.
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 34 veterans.
26. Sent VA Form 1900 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
27. Sent Request for Presidential Memorial Certificate to VA Regional Office for 0 veterans' widows.
28. Sent NA Form 13055 to National Personnel for 6 veterans.
29. Sent various SSA forms for 16 veterans to Hearing Office for Social Security Disability

30. Sent 2 memos to National Service Offices to check progress of client's claims.
31. Sent VA Form 516 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
32. Sent VA Form 518 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
33. Sent VA Form 686c to Veterans Administration for 2 veterans.
34. Sent VA Form 10-10t to Veterans Medical Centers for 6 veterans.
35. Sent VA Form 10-10F to Veterans medical Centers for 0 veterans.
36. Sent VA Form 674 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
37. Sent 0 request for waiver of overpayment to the Social Security Administration.
38. Sent 0 requests for review of ALJ decision denying claim for benefits.
39. Sent 0 VA Form 149 to veterans pertaining to upgrade of discharges.
40. Sent VA Form 517 for 0 veteran.
41. Sent 0 requests for Aid & Attendance for veterans.
42. Sent 0 request for Outpatient Fee Basis Card for veteran to Hines VAMC
43. Sent VA Form 5490 for 0 veteran.
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45. Sent 0 VA Form 0304 to Veterans Administration for spina bifida benefits for children.
46. Sent VA Form 293 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
47. Sent VA Form 4502 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
48. Sent VA Form 4555 to Veterans administration for 0 veteran.
49. Sent VA Form 5281 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran

AWARDS

1. Veteran Awarded 50% s/c Compensation w/ (K), effective 1/2002-11/2002, \$767 monthly, \$8437; 12/2002-11/2003, \$776 monthly, \$9204 (Total \$17,641) (Westend, Vietnam)
2. Veteran awarded 100% S/C Compensation, effective 7/2002-11/2002, \$2163 monthly, \$10,815; 12/2002-11/2003, \$2193 monthly, \$26,316. (Total \$37,131) (Eastend, Vietnam)
3. Veteran's Widow awarded Widow Pension effective 10/2002-11/2002, \$142 monthly, \$284; 12/2002-11/2003, \$147 monthly, \$1764 (Total \$1948)

4. Veteran awarded increase in S/Compensation, w/IUE, (\$1194 diff.), 9/2002-11/2002, \$3582; 12/2002/11/2003 (\$1198 diff.), \$14,376 (Total \$\$17,958) (Streator, WWII)
5. Veteran awarded Chapter 35 Educational benefits, retroactive 1/2002-2/2003, \$1178; 3/2203-11/2003, \$680 monthly, \$6800 (Total \$7978) (Ottawa, RVN)
6. Veteran awarded 60% s/c Compensation 9/01-11/01, \$769 monthly, \$2307; 12/01-11/02, \$790 monthly, \$9480; 12/02-11/03, \$801 monthly, \$9612 (Total \$21,399) (Sheridan, Peace Time)
7. Veteran's Widow awarded Widow Pension w/A&A, 1/2002, \$588 monthly; 2/02-5/02, \$91 monthly, \$364; 6/02-11/02, \$92 monthly, \$360; 12/02-1/03, \$186; 2/03-12/03, \$114 monthly, \$1140 (Total \$2628) (Sheridan, WWII)
8. Veteran awarded increased s/c compensation, (20%-30%) (diff \$105) 7/2001-11/01, \$525; 12/01-11/02, (\$107 diff), \$1284; 12/02-11/03, (diff. \$109) \$1308 (Total \$3117) (LaSalle, Vietnam)
9. Veteran awarded increased S/C Compensation, (30%-40%) (diff. \$133 monthly), 5/2002-11/2002, \$931; 12/02-11/03 (\$135 monthly) \$1620 (Total \$2551) (LaSalle, Vietnam)

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS:	\$.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	187,033.00
TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS:	\$	112,361.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	973,164.00
TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE:	\$	1,160,197.00

EXPLANATION OF VA FORMS:

1. Form 526-APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION OR PENSION
2. VA Form 4138-STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM
3. VA Form 180-REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS
4. VA Form 534-APPLICATION FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION OR DEATH PENSION BY SURVIVING SPOUSE OR CHILD.
5. VA Form 21-22-APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE ORGANIZATION
6. VA Form 518-IMPROVED PENSION EVR (Surviving Spouse with no children)
7. VA Form 530-APPLICATION FOR BURIAL BENEFITS
8. VA Form 535-APPLICATION FOR DIC (DISABILITY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION) BY PARENTS
9. VA Form 512V-SECTION 306 EVR (VETERAN)
10. VA Form 686C-DECLARATION OF MARITAL STATUS
11. DD Form 149- APPLICATION FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS UNDER THE PROVISION OF TITLE 10 U.S.CODE, SECTION 1552
12. VA Form 10-10-APPLICATION FOR MEDICAL BENEFITS
13. VA Form 5655-FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT
14. VA Form 512S- SECTION 306 EVR (Surviving Spouse)
15. VA Form 8416-REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING MEDICAL, LEGAL, OR OTHER EXPENSES.
16. VA Form (1-9)-APPEAL TO BOARD OF APPEAL
17. VA Form 517 IMPROVED PENSION ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION REPORT (VETERAN WITH CHILDREN)
18. VA Form 527-INCOME-NET WORTH AND EMPLOYMENT STATEMENT
19. VA Form 519-CERTIFICATION OF INFORMATION FOR VA PURPOSES
20. VA Form 4125-CLAIM FOR ONE SUM PAYMENT
21. VA FORM 8940-VETERANS APPLICATION FOR INCREASED COMPENSATION BASED ON UNEMPLOYABILITY
22. VA FORM 1900-DISABLED VETERANS APPLICATION FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
23. VA FORM 1990-APPLICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
24. VA FORM 5281-APPLICATION FOR REFUND OF EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS
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26. VA FORM 5490-APPLICATION FOR SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
27. VA FORM 0304-APPLICATION FOR SPINA BIFIDA BENEFITS.
28. VA FORM 4502-APPLICATION FOR AUTOMOBILE OR OTHER CONVEYANCE OR ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT
29. VA FORM 4555-VETERAN'S APPLICATION IN ACQUIRING SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING OR SPECIAL HOME ADAPTATION GRANT.
30. VA FORM 8678-APPLICATION FOR CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

3-17-03

La Salle County Board
707 Etna Road
Ottawa, Ill. 61350

Dear Board Members,

I am a veteran of the Korean War. I was drafted. At that time, I had 7 older brothers that had been drafted and served in World War II. We were probably the poorest family in La Salle County but we were proud to serve for our country and our rights.

The night before I was to go for my physical, I met the commander for the Ill. National Guard in Streator, Ill. He told me that if I went with him right then and joined the national guard, he'd see to it that I would not have to go to the army. I refused and said I would go to the army, serve my time and be able to walk down the street and hold up my head to any man.

I was sent to Korea and was assigned to 3RD Platoon, Co. C, 14TH Inf., 25TH division, on 10-22-52. About 11-1-52, the rank was frozen for

for all the personnel. We were made PFC's when assigned to front line duty. I was made assistant machine gunner and work up to be Squad leader of the machine guns.

About 8:00 AM. (Green time) a mortar round hit the back of the trench at chest height and about 8 feet from my body. Not quite a direct hit. I spent the rest of my army time in hospitals and was a PFC upon my discharge.

After my discharge, I applied to the V.A. for assistance and was awarded 40% disability. There was denial of any stomach injury. Luckily, I had the address of one of my Dr's at Goryeo Army Hospital. I wrote him and sent a picture of myself for verification the injury. A copy of his letter is enclosed.

I had (and still do have) a lot of trouble with my stomach. In the army, I had trouble and they said there was nothing wrong. In 1956 I was hospitalized by my family Dr. and he diagnosed my problem.

In 1958, I was called to Hines Hospital for re-evaluation and took a letter from my family Dr. in which he diagnosed the problem. I gave the envelope to the Dr at Hines. He took it and threw it into the waste basket and said "We make our own decisions at this time, my disability was cut back to 30%. At that time, I felt I should be satisfied or they might take all my disability away."

I was very disheartened and at times (most of the time) very upset over decisions concerning the V.A. decisions. I became a life member of DAV, VFW, and a member of the American Legion hoping one of them could help me. None of them did. I was very discouraged.

When I moved back to La Salle County, other V.A. members told me to go to the V.A. office in Ottawa. Jack Murphy, Pontiac, Ill. had been in my platoon in ~~the~~ Korea and said that Martin ~~Rug~~ and Rick ~~Zoy~~ would help me. I felt they would be like to others and "give me a line of talk."

I was completely wrong. For the 1st time in all these years, they were interested and wanted to help me. For the first time in all these years, I felt I was no longer alone in this battle.

Mr. Rue and Mr. Hogarty both worked diligently for my welfare and got my disability increased to 100%. When I got the letter from the V.A. notifying me of the increase I cried. Finally two people were willing to put forth the effort to help me. Words can not express my thanks for the efforts put forth by the Ottawa office. It wasn't easy, but they did it. I feel you couldn't have any one more interested in helping the veterans in that office. Thank you all for having these men helping the veterans.

Enclose are copies of some letters verifying some of my statements.

Sincerely yours,
James E. Simpson



James E. Simpson
15 Old Orchard Ln.
Streator, IL 61364

To Richard Fogarty, Martin Rue & the
LaSalle County Board,

My Family and I would like
to express our deepest and most
greatful thanks for the help that Mr.
Fogarty and Mr. Rue gave me. They
were able to relieve the stress I
was under and give me hope at a
time in my life that I could hardly
see the light for all the clouds and
darkness that had taken place.

The work that these men
do may often go unseen or un-
heard by the majority, but their
work will forever be known
and appreciated by my Family and
I. May God Bless them and the
LaSalle County Board that has the
insite and wisdom to recognizing
the need for such an important
assistance.

With much
thanks,
Daniel & Donna
Pack

Minutes of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission meeting of February 26, 2003.

Meeting opened in due form by Chairman Ralph Adler. Roll call of officers was taken showing Frank Suarez excused and Harry Welch absent. All other officers were present.

Minutes of previous meeting were read. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Alder stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: Supt. Rue shared with the Commission that Representative Frank Mautino and Senator Patrick Welch had introduced legislation requesting the 80 additional beds be added to our LaSalle Veterans' Home and \$12 plus million be provided to fund that project. All other questions pertaining to old business were answered.

New Business: The Service Officer's Report was read; all questions pertaining to the Service Officer's Report were answered. A motion by Nick Nekrosious, seconded by Joe Iwaszek that the Service Officer's Report be approved as presented. Motion passed.

The delegate and alternates discussed an interim vice-chairman to temporarily replace Frank Suarez who has been federalized with the Peru Army Arsenal Reservists. Motion was made by Nick Nekrosius, seconded by Delbert Spitz that Joe Iwaszek be appointed as Interim Vice-Chairman of our LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

Numerous handouts were shared with the delegates and alternates present. Those handouts were discussed and all questions pertaining to them were answered.

Letters of gratitude from Albert D. Latimer and Gary Sopko for the assistance our VAC office provided for them in their compensation claims were handed out to the delegates and alternates. Motion by Jim Kirby, seconded by Ken Hausken that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Jim Kirby, American Legion Post 549; Delbert Spitz, Post 4079; Joseph Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1225; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Ken Hausken, V.F.W. Post 5506; Alternate Ludwig Sikole, Post 4079 and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Jim Kirby, American Legion Post 549; Delbert Spitz, Post 4079; Joseph Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1225; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Ken Hausken, V.F.W. Post 5506; Alternate Ludwig Sikole, Post 4079 and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2003

CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 26 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 3 veterans
3. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 526 for 2 veterans.
4. Sent out birth, death, DD214, and marriage certificates to service offices for 13 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 27 veterans to discuss, explain or inquire as to the status of their case.
6. Sent out Form 180 to St. Louis for veterans personnel records.
7. Sent out 38 requests for medical records to various doctors, hospitals, etc for various veterans.
8. Sent copy of veteran's records to 1 veteran
9. Sent medals received to 2 veteran.
10. Sent letter to 4 veteran placing their file on inactive status.
11. Sent out various VA forms to 7 veterans to sign and return.
12. Sent VA Form 4142 to Veterans Administration for 3 veteran.
13. Sent VA Form 534 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 9 veterans
15. Sent application for headstone to sexton for 2 veteran.
16. Sent application for headstone to Washington DC for 1 veterans
17. Sent VA Form 530 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
18. Sent VA Form 8940 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
20. Sent VA Form 527 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
21. Sent Request for Reconsideration to SSA reference denial of disability benefits for 2 veteran.
22. Sent 14 medical records for veterans to Social Security office.
23. Sent VA Form 5655 to VA for 0 veterans.
24. Sent VA Form 9 to VA for 7 veterans.
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 34 veterans.
26. Sent VA Form 1900 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
27. Sent Request for Presidential Memorial Certificate to VA Regional Office for 0 veterans' widows.
28. Sent NA Form 13055 to National Personnel for 6 veterans.
29. Sent various SSA forms for 16 veterans to Hearing Office for Social Security Disability

30. Sent 2 memos to National Service Offices to check progress of client's claims.
31. Sent VA Form 516 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
32. Sent VA Form 518 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
33. Sent VA Form 686c to Veterans Administration for 2 veterans.
34. Sent VA Form 10-10t to Veterans Medical Centers for 6 veterans.
35. Sent VA Form 10-10F to Veterans medical Centers for 0 veterans.
36. Sent VA Form 674 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
37. Sent 0 request for waiver of overpayment to the Social Security Administration.
38. Sent 0 requests for review of ALJ decision denying claim for benefits.
39. Sent 0 VA Form 149 to veterans pertaining to upgrade of discharges.
40. Sent VA Form 517 for 0 veteran.
41. Sent 0 requests for Aid & Attendance for veterans.
42. Sent 0 request for Outpatient Fee Basis Card for veteran to Hines VAMC
43. Sent VA Form 5490 for 0 veteran.
44. Sent 0 claim to Court of Veterans Appeals (BVA) for their consideration and review.
45. Sent 0 VA Form 0304 to Veterans Administration for spina bifida benefits for children.
46. Sent VA Form 293 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
47. Sent VA Form 4502 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
48. Sent VA Form 4555 to Veterans administration for 0 veteran.
49. Sent VA Form 5281 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran

AWARDS

1. Veteran Awarded 50% s/c Compensation w/ (K), effective 1/2002-11/2002, \$767 monthly, \$8437; 12/2002-11/2003, \$776 monthly, \$9204 (Total \$17,641) (Westend, Vietnam)
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3. Veteran's Widow awarded Widow Pension effective 10/2002-11/2002, \$142 monthly, \$284; 12/2002-11/2003, \$147 monthly, \$1764 (Total \$1948)

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TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS:	\$.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	187,033.00
TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS:	\$	112,361.00
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TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE:	\$	1,160,197.00

EXPLANATION OF VA FORMS:

1. Form 526-APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION OR PENSION
2. VA Form 4138-STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM
3. VA Form 180-REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS
4. VA Form 534-APPLICATION FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION OR DEATH PENSION BY SURVIVING SPOUSE OR CHILD.
5. VA Form 21-22-APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE ORGANIZATION
6. VA Form 518-IMPROVED PENSION EVR (Surviving Spouse with no children)
7. VA Form 530-APPLICATION FOR BURIAL BENEFITS
8. VA Form 535-APPLICATION FOR DIC (DISABILITY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION) BY PARENTS
9. VA Form 512V-SECTION 306 EVR (VETERAN)
10. VA Form 686C-DECLARATION OF MARITAL STATUS
11. DD Form 149- APPLICATION FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS UNDER THE PROVISION OF TITLE 10 U.S.CODE, SECTION 1552
12. VA Form 10-10-APPLICATION FOR MEDICAL BENEFITS
13. VA Form 5655-FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT
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15. VA Form 8416-REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING MEDICAL, LEGAL, OR OTHER EXPENSES.
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19. VA Form 519-CERTIFICATION OF INFORMATION FOR VA PURPOSES
20. VA Form 4125-CLAIM FOR ONE SUM PAYMENT
21. VA FORM 8940-VETERANS APPLICATION FOR INCREASED COMPENSATION BASED ON UNEMPLOYABILITY
22. VA FORM 1900-DISABLED VETERANS APPLICATION FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
23. VA FORM 1990-APPLICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
24. VA FORM 5281-APPLICATION FOR REFUND OF EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS
25. VA FORM 4125-REQUEST FOR LUMP SUM PAYMENT
26. VA FORM 5490-APPLICATION FOR SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
27. VA FORM 0304-APPLICATION FOR SPINA BIFIDA BENEFITS.
28. VA FORM 4502-APPLICATION FOR AUTOMOBILE OR OTHER CONVEYANCE OR ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT
29. VA FORM 4555-VETERAN'S APPLICATION IN ACQUIRING SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING OR SPECIAL HOME ADAPTATION GRANT.
30. VA FORM 8678-APPLICATION FOR CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

Minutes of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission meeting of March 3, 2003.

Meeting opened in due form by Chairman Adler. Roll call of officers was taken showing all officers present.

Minutes of previous meeting were read. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Adler stated the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: Old business was discussed. All questions pertaining to old business were answered.

New Business: Service Officer's Report was read. All questions pertaining to the Service Officer's Report were answered. Motion by Frank Suarez, seconded by Jim Kirby that the Service Officer's Report be approved as presented. Motion passed.

Superintendent Rue presented to the delegates and alternates letter of gratitude received from veterans who were assisted by the LaSalle Veterans Assistance Commission office.

Jim Kirby told the Commission that on March 25, 2003 he went to the Iowa City VA Medical Center for an appointment. While he was there members of the V.F.W. and American Legion posts were giving veterans fruit or gift packs which contained items such as body lotion, tooth brushes, tooth paste, etc. He felt this was a very nice gesture and would hope that other veteran organizations would do the same at other VA health care centers.

Motion by Delbert Spitz, seconded by Joe Iwaszek that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBER PRESENT: Delegates Jim Kirby, American Legion Post 549; Delbert Spitz, VFW Post 4079; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Frank Suarez, American Legion Post 375; Joseph Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229; Alternates Ludwig Sikole, VFW Post 4079; Jerry Welch, American Legion Post 375; Bob Renz, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR MARCH 2003

CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 24 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 10 veterans
3. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 526 for 4 veterans.
4. Sent out birth, death, DD214, and marriage certificates to service offices for 13 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 34 veterans to discuss, explain or inquire as to the status of their case.
6. Sent out 2 Form 180 to St. Louis for veterans personnel records.
7. Sent out 40 requests for medical records to various doctors, hospitals, etc for various veterans.
8. Sent copy of veteran's records to 2 veteran
9. Sent medals received to 1 veteran.
10. Sent letter to 4 veteran placing their file on inactive status.
11. Sent out various VA forms to 12 veterans to sign and return.
12. Sent VA Form 4142 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
13. Sent VA Form 534 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 10 veterans
15. Sent application for headstone to sexton for 2 veteran.
16. Sent application for headstone to Washington DC for 0 veterans
17. Sent VA Form 530 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
18. Sent VA Form 8940 to Veterans Administration for 3 veterans.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
20. Sent VA Form 527 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
21. Sent Request for Reconsideration to SSA reference denial of disability benefits for 6 veteran.
22. Sent 30 medical records for veterans to Social Security office.
23. Sent VA Form 5655 to VA for 0 veterans.
24. Sent VA Form 9 to VA for 2 veterans.
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 35 veterans.
26. Sent VA Form 1900 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
27. Sent Request for Presidential Memorial Certificate to VA Regional Office for 0 veterans' widows.
28. Sent NA Form 13055 to National Personnel for 1 veterans.
29. Sent various SSA forms for 12 veterans to Hearing Office for Social Security Disability

30. Sent 3 memos to National Service Offices to check progress of client's claims.
31. Sent VA Form 516 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
32. Sent VA Form 518 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
33. Sent VA Form 686c to Veterans Administration for 1 veterans.
34. Sent VA Form 10-10t to Veterans Medical Centers for 0 veterans.
35. Sent VA Form 10-10F to Veterans medical Centers for 3 veterans.
36. Sent VA Form 674 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
37. Sent 0 request for waiver of overpayment to the Social Security Administration.
38. Sent 0 requests for review of ALJ decision denying claim for benefits.
39. Sent 0 VA Form 149 to veterans pertaining to upgrade of discharges.
40. Sent VA Form 517 for 0 veteran.
41. Sent 0 requests for Aid & Attendance for veterans.
42. Sent 0 request for Outpatient Fee Basis Card for veteran to Hines VAMC
43. Sent VA Form 5490 for 0 veteran.
44. Sent 0 claim to Court of Veterans Appeals (BVA) for their consideration and review.
45. Sent 0 VA Form 0304 to Veterans Administration for spina bifida benefits for children.
46. Sent VA Form 293 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
47. Sent VA Form 4502 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
48. Sent VA Form 4555 to Veterans administration for 0 veteran.
49. Sent VA Form 5281 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran

AWARDS

1. Veteran Widow awarded Burial Benefits for veteran's death, \$1400 (LaSalle, WWII)
2. Veteran awarded Social Security disability benefits, effective 10/2002. Received \$8612 for retroactive payment for period 10/2002-2/2003; \$1732 monthly from 3/2002-12/2003, \$17,320 (Total \$25,932) (Westend Vietnam)
3. Veteran awarded 60% S/C compensation w/IUE (diff. \$1643) 9/2002-11/2002, \$4929; 12/02-11/03, \$19,716 (Total \$24,645) (Ottawa, Persian Gulf)

4. Veteran awarded 20% S/C benefits, effective 9/2002-11/2002, \$199 monthly, \$597; 12/2002-11/2003, \$201 monthly, \$2412 (Total \$3009) (Northside, Vietnam)
5. Veteran awarded increased S/C Compensation, (40%-60%) (diff \$356), 12/2002-11/2003, \$4272 (Total \$4272) (Ottawa, Vietnam)
6. Veteran awarded Aid & Attendance on to his 100% s/c Compensation 9/02-11/02, (Total \$10,500) (Streator, Vietnam)
7. Veteran's Widow awarded Widow Pension, 10/2002-11/2002, \$533 monthly, \$1066; 12/2002-11/2003, \$541 monthly, \$2369 (Total \$3435) (Streator, Vietnam)
8. Veteran awarded SSD benefits retroactive payment, \$16,665, effective 1/2002-3/2003; 4/2003-11/2003, \$1122 monthly, \$10,098 (Total \$26,763) (Seneca, Vietnam)
9. Veteran 90% S/C Compensation w/IUE, effective 6/2001-11/2001, @90% \$969 monthly, \$5814; \$995 monthly, 12/2001-10/2002, \$10,945; 11/2002, \$2163; 12/2002-11/2003, \$2193, \$26,316 (Total \$45,258)
10. Veteran awarded increased s/c Compensation (40%-50%) (diff \$135 monthly) 12/2002-11/2003, \$1620 (Total \$1620) (LeLand, Vietnam)
11. Veteran awarded increased s/c Compensation (30%-50%) (diff \$323) 5/2001-11/2002, \$6460; 12/2002-11/2003, \$3876 (Total \$10,336) (Eastend, Persian Gulf)
12. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 8/2002-11/2002, \$11546 monthly, \$4624; 12/2002-11/2003, \$13,822 (Total \$18,496) (Westend, Vietnam)
13. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 8/2002-11/2002, retroactive payment, \$6672; 12/2002-11/2003, \$1688 monthly, \$20,016 (Total \$26,688) (Ottawa, Vietnam)
14. Veteran awarded increased s/c compensation, effective 11/2002 (diff \$248) (\$40%-50%), \$248; 12/2002-11/2003, \$2976 (Total \$3224) (Oglesby, Vietnam)
15. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 1/2002-12/2002, \$1096 monthly, \$13157; 1/2003-12/2003, \$13,157 (Total \$26,314) (Streator, Vietnam)

16. Veteran awarded 100S/C Compensation w/IUE, effective
2/2003-12/2003, \$2193 monthly, \$24,123 (Ottawa, Vietnam)

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS:	\$	107,528.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	294,561.00
TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS:	\$	182,223.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	1,043,026.00
TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE:	\$	1,337,587.00

EXPLANATION OF VA FORMS:

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6. VA Form 518-IMPROVED PENSION EVR (Surviving Spouse with no children)
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18. VA Form 527-INCOME-NET WORTH AND EMPLOYMENT STATEMENT
19. VA Form 519-CERTIFICATION OF INFORMATION FOR VA PURPOSES
20. VA Form 4125-CLAIM FOR ONE SUM PAYMENT
21. VA FORM 8940-VETERANS APPLICATION FOR INCREASED COMPENSATION BASED ON UNEMPLOYABILITY
22. VA FORM 1900-DISABLED VETERANS APPLICATION FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
23. VA FORM 1990-APPLICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
24. VA FORM 5281-APPLICATION FOR REFUND OF EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS
25. VA FORM 4125-REQUEST FOR LUMP SUM PAYMENT
26. VA FORM 5490-APPLICATION FOR SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
27. VA FORM 0304-APPLICATION FOR SPINA BIFIDA BENEFITS.
28. VA FORM 4502-APPLICATION FOR AUTOMOBILE OR OTHER CONVEYANCE OR ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT
29. VA FORM 4555-VETERAN'S APPLICATION IN ACQUIRING SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING OR SPECIAL HOME ADAPTATION GRANT.
30. VA FORM 8678-APPLICATION FOR CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

Friday April 18, 2003

Soldiers come first for veterans assistance official

Martin Rue will be here for Iraq veterans when they return

By Craig Sterrett
News Editor

The numerous local rallies in support of U.S. troops do not seem at all redundant to Martin Rue.



Rue

"War is one of the ugliest things there is for the old and the youngest to understand."

their uniforms, because those flags might agitate the people protesting the war.

The Vietnam veteran and director of the La Salle County Veterans Assistance Commission thinks they're necessary, especially considering the anti-war protests that gain nationwide publicity. It bothered him when he heard that police officers in a West-Coast city were told they needed to remove the U.S. flags from

Rue is glad that large numbers of people, whether they support the concept of war, are expressing support for military personnel. He and the rest of the Veterans Assistance Commission are ready to do their part for the troops when they come home from war. Rue knows from experience on the VAC and in Vietnam the ugly, confusing scene U.S. soldiers may be involved in.

When they return, the Veterans Assistance Commission can provide financial assistance to veterans when they come home.

The VAC can represent them on Social Security or Veterans Administration disability claims, and the VAC can help them understand the entitlements they may be eligible for. The commission staff also may help refer veterans to counselors or attorneys.

Simply put, the VAC will be there for them.

"I presume that many of them, being involved in a combat situation, will have possibly problems with dealing with what they had seen and what they had been through. ... it's not like going to the La Salle 150th sesquicentennial, and somehow these who have had to pay that price are going to have to deal with what they've been through," Rue said during a telephone interview

Monday afternoon.

"Their family members will have to learn to deal with those veterans," because they may come back with a completely different attitude than what they had when they left, Rue said.

It will be the duty of all community service providers and healthcare providers, Rue said, to help the veterans "pick up and move on with life as they've known it prior to being involved in war."

If any of the soldiers have incurred physical disabilities as a result of their service, the VAC can help them file health claims.

"Many are just going to need someone to talk to -- someone to share their experiences with, who would be familiar with what they are talking about," said Rue. In addition to other veterans groups, the VAC staff will have some understanding, since both Rue and his assistant served in Vietnam. "Many may be questioning why there are those in our country who were not in support of them in their activities, because they do read and they do see these different protests either in the newsprint or on television."

"I'm only grateful that (war protests have) been few in number so that those veterans unlike the veterans of Vietnam won't be questioning

themselves, whether they have a country to return to," Rue said. "... That's why I think you're seeing more and more support for the troops groups organizing. ... We support the First Amendment, freedom of press, freedom of speech, but we also deserve the right to be heard."

Rue digressed, mentioning a New York Times article in which a CNN executive admitted that journalists had agreed to suppress some details of certain actions by the dictatorship in Iraq, because the dictatorship would allow those journalists to stay in the country if they followed Saddam Hussein's rules.

Now the question is whether freelance reporters who are in these countries have provided readers with the whole truth, he said.

"At least the embedded reporters have first-hand documentation of what's going on," Rue said.

Rue remains hopeful that soldiers from this war will receive the help they need before they are discharged.

Whatever the case and whenever troops do begin returning from Iraq, the Veterans Assistance Commission will be available to help veterans or their families.

The VAC may be reached at 433-1761.

President Bush failed to teach Iraq 101

News Trib 3/18/03
By Morton Kondracke
Newspaper Enterprise Association

Here's a test that most educated Americans ought to be able to pass: on the eve of war with Iraq: What is Halabja? Al-Anfal? The Mukhabarat? Who was Michel Aflaq? How did Saddam Hussein come to run Iraq, anyway?

I know from testing a number of intelligent people that the Bush administration and the media have failed to teach Iraq 101 to the public. Americans have been told — endlessly, by the administration — that the Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is “evil,” “a dictator” and “a menace.”

It's all true. It's well documented that he's a sadistic, murderous monster, responsible for more than a million deaths. Administration officials claim they have tried to make the human rights case against Hussein, and they say they've had some success around the country, though less with the Washington media. “We've been persistent, repeated and consistent,” said

Tucker Eskew, chief of the White House's Office of Global Communications. “You can't find a speech of the president's in which he doesn't mention the pligh of the Iraqi people.”

That's true, though President Bush rarely gets more specific than to charge that Hussein has “poisoned his own people” and “invaded his neighbors” and “rules by torture.”

This weekend, the White House plans to observe the 15th anniversary of Halabja. What happened there was chillingly described by British writer Gwynne Roberts in the 1999 book “Crimes of War” (W.W. Norton) as follows: “It was 6:20 p.m. on March 16, 1988, when a smell of apples descended on the town of Halabja. This Iraqi Kurdish town of 80,000 was instantly engulfed in a thick cloud of gas, as chemicals soaked into the clothes, mouths, lungs, eyes and skin of innocent civilians.

“For three days, Iraqi Air Force planes dropped mustard gas, nerve agents known as sarin and tabun

and VX. ... These chemicals murdered at least 5,000 civilians within hours and maimed thousands more over the next several years.

“Halabja has experienced staggering rates of aggressive cancer, genetic mutation, neurological damage and psychiatric disorders since 1988. If you walk through the streets today, you will see many diseased and disfigured citizens.”

The attack on Halabja was part of a wider, genocidal campaign against the Kurds known as Al-Anfal, which killed 30,000 to 60,000 between 1983 and 1988.

The eight-year Iran-Iraq war launched by Hussein in 1980 killed an estimated 1 million people on both sides of the conflict, many by poison gas.

Thousands more died as a result of his attack on Kuwait in 1990, which led to the first Persian Gulf War.

To continue with Iraq 101, the Mukhabarat is Hussein's Gestapo, his internal security apparatus. What it has done was described this way by Amnesty International:

“Political prisoners and detainees were subjected to systematic torture.

It's well documented that Hussein's police rape daughters and wives to extract confessions from prisoners and torture and murder the children of suspected dissidents.

Michel Aflaq? He was an early leader of the Baath party and Saddam Hussein's ideological father. The Baath promulgates a doctrine of Arab racial superiority, a destiny of dominance over “imperialist” powers and a system of party rule based on Stalinist principles of terror.

Hussein was a Baathist thug who rose to power by connivance, maneuver and murder. And the minute he achieved power in 1979, he executed all his potential rivals — and sent videotapes around to terrorize others.

Critics of Bush's war policy often say, “I know he's a bad guy, but ...” The problem is, no one has educated them on just how bad a guy he is.

The News We Kept To Ourselves

By Eason Jordan

Over the last dozen years I made 13 trips to Baghdad to lobby the government to keep CNN's Baghdad bureau open and to arrange interviews with Iraqi leaders. Each time I visited, I became more distressed by what I saw and heard — awful things that could not be reported because doing so would have jeopardized the lives of Iraqis, particularly those on our Baghdad staff.

For example, in the mid-1990's one of our Iraqi cameramen was abducted. For weeks he was beaten and subjected to electroshock torture in the basement of a secret police headquarters because he refused to confirm the government's ludicrous suspicion that I was the Central Intelligence Agency's Iraq station chief. CNN had been in Baghdad long enough to know that telling the world about the torture of one of its employees would almost certainly have gotten him killed and put his family and co-workers at grave risk.

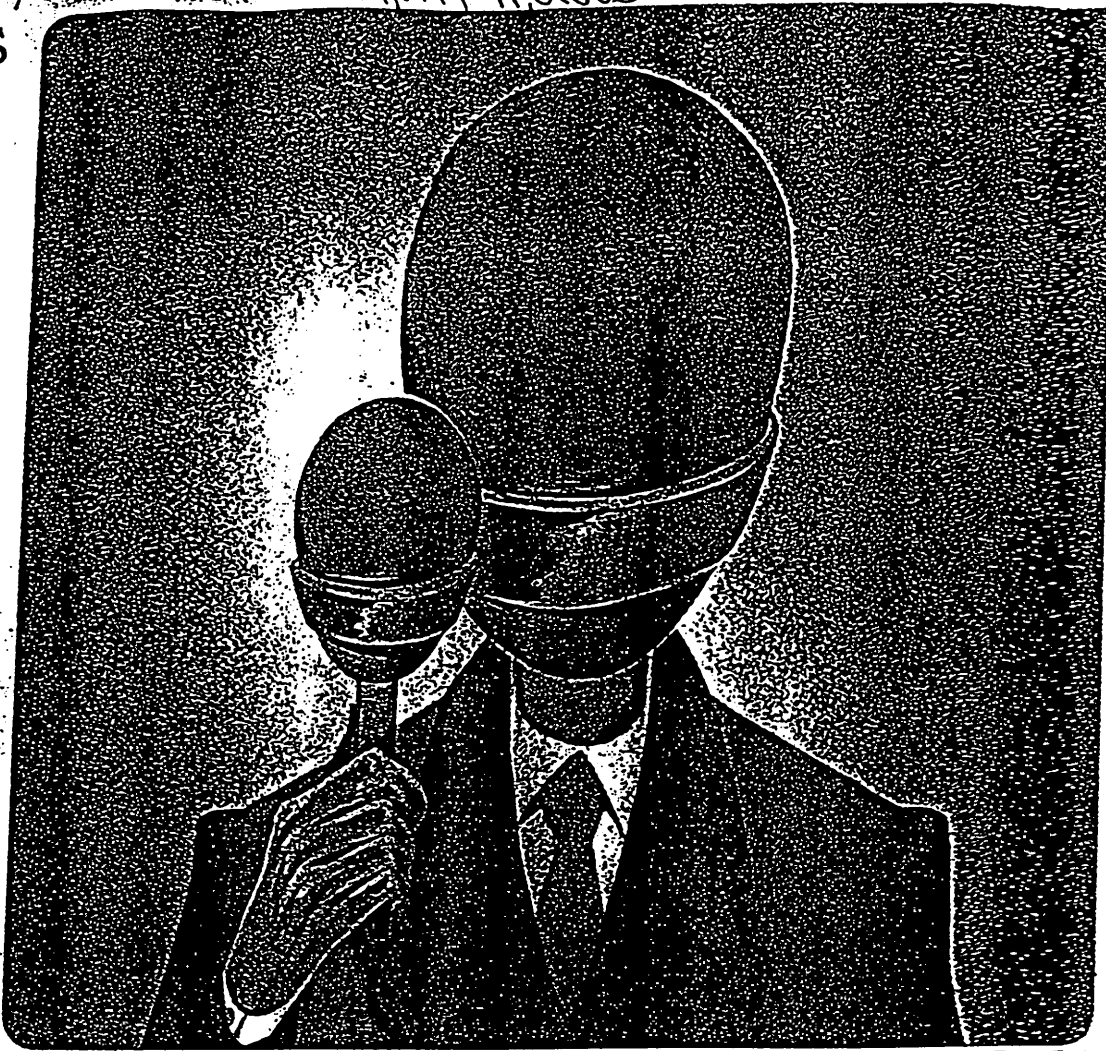
Working for a foreign news organization provided Iraqi citizens no protection. The secret police terrorized Iraqis working for international press services who were courageous enough to try to provide accurate reporting. Some vanished, never to be heard from again. Others disappeared and then surfaced later with whispered tales of being hauled off and tortured in unimaginable ways. Obviously, other news organizations were in the same bind we were when it came to reporting on their own workers.

We also had to worry that our reporting might endanger Iraqis not on our payroll. I knew that CNN could not report that Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, told me in 1995 that he intended to assassinate two of his brothers-in-law, who had defected and also the man giving them asylum, King Hussein of Jor-

dan. If we had gone with the story, I was sure he would have responded by killing the Iraqi translator who was the only other participant in the meeting. After all, secret police thugs brutalized even senior officials of the Information Ministry, just to keep them in line (one such official has long been missing all his fingernails).

Still, I felt I had a moral obligation to warn Jordan's monarch, and I did so the next day. King Hussein dismissed the threat as a madman's rant. A few months later Uday lured the brothers-in-law back to Baghdad; they were soon killed.

I came to know several Iraqi officials well enough that they confided in me that Saddam Hussein was a maniac who had to be removed. One Foreign Ministry officer told me of a colleague who, finding out his brother had been executed by the regime, was forced, as a test of loyalty, to write a letter of congratulations on the act to Saddam Hussein. An aide to Uday once told me why he had no front teeth: henchmen had ripped them out with pliers and told him



Times Photo

Life-and-death decisions at CNN Baghdad.

never to wear dentures, so he would always remember the price to be paid for upsetting his boss. Again, we could not broadcast anything these men said to us.

Last December, when I told Information Minister Muhammad Said al-Sahhaf that we intended to send reporters to Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, he warned me they would "suffer the severest possible consequences." CNN went ahead, and in March, Kurdish officials presented us with evidence that they had thwarted an armed attack on our quarters in Erbil. This included videotaped confessions of two men identifying themselves as Iraqi intelligence agents who said their bosses

in Baghdad told them the hotel actually housed C.I.A. and Israeli agents. The Kurds offered to let us interview the suspects on camera, but we refused, for fear of endangering our staff in Baghdad.

Then there were the events that were not unreported but that nonetheless still haunt me. A 31-year-old Kuwaiti woman, Asrar Qabardi, was captured by Iraqi secret police occupying her country in 1990 for "crimes," one of which included speaking with CNN on the phone. They beat her daily for two months, forcing her father to watch. In January 1991, on the eve of the American-led offensive, they smashed her skull and tore her body apart limb by limb. A plastic bag containing her body parts was left on the doorstep of her family's home.

I felt awful having these stories bottled up inside me. Now that Saddam Hussein's regime is gone, I suspect we will hear many, many more gut-wrenching tales from Iraqis about the decades of torment. At last, these stories can be told freely.

Eason Jordan is chief news executive at CNN.

"We must support our leaders and our troops!! Freedom is never free!!"

Let us now reflect upon what a "Veteran" is. First and foremost they are true patriots of their country. These young men and women have given up their constitutional rights and unquestioningly do whatever our government leaders ask of them. They must show total devotion and loyalty to our government's preservation of freedom for its people. They must answer our country's call to protect its vital interest anywhere in the world at any given time. Their devotion to the preservation of western democratic ideals has carried with it a very high price. From World War I in 1917 through Persian Gulf War in 1994 over 41 million young men and women have answered our nation's call to protect freedom in our world.

So as not to confuse anyone, I would like to share with you a veteran's definition of war. According to Webster's Dictionary, war is defined as a "state of usu. Opened and declared hostile conflict between states or nations." When we look up the term "usu.", it states, "The abbreviated word applies to what is favored, sought, or purposefully cultivated."

Part two definition of war is "a state of hostility, conflict, or antagonism. A struggle of opposing forces."

I submit to you that not only was the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam Conflict a war, but so were our involvement in Beirut, Grenada, Central America, Persian Gulf, Somalia, Bosnia, and any other area in which our soldiers are engaged in hostile conflicts.

Anti-human rights group at surface

News Tribune 4/18/03

By Nat Hentoff
Newspaper Enterprise Association

If there were a George Orwell Prize for truth in international reporting, I would enthusiastically nominate Anne Bayefsky for her March 19 Chicago Sun-Times article on the opening of the 59th session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Among the guardians of worldwide human rights, Bayefsky wrote, were such serial violators of the most basic human liberties as Syria, Sudan, Zimbabwe, China and Saudi Arabia.

The chairman of the commission is the representative of Libya, Najat Al-Hajjaji. Bayefsky — an international lawyer and a member of the governing board of the Geneva-based U.N. Watch — reported that as the chairman was about to speak, “hundreds of leaflets were dropped in silence from the second-floor balconies” by a group, Reporters Without Borders, based in Paris.

Their message:

“Disappearances, torture, arbitrary arrests, detention without charge or trial, pervasive censorship. Libya ... knows a thing about human rights violations.”

In supporting this claim, Amnesty International adds that the torture of political prisoners in Libya includes “attacks by aggressive dogs, causing serious injuries.”

One might hope that if U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, 2001 Nobel Peace Prize winner, had shown up at this grim opening session of the Human Rights Commission, he would have spoken for the tormented souls in the torture chambers of these nations and nobly exposed the shame of the United Nations that permits this grotesque hypocrisy.

Unfortunately, in all these years, Annan hasn't been a visible protester against slavery and genocide of the mostly black Christian population in Southern Sudan by that nation's National Islamic Front government in Khartoum.

When Eleanor Roosevelt was instrumental in supporting the

United Nations, I truly believed there would finally be a place where the wretched and abandoned of the earth would find relief.

However, in addition to the cruel farce of this Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva, Bayefsky writes of “the hapless Iraqi dissident who, weeks ago, frantically climbed into a U.N. inspector's Jeep in Iraq, only to be hauled off by Iraqi guards to certain torture.”

Meanwhile, I learned from the American Anti-Slavery Group that the African bloc of nations at the United Nations is working to get the Human Rights Commission to upgrade Sudan's U.N. human rights status by freeing Sudan from all previous economic restrictions and allowing the United Nations to provide economic support for that violent government.

You would think these nations would be against slavery.

In the Sudan Peace Act, passed by Congress last year and signed by the president, the United States flatly accused Sudan of genocide.

(According to the law, if Khartoum doesn't stop subjugating its opponents, sanctions will include opposing international loans and credits to the government.)

But, in the March 15 Boston Globe, John Eibner of Christian Solidarity International and Charles Jacobs, head of the American Anti-Slavery Group, pointed out that France has “provided Khartoum with military intelligence for the prosecution of (that government's) jihad” against blacks in the South. As for France and Germany's histories of appeasing the Khartoum government in Sudan, Eibner and Jacobs also reported that these two nations, “with the rest of the (European Union) and their new East European satellites in tow, overcame American objections and easily persuaded the U.N. Commission of Human Rights to censor any use of the word ‘slavery’ from official documents on Sudan and replace it with the euphemism ‘abduction’ — a lesser offense.”

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: Our LaSalle County Board and our citizens of LaSalle County have noted that thousands of American citizens have been targeted or killed over the last twenty years by international terrorists as our citizens have traveled abroad or even in our homeland. These barbaric terrorists have placed explosive devices in vehicles that were detonated next to United States Embassies or crowds, terrorists place bombs inside of restaurants, night clubs, or on airplanes killing hundreds of American citizens, and have flown large passenger airplanes into such places as our World Trade Center and our United States Pentagon, and

WHEREAS: Our United States one hundred and seventh Congress passed Senate Joint Resolution 23 known as "Authorization for Use of Military Force" which grants the President of the United States "to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorists attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001 or harbor such organizations or persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations or persons" who threaten the United States of America's national security and foreign policy, and

WHEREAS: The United States of America introduced in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1441 which demanded that Saddam Hussein and his regime comply with the previous 16 United Nation resolutions that he had agreed to resulting in the 1991 Gulf War cease fire, disclosing all records of how he destroyed all his weapons of mass destruction and immediately disarm or face serious consequences. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1441 passed unanimously as a result of Saddam Hussein's failure to comply with the previous passed 16 United Nations resolutions over the past 12 years, and

WHEREAS: Saddam Hussein's failure to comply had increased a severe threat to our United States citizens, our national security, and our foreign policy which has caused our president to send our soldiers to foreign lands in order to prevent weapons of mass destruction to be sold or given to other terrorist to be used on innocent free nations of the world, and

WHEREAS: In our Illinois Valley area, descendants of our area citizens have always answered our nations call to protect our freedoms by volunteering in all our wars such as the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, and over one hundred other war engagements as a result of a possible threat to our citizens, our national defense, or our foreign policies. Our area soldiers have always unselfishly gave of themselves by entering into our Active Armed Forces, Illinois National Guard, or Illinois Military Reserve Units many of whom are currently serving to liberate the Iraqi citizens or those in Afghanistan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The LaSalle County Board in our great state of Illinois totally support the actions taken by our government in their endeavor to protect our citizens, national security and foreign policy from those who wish to reign terror on our people by expressing their barbaric behavior to the innocent of our world. We pray for the safety of our leaders, our soldiers, and all other involved in protecting our freedoms and hope that they remain safe in their actions, returning unharmed, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: A copy of this resolution take effective immediately upon passage and be sent to the following:

1. President of the United States, George W. Bush
2. President of the United States Senate, Richard Cheney
3. President Pro Tempore, Ted Stevens
4. Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Bill Frist
5. Minority Leader of the United States Senate, Tom Daschle
6. Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Dennis Hastert
7. Majority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, Tom Delay
8. Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi

Minutes of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission meeting of March 3, 2003.

Meeting opened in due form by Chairman Adler. Roll call of officers was taken showing all officers present.

Minutes of previous meeting were read. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Adler stated the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: Old business was discussed. All questions pertaining to old business were answered.

New Business: Service Officer's Report was read. All questions pertaining to the Service Officer's Report were answered. Motion by Frank Suarez, seconded by Jim Kirby that the Service Officer's Report be approved as presented. Motion passed.

Superintendent Rue presented to the delegates and alternates letter of gratitude received from veterans who were assisted by the LaSalle Veterans Assistance Commission office.

Jim Kirby told the Commission that on March 25, 2003 he went to the Iowa City VA Medical Center for an appointment. While he was there members of the V.F.W. and American Legion posts were giving veterans fruit or gift packs which contained items such as body lotion, tooth brushes, tooth paste, etc. He felt this was a very nice gesture and would hope that other veteran organizations would do the same at other VA health care centers.

Motion by Delbert Spitz, seconded by Joe Iwaszek that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBER PRESENT: Delegates Jim Kirby, American Legion Post 549; Delbert Spitz, VFW Post 4079; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Frank Suarez, American Legion Post 375; Joseph Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229; Alternates Ludwig Sikole, VFW Post 4079; Jerry Welch, American Legion Post 375; Bob Renz, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR MARCH 2003

CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 24 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 10 veterans
3. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 526 for 4 veterans.
4. Sent out birth, death, DD214, and marriage certificates to service offices for 13 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 34 veterans to discuss, explain or inquire as to the status of their case.
6. Sent out 2 Form 180 to St. Louis for veterans personnel records.
7. Sent out 40 requests for medical records to various doctors, hospitals, etc for various veterans.
8. Sent copy of veteran's records to 2 veteran
9. Sent medals received to 1 veteran.
10. Sent letter to 4 veteran placing their file on inactive status.
11. Sent out various VA forms to 12 veterans to sign and return.
12. Sent VA Form 4142 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
13. Sent VA Form 534 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 10 veterans
15. Sent application for headstone to sexton for 2 veteran.
16. Sent application for headstone to Washington DC for 0 veterans
17. Sent VA Form 530 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
18. Sent VA Form 8940 to Veterans Administration for 3 veterans.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
20. Sent VA Form 527 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
21. Sent Request for Reconsideration to SSA reference denial of disability benefits for 6 veteran.
22. Sent 30 medical records for veterans to Social Security office.
23. Sent VA Form 5655 to VA for 0 veterans.
24. Sent VA Form 9 to VA for 2 veterans.
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 35 veterans.
26. Sent VA Form 1900 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
27. Sent Request for Presidential Memorial Certificate to VA Regional Office for 0 veterans' widows.
28. Sent NA Form 13055 to National Personnel for 1 veterans.
29. Sent various SSA forms for 12 veterans to Hearing Office for Social Security Disability

30. Sent 3 memos to National Service Offices to check progress of client's claims.
31. Sent VA Form 516 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
32. Sent VA Form 518 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
33. Sent VA Form 686c to Veterans Administration for 1 veterans.
34. Sent VA Form 10-10t to Veterans Medical Centers for 0 veterans.
35. Sent VA Form 10-10F to Veterans medical Centers for 3 veterans.
36. Sent VA Form 674 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
37. Sent 0 request for waiver of overpayment to the Social Security Administration.
38. Sent 0 requests for review of ALJ decision denying claim for benefits.
39. Sent 0 VA Form 149 to veterans pertaining to upgrade of discharges.
40. Sent VA Form 517 for 0 veteran.
41. Sent 0 requests for Aid & Attendance for veterans.
42. Sent 0 request for Outpatient Fee Basis Card for veteran to Hines VAMC
43. Sent VA Form 5490 for 0 veteran.
44. Sent 0 claim to Court of Veterans Appeals (BVA) for their consideration and review.
45. Sent 0 VA Form 0304 to Veterans Administration for spina bifida benefits for children.
46. Sent VA Form 293 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
47. Sent VA Form 4502 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
48. Sent VA Form 4555 to Veterans administration for 0 veteran.
49. Sent VA Form 5281 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran

AWARDS

1. Veteran Widow awarded Burial Benefits for veteran's death, \$1400 (LaSalle, WWII)
2. Veteran awarded Social Security disability benefits, effective 10/2002. Received \$8612 for retroactive payment for period 10/2002-2/2003; \$1732 monthly from 3/2002-12/2003, \$17,320 (Total \$25,932) (Westend Vietnam)
3. Veteran awarded 60% S/C compensation w/IUE (diff. \$1643) 9/2002-11/2002, \$4929; 12/02-11/03, \$19,716 (Total \$24,645) (Ottawa, Persian Gulf)

4. Veteran awarded 20% S/C benefits, effective 9/2002-11/2002, \$199 monthly, \$597; 12/2002-11/2003, \$201 monthly, \$2412 (Total \$3009) (Northside, Vietnam)
5. Veteran awarded increased S/C Compensation, (40%-60%) (diff \$356), 12/2002-11/2003, \$4272 (Total \$4272) (Ottawa, Vietnam)
6. Veteran awarded Aid & Attendance on to his 100% s/c Compensation 9/02-11/02, (Total \$10,500) (Streator, Vietnam)
7. Veteran's Widow awarded Widow Pension, 10/2002-11/2002, \$533 monthly, \$1066; 12/2002-11/2003, \$541 monthly, \$2369 (Total \$3435) (Streator, Vietnam)
8. Veteran awarded SSD benefits retroactive payment, \$16,665, effective 1/2002-3/2003; 4/2003-11/2003, \$1122 monthly, \$10,098 (Total \$26,763) (Seneca, Vietnam)
9. Veteran 90% S/C Compensation w/IUE, effective 6/2001-11/2001, @90% \$969 monthly, \$5814; \$995 monthly, 12/2001-10/2002, \$10,945; 11/2002, \$2163; 12/2002-11/2003, \$2193, \$26,316 (Total \$45,258)
10. Veteran awarded increased s/c Compensation (40%-50%) (diff \$135 monthly) 12/2002-11/2003, \$1620 (Total \$1620) (LeLand, Vietnam)
11. Veteran awarded increased s/c Compensation (30%-50%) (diff \$323) 5/2001-11/2002, \$6460; 12/2002-11/2003, \$3876 (Total \$10,336) (Eastend, Persian Gulf)
12. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 8/2002-11/2002, \$11546 monthly, \$4624; 12/2002-11/2003, \$13,822 (Total \$18,496) (Westend, Vietnam)
13. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 8/2002-11/2002, retroactive payment, \$6672; 12/2002-11/2003, \$1688 monthly, \$20,016 (Total \$26,688) (Ottawa, Vietnam)
14. Veteran awarded increased s/c compensation, effective 11/2002 (diff \$248) (\$40%-50%), \$248; 12/2002-11/2003, \$2976 (Total \$3224) (Oglesby, Vietnam)
15. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 1/2002-12/2002, \$1096 monthly, \$13157; 1/2003-12/2003, \$13,157 (Total \$26,314) (Streator, Vietnam)

16. Veteran awarded 100S/C Compensation w/IUE, effective
2/2003-12/2003, \$2193 monthly, \$24,123 (Ottawa, Vietnam)

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS:	\$	107,528.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	294,561.00
TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS:	\$	182,223.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	1,043,026.00
TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE:	\$	1,337,587.00

EXPLANATION OF VA FORMS:

1. Form 520-APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION OR PENSION
2. VA Form 4138-STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM
3. VA Form 180-REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS
4. VA Form 534-APPLICATION FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION OR DEATH PENSION BY SURVIVING SPOUSE OR CHILD.
5. VA Form 21-22-APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE ORGANIZATION
6. VA Form 518-IMPROVED PENSION EVR (Surviving Spouse with no children)
7. VA Form 530-APPLICATION FOR BURIAL BENEFITS
8. VA Form 535-APPLICATION FOR DIC (DISABILITY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION) BY PARENTS
9. VA Form 512V-SECTION 306 EVR (VETERAN)
10. VA Form 686C-DECLARATION OF MARITAL STATUS
11. DD Form 149- APPLICATION FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS UNDER THE PROVISION OF TITLE 10 U.S.CODE, SECTION 1552
12. VA Form 10-10-APPLICATION FOR MEDICAL BENEFITS
13. VA Form 5655-FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT
14. VA Form 512S- SECTION 306 EVR (Surviving Spouse)
15. VA Form 8416-REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING MEDICAL, LEGAL, OR OTHER EXPENSES.
16. VA Form (1-9)-APPEAL TO BOARD OF APPEAL
17. VA Form 517 IMPROVED PENSION ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION REPORT (VETERAN WITH CHILDREN)
18. VA Form 527-INCOME-NET WORTH AND EMPLOYMENT STATEMENT
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20. VA Form 4125-CLAIM FOR ONE SUM PAYMENT
21. VA FORM 8940-VETERANS APPLICATION FOR INCREASED COMPENSATION BASED ON UNEMPLOYABILITY
22. VA FORM 1900-DISABLED VETERANS APPLICATION FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
23. VA FORM 1990-APPLICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
24. VA FORM 5281-APPLICATION FOR REFUND OF EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS
25. VA FORM 4125-REQUEST FOR LUMP SUM PAYMENT
26. VA FORM 5490-APPLICATION FOR SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
27. VA FORM 0304-APPLICATION FOR SPINA BIFIDA BENEFITS.
28. VA FORM 4502-APPLICATION FOR AUTOMOBILE OR OTHER CONVEYANCE OR ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT
29. VA FORM 4555-VETERAN'S APPLICATION IN ACQUIRING SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING OR SPECIAL HOME ADAPTATION GRANT.
30. VA FORM 8678-APPLICATION FOR CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

4. Veteran awarded 20% S/C benefits, effective 9/2002-11/2002, \$199 monthly, \$597; 12/2002-11/2003, \$201 monthly, \$2412 (Total \$3009) (Northside, Vietnam)
5. Veteran awarded increased S/C Compensation, (40%-60%) (diff \$356), 12/2002-11/2003, \$4272 (Total \$4272) (Ottawa, Vietnam)
6. Veteran awarded Aid & Attendance on to his 100% s/c Compensation 9/02-11/02, (Total \$10,500) (Streator, Vietnam)
7. Veteran's Widow awarded Widow Pension, 10/2002-11/2002, \$533 monthly, \$1066; 12/2002-11/2003, \$541 monthly, \$2369 (Total \$3435) (Streator, Vietnam)
8. Veteran awarded SSD benefits retroactive payment, \$16,665, effective 1/2002-3/2003; 4/2003-11/2003, \$1122 monthly, \$10,098 (Total \$26,763) (Seneca, Vietnam)
9. Veteran 90% S/C Compensation w/IUE, effective 6/2001-11/2001, @90% \$969 monthly, \$5814; \$995 monthly, 12/2001-10/2002, \$10,945; 11/2002, \$2163; 12/2002-11/2003, \$2193, \$26,316 (Total \$45,258)
10. Veteran awarded increased s/c Compensation (40%-50%) (diff \$135 monthly) 12/2002-11/2003, \$1620 (Total \$1620) (LeLand, Vietnam)
11. Veteran awarded increased s/c Compensation (30%-50%) (diff \$323) 5/2001-11/2002, \$6460; 12/2002-11/2003, \$3876 (Total \$10,336) (Eastend, Persian Gulf)
12. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 8/2002-11/2002, \$11546 monthly, \$4624; 12/2002-11/2003, \$13,822 (Total \$18,496) (Westend, Vietnam)
13. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 8/2002-11/2002, retroactive payment, \$6672; 12/2002-11/2003, \$1688 monthly, \$20,016 (Total \$26,688) (Ottawa, Vietnam)
14. Veteran awarded increased s/c compensation, effective 11/2002 (diff \$248) (\$40%-50%), \$248; 12/2002-11/2003, \$2976 (Total \$3224) (Oglesby, Vietnam)
15. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 1/2002-12/2002, \$1096 monthly, \$13157; 1/2003-12/2003, \$13,157 (Total \$26,314) (Streator, Vietnam)

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of June 25, 2003.

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Ralph Adler. Roll call of officers was taken showing Jim Kirby and Jerry Welch excused. All other officers were present.

Minutes of previous meeting were read. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Adler stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old business was discussed. There was a lengthy discussion pertaining to our LaSalle Veterans Home. Superintendent Rue stated there were numerous beds open at our LaSalle Veterans Home due to the fact that the staff needed to provide the medical care has not been hired yet. He stated that everyone should contact Governor Blagojevich and their local state of Illinois senator and representatives asking that they intercede with this plight.

New Business: The Service Officer's Report was read. All questions pertaining to the Service Officer's Report were answered. A motion was made by Frank Suarez, seconded by Delbert Spitz that the Service Officer's Report be approved as presented. Motion Passed.

Superintendent Rue submitted to those present a copy of the Budget Recommendation Form dated June 6, 2003, which covers 2004 budget recommendations. Delegates and alternates went through each line item presenting the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission's budget recommendations for the fiscal year 2004. A discussion entailed pertaining to no line item in our budget for legal fees. A motion was made by Frank Suarez, seconded by Delbert Spitz that a line item should be added to the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission budget for legal fees. Motion passed unanimously.

It was further noted that the salary line items of the Veterans Assistance Commission employees were totally blackened out so that no one would even be able to realize what those line items were for. The Commission noted that this is the first year that they have not seen the employee's line items as part of the total budget recommendations. They had asked Superintendent Rue to request a 2004 Budget Recommendation Form that shows each line item in our entire budget.

A motion was made by Frank Suarez, seconded by Ken Hausken that the figures discussed per line item of the 2004 Budget Recommendation Form by the delegates and alternates of the Veterans Assistance Commission be approved as they recommend. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Delbert Spitz, seconded by Ken Hausken that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Frank Suarez, American Legion Post 375; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Delbert Spitz, VFW Post 4079; Alternate Jim DeMoss, VFW Post 5506; and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

**VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR JUNE 2003**

CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 26 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 8 veterans
3. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 526 for 6 veterans.
4. Sent out birth, death, DD214, and marriage certificates to service offices for 19 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 30 veterans to discuss, explain or inquire as to the status of their case.
6. Sent out 5 Form 180 to St. Louis for veterans personnel records.
7. Sent out 26 requests for medical records to various doctors, hospitals, etc for various veterans.
8. Sent copy of veteran's records to 2 veteran
9. Sent medals received to 1 veteran.
10. Sent letter to 2 veteran placing their file on inactive status.
11. Sent out various VA forms to 14 veterans to sign and return.
12. Sent VA Form 4142 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
13. Sent VA Form 534 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 2 veterans.
15. Sent application for headstone to sexton for 1 veteran.
16. Sent application for headstone to Washington DC for 2 veterans
17. Sent VA Form 530 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
18. Sent VA Form 8940 to Veterans Administration for 8 veterans.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
20. Sent VA Form 527 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
21. Sent Request for Reconsideration to SSA reference denial of disability benefits for 4 veteran.
22. Sent 6 medical records for veterans to Social Security office.
23. Sent VA Form 5655 to VA for 3 veterans.
24. Sent VA Form 9 to VA for 2 veterans.
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 29 veterans.
26. Sent VA Form 1900 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
27. Sent Request for Presidential Memorial Certificate to VA Regional Office for 0 veterans' widows.
28. Sent NA Form 13055 to National Personnel for 1 veterans.
29. Sent various SSA forms for 15 veterans to Hearing Office for Social Security Disability

30. Sent 2 memos to National Service Offices to check progress of client's claims.
31. Sent VA Form 516 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
32. Sent VA Form 518 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
33. Sent VA Form 686c to Veterans Administration for 6 veterans.
34. Sent VA Form 10-10t to Veterans Medical Centers for 0 veterans.
35. Sent VA Form 10-10F to Veterans medical Centers for 3 veterans.
36. Sent VA Form 674 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
37. Sent 0 request for waiver of overpayment to the Social Security Administration.
38. Sent 0 requests for review of ALJ decision denying claim for benefits.
39. Sent 0 VA Form 149 to veterans pertaining to upgrade of discharges.
40. Sent VA Form 517 for 0 veteran.
41. Sent 2 requests for Aid & Attendance for veterans.
42. Sent 0 request for Outpatient Fee Basis Card for veteran to Hines VAMC
43. Sent VA Form 5490 for 0 Veteran.
44. Sent 0 claim to Court of Veterans Appeals(BVA) for their consideration and review.
45. Sent 0 VA Form 0304 to Veterans Administration for spina bifida benefits for children.
46. Sent VA Form 293 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
47. Sent VA Form 4502 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
48. Sent VA Form 4555 to Veterans administration for 0 veteran.
49. Sent VA Form 5281 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran

AWARDS

1. Veteran awarded 100% S/C Compensation, \$2274 monthly, effective 2/2003-11/2003, \$22,740;12/2003-2/2004, \$4558 (Total \$27,298) (Westend, Vietnam)
2. Veteran awarded increased S/C compensation, (20%-40%) (diff. \$244) 8/2001-6/2003, \$5368;7/2003-11/2003, \$1220 (Marseilles, Vietnam)
3. Veteran awarded S/C compensation w/(k), effective 2/2002-11/2002, 20%, \$219 monthly, \$2790;12/2002-11/2003 \$282 monthly, \$3384 (Total 46,074) (Marseilles, Vietnam)

4. Veteran's Widow awarded DIC benefits, 5/2003-6/2003, \$2318 (veterans compensation), 6/2003-11/2003, \$5688 (Total \$8,006) (Ottawa, Vietnam)
5. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, 6/2002-11/2003, \$1376 monthly, \$24,768 (Total \$24,768) (Earlville, Vietnam)
6. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, retroactive payment of \$13,340 for period through 8/2000-4/2003; \$760 monthly, 5/2003-11/2003, \$6080 (Total \$19,420) (Streator, Vietnam)
7. Veteran awarded 20% S/C compensation effective 8/2001-11/2001, \$272 monthly, \$816; 12/2001-8/2002, \$279 monthly, \$2511; 9/2002-11/2002, awarded 70% w/IUE, \$2367 monthly, \$7101; 12/2002-6/2003, \$2399 monthly, total retroactive payment, \$27,182; 6/2003-5/2004, \$28,885 (Total \$56,070) (Streator, Gulf War)
8. Veteran awarded increased S/C Compensation, effective 6/2003-5/2004, (30%-40%) (diff. \$293), \$3516 (Total \$3516) (Streator, Gulf War)
9. Veteran awarded increased S/C compensation, 10%-40% (diff. \$391), effective 6/2003-1/2003, \$2346; 12/2003-11/2003, \$4692 (Total \$7038) (Westend, Vietnam)
10. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 7/2003-11/2003, \$957 monthly, \$4785; 12/2003-11/2004, \$11,384 (Total \$16,169) (Streator, Vietnam)
11. Veteran awarded NSC Pension, effective 1/2002-11/2002, \$372 monthly, \$4,464; 12/2002-11/2003, \$383 monthly, \$4596 (Total \$9360) (LaSalle, Vietnam)
12. Veteran awarded NSC Pension \$99 monthly, effective 5/2003-11/2003, \$693; 12/2003-11/2004, \$1188 (Total \$1888) (Marseilles, Vietnam)
13. Veteran awarded SSD effective 2/2003-11/2003, \$1729 monthly, \$17,290; 12/2003-1/2004, \$3458 (Total \$21,748) (Ottawa, Vietnam)

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS: \$ 82,105.00
 YEAR-TO-DATE: \$ 430,543.00
 TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS: \$ 125,838.00
 YEAR-TO-DATE: \$1,711,405.00
 TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE: \$2,141,948.00

1. Form 526-APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION OR PENSION
2. VA Form 4138-STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM
3. VA Form 180-REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS
4. VA Form 534-APPLICATION FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION OR DEATH PENSION BY SURVIVING SPOUSE OR CHILD.
5. VA Form 21-22-APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE ORGANIZATION
6. VA Form 518-IMPROVED PENSION EVR (Surviving Spouse with no children)
7. VA Form 530-APPLICATION FOR BURIAL BENEFITS
8. VA Form 535-APPLICATION FOR DIC (DISABILITY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION) BY PARENTS
9. VA Form 512V-SECTION 306 EVR (VETERAN)
10. VA Form 686C-DECLARATION OF MARITAL STATUS
11. DD Form 149- APPLICATION FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS UNDER THE PROVISION OF TITLE 10 U.S.CODE, SECTION 1552
12. VA Form 10-10-APPLICATION FOR MEDICAL BENEFITS
13. VA Form 5655-FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT
14. VA Form 512S- SECTION 306 EVR (Surviving Spouse)
15. VA Form 8416-REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING MEDICAL, LEGAL, OR OTHER EXPENSES.
16. VA Form (1-9)-APPEAL TO BOARD OF APPEAL
17. VA Form 517 IMPROVED PENSION ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION REPORT (VETERAN WITH CHILDREN)
18. VA Form 527-INCOME-NET WORTH AND EMPLOYMENT STATEMENT
19. VA Form 519-CERTIFICATION OF INFORMATION FOR VA PURPOSES
20. VA Form 4125-CLAIM FOR ONE SUM PAYMENT
21. VA FORM 8940-VETERANS APPLICATION FOR INCREASED COMPENSATION BASED ON UNEMPLOYABILITY
22. VA FORM 1900-DISABLED VETERANS APPLICATION FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
23. VA FORM 1990-APPLICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
24. VA FORM 5281-APPLICATION FOR REFUND OF EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS
25. VA FORM 4125-REQUEST FOR LUMP SUM PAYMENT
26. VA FORM 5490-APPLICATION FOR SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
27. VA FORM 0304-APPLICATION FOR SPINA BIFIDA BENEFITS.
28. VA FORM 4502-APPLICATION FOR AUTOMOBILE OR OTHER CONVEYANCE OR ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT
29. VA FORM 4555-VETERAN'S APPLICATION IN ACQUIRING SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING OR SPECIAL HOME ADAPTATION GRANT.
30. VA FORM 8678-APPLICATION FOR CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

The LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of July 23, 2003.

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Adler. Roll call of officers was taken showing Chairman Adler present and all other officers excused.

Minutes of previous meeting were read. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Adler stated the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: A discussion ensued pertaining to the additional 80 beds needed at the LaSalle Veterans' Home. There are currently over 150 veterans waiting admission. Superintendent Rue stated that the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Director Roy L. Dolgus stated that he has the money to open up an additional 106 beds at the Quincy Veterans' Home and hire the staff needed to take care of that 106 beds. He also stated that he has money available to hire the staff and open up an additional 38 beds at the Manteno Veterans' Home. He further stated he is working with Hines VA Hospital to enter into a contract to open an additional 60 beds for nursing home care and hire the staff needed for that facility. He further stated that he is working with North Chicago VA on contract to open additional nursing care beds at their facility. His staff also mentioned that our senator had them testify on the Senate Funding legislation to add the additional 80 beds to our LaSalle Veterans' Home. Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs said they testified in favor of the funding legislation, but our senator never called for the bill to be voted on in Committee. As a result, our funding legislation bill to add the 80 beds to the LaSalle Veterans' Home is still sitting in Committee. Neither the House funding legislation for our 80 beds nor the Senate funding legislation were called for a vote in Committee. We must contact our state of Illinois Representatives and Senator requesting that those bills be called for a vote in Committee and sent to the House and Senate for their approval in this coming legislative veto session of our Illinois General Assembly.

New Business: The Service Officer's Report was given. All questions pertaining to the Service Officer's Report were answered. Chairman Adler stated that the Service Officer's Report would be accepted as presented.

Chairman Adler requested that a copy of all presented be mailed to the delegates and alternates who could not attend.

Chairman Adler dually closed our meeting of July 23, 2003.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Alternate Jim DeMoss, VFW Post 5506 and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235.

**VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR JULY 2003**

CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 27 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 10 veterans
3. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 526 for 5 veterans.
4. Sent out birth, death, DD214, and marriage certificates to service offices for 20 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 32 veterans to discuss, explain or inquire as to the status of their case.
6. Sent out 10 Form 180 to St. Louis for veterans personnel records.
7. Sent out 41 requests for medical records to various doctors, hospitals, etc for various veterans.
8. Sent copy of veteran's records to 1 veteran
9. Sent medals received to 3 veteran.
10. Sent letter to 8 veteran placing their file on inactive status.
11. Sent out various VA forms to 11 veterans to sign and return.
12. Sent VA Form 4142 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
13. Sent VA Form 530 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 2 veterans.
15. Sent application for headstone to sexton for 1 veteran.
16. Sent application for headstone to Washington DC for 2 veterans
17. Sent VA Form 530 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
18. Sent VA Form 8940 to Veterans Administration for 6 veterans.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
20. Sent VA Form 527 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
21. Sent Request for Reconsideration to SSA reference denial of disability benefits for 3 veteran.
22. Sent 14 medical records for veterans to Social Security office.
23. Sent VA Form 5655 to VA for 3 veterans.
24. Sent VA Form 9 to VA for 0 veterans.
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 34 veterans.
26. Sent VA Form 1900 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
27. Sent Request for Presidential Memorial Certificate to VA Regional Office for 0 veterans' widows.
28. Sent NA Form 13055 to National Personnel for 1 veterans.
29. Sent various SSA forms for 16 veterans to Hearing Office for Social Security Disability

30. Sent 4 memos to National Service Offices to check progress of client's claims.
31. Sent VA Form 516 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
32. Sent VA Form 518 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
33. Sent VA Form 686c to Veterans Administration for 2 veterans.
34. Sent VA Form 10-10t to Veterans Medical Centers for 0 veterans.
35. Sent VA Form 10-10F to Veterans medical Centers for 1 veterans.
36. Sent VA Form 674 to Veterans Administration for 2 veterans.
37. Sent 0 request for waiver of overpayment to the Social Security Administration.
38. Sent 0 requests for review of ALJ decision denying claim for benefits.
39. Sent 0 VA Form 149 to veterans pertaining to upgrade of discharges.
40. Sent VA Form 517 for 1 veteran.
41. Sent 2 requests for Aid & Attendance for veterans.
42. Sent 0 request for Outpatient Fee Basis Card for veteran to Hines VAMC
43. Sent VA Form 5490 for 0 Veteran.
44. Sent 0 claim to Court of Veterans Appeals (BVA) for their consideration and review.
45. Sent 0 VA Form 0304 to Veterans Administration for spina bifida benefits for children.
46. Sent VA Form 293 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
47. Sent VA Form 4502 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
48. Sent VA Form 4555 to Veterans administration for 0 veteran.
49. Sent VA Form 5281 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran

AWARDS.

1. Veteran awarded 20% S/C Compensation, \$199 monthly, effective 11/2002, \$199; 12/2002-2/2003, \$201 monthly, \$2412 (Total \$2,611) (STREATOR, Vietnam)
2. Veteran awarded S/C compensation, 30%, effective 8/2002-11/2002, \$301 monthly, \$903; 12/2002-11/2003, \$310 monthly, \$3720 (Total \$4623) (LASALLE, Vietnam)
3. Veteran awarded NSC Pension effective 11/2002, \$796; 12/2002-11/2003, \$807 monthly, \$9684 (Westend, Vietnam)
4. Veteran's daughter awarded Chapter 35 Educational Benefits, \$710 monthly, effective 8/2003-5/2004, \$8520 (Total \$8520) (Serena, Vietnam)

5. Veteran awarded 90% w/IUE, S/C Compensation, effective 5/2002-11/2002, \$2287 monthly, \$16,009; 12/2002-11/2003, \$2318 monthly, \$27,816 (Total \$43,825) (TONICA, VIETNAM)
6. Veteran awarded 100% convalescence due to hospitalization \$4386; 4/2003-11/2003, (diff \$1022), \$8176. (Total \$12,562) (MENDOTA, Vietnam)
7. Veteran awarded increased S/C Compensation (30%-50%) (diff. \$331) 12/2000-8/2003, \$10,592; 9/2003-11/2003, \$993 (Total \$11,585) (Marseilles, Vietnam)
8. Veteran awarded SSD benefit, \$1187 monthly, effective 12/2002-11/2003, \$14,144. (Total \$14,144) (Westend, Vietnam)
9. Veteran awarded increased S/C compensation, 30%-70% w/IUE (diff. \$1887), effective 6/2003-11/2003, \$11,3226; 12/2003-11/2004, \$22,644 (Total \$33,966) (Seneca, Vietnam)
10. Veteran awarded 20% S/C Compensation for diabetes, 6/2002-11/2002, \$199 monthly, \$1194; 12/2002-11/2003, \$2412 (Total \$3606) (Streator, Vietnam)
11. Veteran awarded unreimbursed medical expenses \$3407 (\$3407) (LaSalle, WWII)
12. Veteran awarded 30% S/C Compensation effective 6/2003-5/2004, \$310 monthly, \$3720 (Total \$3,720) (Southwest End, Vietnam)
13. Veteran awarded 60% S/C Compensation w/IUE, (diff. \$1473 monthly) \$17,676 (Total \$17,676) (Ottawa, Vietnam)
14. Veteran awarded S/C Compensation for diabetes 6/2003-8/2003, \$310 monthly, \$620; \$347 monthly, 9/2003-5/2004, \$3123 (Total \$3,470) (Mendota, Vietnam)

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS:	\$	14,144.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	444,687.00
TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS:	\$	171,061.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	2,165,092.00
TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE:	\$	2,337,153.00

EXPLANATION OF VA FORMS:

1. Form 526-APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION OR PENSION
2. VA Form 4138-STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM
3. VA Form 180-REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS
4. VA Form 534-APPLICATION FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION OR DEATH PENSION BY SURVIVING SPOUSE OR CHILD.
5. VA Form 21-22-APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE ORGANIZATION
6. VA Form 518-IMPROVED PENSION EVR (Surviving Spouse with no children)
7. VA Form 530-APPLICATION FOR BURIAL BENEFITS
8. VA Form 535-APPLICATION FOR DIC (DISABILITY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION) BY PARENTS
9. VA Form 512V-SECTION 306 EVR (VETERAN)
10. VA Form 686C-DECLARATION OF MARITAL STATUS
11. DD Form 149- APPLICATION FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS UNDER THE PROVISION OF TITLE 10 U.S.CODE, SECTION 1552
12. VA Form 10-10-APPLICATION FOR MEDICAL BENEFITS
13. VA Form 5655-FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT
14. VA Form 512S- SECTION 306 EVR (Surviving Spouse)
15. VA Form 8416-REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING MEDICAL, LEGAL, OR OTHER EXPENSES.
16. VA Form (1-9)-APPEAL TO BOARD OF APPEAL
17. VA Form 517 IMPROVED PENSION ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION REPORT (VETERAN WITH CHILDREN)
18. VA Form 527-INCOME-NET WORTH AND EMPLOYMENT STATEMENT
19. VA Form 519-CERTIFICATION OF INFORMATION FOR VA PURPOSES
20. VA Form 4125-CLAIM FOR ONE SUM PAYMENT
21. VA FORM 8940-VETERANS APPLICATION FOR INCREASED COMPENSATION BASED ON UNEMPLOYABILITY
22. VA FORM 1900-DISABLED VETERANS APPLICATION FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
23. VA FORM 1990-APPLICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
24. VA FORM 5281-APPLICATION FOR REFUND OF EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS
25. VA FORM 4125-REQUEST FOR LUMP SUM PAYMENT
26. VA FORM 5490-APPLICATION FOR SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
27. VA FORM 0304-APPLICATION FOR SPINA BIFIDA BENEFITS.
28. VA FORM 4502-APPLICATION FOR AUTOMOBILE OR OTHER CONVEYANCE OR ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT
29. VA FORM 4555-VETERAN'S APPLICATION IN ACQUIRING SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING OR SPECIAL HOME ADAPTATION GRANT.
30. VA FORM 8678-APPLICATION FOR CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of August 27, 2003.

The meeting was opened in due form by Acting Chairman Frank Suarez. Roll call of officers was taken showing Vice-Chairman Suarez present and all other officers excused.

Minutes of previous meeting were read. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Acting Chairman Suarez stated the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: All old business was discussed. All questions pertaining to old business were answered.

New Business: Service Officers Report was read. All questions pertaining to the Service Officers Report were answered. Motion was made by Delbert Spitz, seconded by Ken Hausken that the Service Officers Report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

Acting Chairman Suarez stated he had heard that there were vacant beds at the LaSalle Veterans Home that were not being filled. Supt. Rue explained that according to the Director of the Illinois Dept. of Veterans' Affairs there are currently nine beds vacant as a result of staff shortages. The State of Illinois must hire 16 employees before those beds can be filled.

Motion by Jim DeMoss, seconded by Delbert Spitz that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Jim DeMoss, VFW Post 5506; Frank Suarez, American Legion Post 375, Delbert Spitz, VFW Post 4079; and Alternate Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506

**VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR AUGUST 2003**

CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 33 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 12 veterans
3. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 526 for 7 veterans.
4. Sent out birth, death, DD214, and marriage certificates to service offices for 40 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 17 veterans to discuss, explain or inquire as to the status of their case.
6. Sent out 8 Form 180 to St. Louis for veterans personnel records.
7. Sent out 57 requests for medical records to various doctors, hospitals, etc for various veterans.
8. Sent copy of veteran's records to 2 veteran
9. Sent medals received to 1 veteran.
10. Sent letter to 4 veteran placing their file on inactive status.
11. Sent out various VA forms to 17 veterans to sign and return.
12. Sent VA Form 4142 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
13. Sent VA Form 530 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 6 veterans.
15. Sent application for headstone to sexton for 1 veteran.
16. Sent application for headstone to Washington DC for 2 veterans
17. Sent VA Form 534 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
18. Sent VA Form 8940 to Veterans Administration for 5 veterans.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
20. Sent VA Form 527 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
21. Sent Request for Reconsideration to SSA reference denial of disability benefits for 5 veteran.
22. Sent 28 medical records for veterans to Social Security office.
23. Sent VA Form 5655 to VA for 0 veterans.
24. Sent VA Form 9 to VA for 2 veterans.
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 31 veterans.
26. Sent VA Form 1900 to Veterans Administration for 1 veterans.
27. Sent Request for Presidential Memorial Certificate to VA Regional Office for 0 veterans' widows.
28. Sent NA Form 13055 to National Personnel for 3 veterans.
29. Sent various SSA forms for 21 veterans to Hearing Office for Social Security Disability

30. Sent 1 memo to National Service Offices to check progress of client's claims.
31. Sent VA Form 516 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
32. Sent VA Form 518 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
33. Sent VA Form 686c to Veterans Administration for 5 veterans.
34. Sent VA Form 10-10t to Veterans Medical Centers for 0 veterans.
35. Sent VA Form 10-10F to Veterans medical Centers for 1 veterans.
36. Sent VA Form 674 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
37. Sent 0 request for waiver of overpayment to the Social Security Administration.
38. Sent 0 requests for review of ALJ decision denying claim for benefits.
39. Sent 2 VA Form 149 to veterans pertaining to upgrade of discharges.
40. Sent VA Form 517 for 0 veteran.
41. Sent 2 requests for Aid & Attendance for veterans.
42. Sent 0 request for Outpatient Fee Basis Card for veteran to Hines VAMC
43. Sent VA Form 5490 for 0 Veteran.
44. Sent 0 claim to Court of Veterans Appeals (BVA) for their consideration and review.
45. Sent 0 VA Form 0304 to Veterans Administration for spina bifida benefits for children.
46. Sent VA Form 293 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
47. Sent VA Form 4502 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
48. Sent VA Form 4555 to Veterans administration for 0 veteran.
49. Sent VA Form 5281 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran

AWARDS.

1. Veteran awarded increased S/C Compensation, (diff. \$186) 8/01-11/01, \$744; 12/02-11/02, (diff. \$211), \$2532; (diff. \$244) 12/02-11/03, \$2688 (Total \$5,964) (MARSEILLES, Vietnam)
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8. Veteran awarded 100% S/C Compensation, effective 5/03-7/03, \$1896, \$3,792; 8/03-9/03, \$2103, \$4,206; 9/03-8/04, \$2193, \$26,316 (Total \$34,314) (Southwestend, WWII)
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30. VA FORM 8678-APPLICATION FOR CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of August 27, 2003.

The meeting was opened in due form by Acting Chairman Frank Suarez. Roll call of officers was taken showing Vice-Chairman Suarez present and all other officers excused.

Minutes of previous meeting were read. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Acting Chairman Suarez stated the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: All old business was discussed. All questions pertaining to old business were answered.

New Business: Service Officers Report was read. All questions pertaining to the Service Officers Report were answered. Motion was made by Delbert Spitz, seconded by Ken Hausken that the Service Officers Report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

Acting Chairman Suarez stated he had heard that there were vacant beds at the LaSalle Veterans Home that were not being filled. Supt. Rue explained that according to the Director of the Illinois Dept. of Veterans' Affairs there are currently nine beds vacant as a result of staff shortages. The State of Illinois must hire 16 employees before those beds can be filled.

Motion by Jim DeMoss, seconded by Delbert Spitz that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Jim DeMoss, VFW Post 5506; Frank Suarez, American Legion Post 375, Delbert Spitz, VFW Post 4079; and Alternate Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506

**VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR AUGUST 2003**

CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 33 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 12 veterans
3. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 526 for 7 veterans.
4. Sent out birth, death, DD214, and marriage certificates to service offices for 40 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 17 veterans to discuss, explain or inquire as to the status of their case.
6. Sent out 8 Form 180 to St. Louis for veterans personnel records.
7. Sent out 57 requests for medical records to various doctors, hospitals, etc for various veterans.
8. Sent copy of veteran's records to 2 veteran
9. Sent medals received to 1 veteran.
10. Sent letter to 4 veteran placing their file on inactive status.
11. Sent out various VA forms to 17 veterans to sign and return.
12. Sent VA Form 4142 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
13. Sent VA Form 530 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 6 veterans.
15. Sent application for headstone to sexton for 1 veteran.
16. Sent application for headstone to Washington DC for 2 veterans
17. Sent VA Form 534 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
18. Sent VA Form 8940 to Veterans Administration for 5 veterans.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
20. Sent VA Form 527 to Veterans Administration for 2 veteran.
21. Sent Request for Reconsideration to SSA reference denial of disability benefits for 5 veteran.
22. Sent 28 medical records for veterans to Social Security office.
23. Sent VA Form 5655 to VA for 0 veterans.
24. Sent VA Form 9 to VA for 2 veterans.
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 31 veterans.
26. Sent VA Form 1900 to Veterans Administration for 1 veterans.
27. Sent Request for Presidential Memorial Certificate to VA Regional Office for 0 veterans' widows.
28. Sent NA Form 13055 to National Personnel for 3 veterans.
29. Sent various SSA forms for 21 veterans to Hearing Office for Social Security Disability

30. Sent 1 memo to National Service Offices to check progress of client's claims.
31. Sent VA Form 516 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
32. Sent VA Form 518 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
33. Sent VA Form 686c to Veterans Administration for 5 veterans.
34. Sent VA Form 10-10t to Veterans Medical Centers for 0 veterans.
35. Sent VA Form 10-10F to Veterans medical Centers for 1 veterans.
36. Sent VA Form 674 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
37. Sent 0 request for waiver of overpayment to the Social Security Administration.
38. Sent 0 requests for review of ALJ decision denying claim for benefits.
39. Sent 2 VA Form 149 to veterans pertaining to upgrade of discharges.
40. Sent VA Form 517 for 0 veteran.
41. Sent 2 requests for Aid & Attendance for veterans.
42. Sent 0 request for Outpatient Fee Basis Card for veteran to Hines VAMC
43. Sent VA Form 5490 for 0 Veteran.
44. Sent 0 claim to Court of Veterans Appeals (BVA) for their consideration and review.
45. Sent 0 VA Form 0304 to Veterans Administration for spina bifida benefits for children.
46. Sent VA Form 293 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
47. Sent VA Form 4502 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
48. Sent VA Form 4555 to Veterans administration for 0 veteran.
49. Sent VA Form 5281 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran

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(Review pages 4+6 of these minutes)

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT LASALLE

Illinois Veterans' Advisory Council Meeting Summary
Saturday, September 13, 2003

1. The twenty-third meeting of the Veterans' Advisory Council of the Illinois Veterans' Home at LaSalle was convened at 10:00AM in Conference Room C on Saturday, September 13, 2003.

2. Representatives in Attendance:
 - 1st District II VFW - Mr. Martin H. Levit
 - American Legion - Mr. Bill Franquist
 - American Legion Am. Vet Adv. - Mr. Val H. Raloff
 - Polish Legion of American Veterans - Mr. Richard Foltyniewicz & Barbara
 - Catholic War Veterans - Mr. Joseph Iwaszek
 - Mendota Elks - Mr. Al Veverka
 - Military Order of the Purple Heart - Mr. Paul Mons
 - AMVETS - Mr. Martin Rue
 - VFW - Jeffrey A. Sacks
 - Polish Legion of American Veterans - Walter Komamicki
 - Veterans of Foreign Wars - Mr. Joseph Gerace
 - Disabled American Veterans - Mr. Elmo R. Younger
 - Catholic War Veterans - Mr. Pete Panier and Mrs. Angie Panier
 - VFW 5506 & VHPA - Jack Leininger- Guest
 - Senator Patrick Welch - Guest

3. Representatives Excused:
 - Marine Corps League - Mr. Joe McGuan
 - NW IL Chapter Korean War Veterans' Assoc., Inc. - Mr. Howard Faley
 - Navy Club - Mr. Jeff Rose
 - Marine Corp League - Mr. Bernard Payne
 - 1st DIV American Legion - Mr. William R. London
 - 1st DIV Cook County - Mr. John R. Shunick, Commander
 - Daughters of the American Revolution - Ms. Mary Flahaven
 - American Legion - Mr. Ralph Adler, Jr.
 - Streator Elks - Mr. Ron Barnhart
 - Waves - Mrs. Jean Goretski
 - US Submarine Veterans of WWII - Mr. Joseph Kovar
 - Military Order of the Purple Heart - Mr. Robert Farrell
 - Ex-Prisoners of War - Mr. Martin Parisot
 - The Honorable Lane Evans - Ms. Ginny Shelton
 - Disabled American Veterans - Mr. George Brown
 - Disabled American Veterans - Mr. George M. Isdale, Jr.
 - Combined Veterans Association - Mr. Eddie Butler
 - American Legion - Mr. Lloyd Henderson
 - American Legion - Mr. Ron Abel
 - IL N/W Korean Vets - Mr. Donald R. Hoem

4. Department of Veterans' Affairs Attendees:

IVH-L – Mr. James W. Arrington, Administrator
IVH-L – Mrs. Marilyn Weeks, Director of Nursing
IVH-L – Ms. Cheryl Damron, Accountant Supervisor
IVH-L – Mrs. Marian Bickett, Director of Volunteer Services
IVH-L – Ms. Carolyn Johns, Human Resource Specialist
IVH-L – Mr. Stanley Greicius, Adjutant

5. Mr. Arrington welcomed the Veterans' Advisory Council Representatives and others in attendance. He thanked everyone for all the support they provide the LaSalle Veterans' Home.

Mr. Arrington announced that we would be serving lunch following the meeting. The lunch will be the same as the residents. A total of 27 agreed to stay for lunch.

Mr. Arrington asked those who were in attendance to notify Vickie Trumpinski, Executive Secretary, whether or not they would be attending the meeting or not. The letter requests notification of attendance.

Mr. Arrington stated we have a new Governor, a new Director Mr. Roy Dolgos, and a new Assistant Director Rochelle Crump. The Director and Assistant Director could not attend due to prior engagements.

Mr. Arrington introduced our new Adjutant, Stanley Greicius. Mr. Greicius came to us with 8-1/2 years of experience as a VSO for the Department. He is knowledgeable of veterans' benefits and we are glad to have him on board.

Mr. Arrington announced that Mr. Carlson's doing well and his cancer is in remission. He volunteers at the Home quite often.

6. Mr. Paul Mons, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Vincent Lawniczak, President of the Home's Resident Council, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by the opening prayer by Mr. Stanley Greicius.

7. The minutes of the March 8, 2003 meeting were approved as presented. Motion made to accept said minutes by Richard Foltyniewicz and seconded by Val Raloff, motion carried.

8. Mr. Val Raloff brought to the council a paper from his American Legion organization regarding the purchase of cigarettes and newspapers for the Manteno and Quincy Homes. According to Mr. Raloff the Central Office of the DVA has announced that the newspapers are not being renewed and

cigarettes will **not** be purchased with the money from the Member Benefit Funds. Mr. **Raloff** stated that the State of Illinois is trying to tell them what they can do with their money. Mr. Arrington stated that the Member Benefit Fund **by Statute**, is for the special comfort, pleasure and amusement of the resident. At the LaSalle Home, the residents purchase their own cigarettes and newspapers. The Home purchases two local newspapers and they are placed in the front lobby for the residents to read. Mr. Arrington informed the groups in attendance they need to specify what their money is to go for. This can be done by putting the item in the lower left-hand corner of the check or by a letter indicating what is to be purchased with the money. It was stated that the LaSalle Home has a **Wish List** and any organization can call Ms. Marian Bickett and ask what is needed.

Mr. Vincent **Lawniczak**, a resident at the LaSalle Home, stated he and all the other residents at the LaSalle Home receive A1 care and it is a pleasure to be here. He appreciates the care he receives.

9. Ms. Cheryl **Damron**, Accountant Supervisor, announced at the end of the Fiscal Year the LaSalle Home had expended \$7,871,834 and were appropriated for \$8,486,900. The average cost per resident per month for FY'03 was \$5,844 with the average cost per resident per year being \$70,127. Pharmaceutical costs average \$285 per month per resident.

She thanked the organizations for their generous donations made to the LaSalle Benefit Fund during the year. We expended \$43,344 this year to provide "special comfort and amusement" items to our residents. Such items as: music programs which are well received, pet therapy, cable TV, internet services for the residents, etc. The music therapy has given the resident the most response.

The Home has been blessed with Auditors. They pull vouchers to see if they are correct.

Mr. Rue asked Ms. Damron if the pharmaceuticals the Home receives could be received from the Federal Government. Ms. Damron stated that Manteno and Quincy each have a Pharmacist on staff and LaSalle doesn't because of our size and storage limitations. At the present time, we are negotiating with Hines VA and the LaSalle Veterans' Clinic.

10. Mrs. Marilyn Weeks, Director of Nursing, thanked everyone in attendance for the many hours they spend helping the veterans' and staff at the Home. Items and hours in volunteering help us improve daily living for the residents of the Home.

She agreed that the music therapy is a big part of getting the low functioning residents to respond and is enjoyed by all the residents.

The staff at the LaSalle Veterans' Home strives to keep the residents content and functioning at the highest level possible. We offer physical and occupational therapy that keeps them active. We offer attractive and nutritious meals three times a day. Our new Social Worker II has improved our Coffee and Conversation group tremendously and more residents are attending. The Home purchases the local newspaper and places them in the front lobby for residents to read. A new aquarium was purchase for the SNU by a deceased resident's family and it offers therapy to the residents in SNU.

The Nursing Department continues to have a good deal of overtime. The staff is to be complimented for working these additional hours without complaining. We recently interviewed for two part-time RN's. LPN interviews were scheduled but no applicants showed up for their interview.

We continue to get students of the Nursing program at the local college, IVCC. Staff appreciates their assistance and residents enjoy the pampering they receive. The Home has a problem hiring new graduates as the private sector is able to hire "License Pending" and we are unable to.

*

Change the law. I ask Senator Welch to change it.

11. Ms. Carolyn Johns, Human Resource Specialist, welcomed everyone to the meeting and started out by informing the group that the current budgeted headcount for the LaSalle Home as of August 31, 2003 is 125 full-time equivalent positions. We have 129 employees, 117 full-time, 8 part-time, and 4 on Leave of Absence. We have 109 female employees and 16 male. Our turnover rate from January 1, 2003 through August 31, 2003 was 4.0%. At the end of August 2003 we had one contractual employee who works for us part-time in our Library.

*

The Home, at the end of August 2003, had a total of sixteen (16) vacancies – one (1) Public Service Administrator (a Nursing Supervisor position), three (3) fulltime Support Service Workers, one (1) part-time Support Service Worker, two (2) full-time Veterans Nursing Assistant – Certified positions, one (1) part-time VNAC position, one (1) full-time Licensed Practical Nurse II, one (1) part-time LPN I position, three (3) full-time Registered Nurse II positions, one (1) full-time Cook II position, and two part-time Cook II positions.

I asked Senator Welch to get home permission to hire the 16 short

To fill a vacancy, the Home has to prepare and send a "personnel action request" form to Central Office for their approval, they in turn send it to the Bureau of the Budget for final approval, it's then sent back to Central Office, and then returned to the Home for posting. This procedure has lengthened the time it takes to fill vacancies. Since our last meeting we have filled our Public Service Administrator (Adjutant) and RN II (Infection Control, Employee Health and Education) RN positions which are important and key positions at the Home.

Our Leave of Absence list consists of 4 employees, three (3) RN positions and one (1) full-time Office Assistant.

She also thanked everyone for his or her attendance and continued help and support.

12. Ms. Marian Bickett serves as the Volunteer Service Coordinator and supervises the Activity Department, which consists of one full-time Activity Therapist, a full-time Activity Aide and a part-time Activity Aide. Her days are full. Serving as the Volunteer Service Coordinator gives her the opportunity to work with all the wonderful groups and organizations who help out at the Home. She thanked the various groups who do so much for our veterans.

Since last March the following activities have taken place:

On May 9th we held our first annual senior prom, complete with decorations, prom pictures. All attendees had a great time. The staff contributed to this day by going out and getting prom dresses for the lady residents to wear and some participated by being prom dates for the residents.

A Memorial Day program was held in the memory of all the residents who passed away during the past year. The families of those residents are invited.

The annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held on June 4, 2003. Those volunteers invited to the luncheon accumulate 20 hours or more. During the past year 450 volunteers accumulated 6,576 hours with the residents.

On Sunday, August 3rd the Home held its second annual Family Day. An afternoon of special events was planned and the event grows each year.

Our Library has been opened for almost a year and a half and has been a great addition to the Home. Mary our Librarian does a great job of promoting the Library with the residents.

At the present time we are preparing for the Annual Fall Bazaar, which will be held on Friday, October 3rd and Saturday, October 4th. Proceeds from the bazaar benefit the Volunteer Services Department.

The Vets Gazette Newsletter continues to be a big part of her job. She is trying to keep it interesting for the readers and if anyone has suggestions for improvement, ideas for articles, please let her know. The Military Order of the Purple Heart sponsors the Vets Gazettes printing.

Included in your folder is a copy of the current Wish List for the Home. We appreciate everything you do for our veterans. There is no way we could do what we do for our residents if it weren't for the loyal volunteers who are always ready and willing to assist us.

* 13. Mr. Greicius stated the waiting list is at 364 applicants with 46 of them for the SNU. Admission to the Home is at least 1-1/2 to 2 years. We are admitting a new resident to the SNU on Wednesday, September 17th and another by October 1st.

* Presently there are 109 residents in the Home with 11 empty beds. Eighty-one (81) residents served in the Army, twenty-three (23) in the Navy, four (4) were Marines, and one (1) was in the Air Force. The Air Force and Air Corp are considered part of the Army. Eighty-seven (87) residents served during WWII, 80 are male and 7 are female, two (2) served WWII and Korea, one (1) served during WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, fifteen (15) served during Korea, and four (4) during Vietnam.

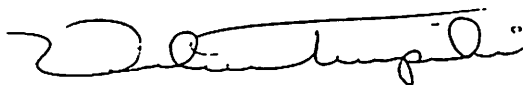
14. Mr. Arrington introduced Senator Patrick Welch. Senator Welch stated he appreciated the invitation to attend the meeting. He stated that legislation for the addition of the 80-beds had passed, but the appropriation for the funding did not. We were very fortunate to get this facility 11 years ago. Education, Public Safety, and Economic Development were what the Governor wanted. The 80-bed addition is the #1 priority for Senator Welch and Representative Mauntino for next year. They are trying to get the Governor to put the 80-beds and funding into the Budget before January 2004. Priorities need to be set and the funding of the VA Homes needs to be a higher priority.

15. Mr. Stanley Greicius gave the closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 12:10 a.m.

16. The next Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

17. Lunch was served to the Advisory Council Representatives.

Respectfully submitted:



Vickie Trumpinski
Executive Secretary

*364 on waiting list.
15 apps. pending*

<u>COUNTY CODE</u>	<u>COUNTY NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
15	BUREAU	21
27	DEKALB	1
40	GRUNDY	2
45	HENRY	3
53	KANE	4
55	KENDALL	1
58	LASALLE	43
61	LIVINGSTON	2
67	MARSHALL	3
71	MCHENRY	1
72	MCLEAN	5
80	PEORIA	2
89	ROCK ISLAND	2
97	STEPHENSON	2
98	TAZEWELL	1
106	WHITESIDE	2
107	WILL	4
109	WINNEBAGO	3
110	WOODFORD	3
200	COOK	3
700	OUT OF STATE	1

We need these Two Bills passed now. Tell your State of IL. Rep. 93rd

SENATE BILL NO. 590

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2003 and 2004

Introduced February 18, 2003, by Senator Welch

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED

Appropriates \$12,000,000 to the Capital Development Board from the Capital Development Fund for the construction of 80 additional beds at the LaSalle County Veteran's Home. Effective July 1, 2003.

LRB093 10801 BDD 11236 b

SB590

LRB093 10801 BDD 11236 b

1	AN ACT making appropriations.	59
2	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,	63
3	represented in the General Assembly:	64
4	Section 5. The amount of \$12,000,000, or so much of that	67
5	amount as may be necessary, is appropriated to the Capital	70
6	Development Board from the Capital Development Fund for the	71
7	construction of 80 additional beds at the LaSalle County	72
8	Veteran's Home.	
9	Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect on	75
10	July 1, 2003.	

HOUSE BILL 1422
93rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
State of Illinois
2003 and 2004

Introduced February 6, 2003, by Representative Mautino

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED

Appropriates \$12,000,000 to the Capital Development Board from the Capital Development Fund for the construction of 80 additional beds at the LaSalle County Veteran's Home. Effective July 1, 2003.

LRB093 08353 BDD 08572 b

HB1422

LRB093 08353 BDD 08572 b

1	AN ACT making appropriations.	57
2	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,	61
3	represented in the General Assembly:	62
4	Section 5. The amount of \$12,000,000, or so much of that	65
5	amount as may be necessary, is appropriated to the Capital	68
6	Development Board from the Capital Development Fund for the	69
7	construction of 80 additional beds at the LaSalle County	70
8	Veteran's Home.	
9	Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect on	73
10	July 1, 2003.	

A BILL FOR

FROM

JERRY WELLER

11th DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

(WED) 7. 23' 03 15:04/ST. 15:03/NO. 4861217329 P 2



HOUSE REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY,
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 18, 2003

The Honorable Rod Blagojevich
Governor
State of Illinois
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Blagojevich,

I am pleased to be writing you in regards to the legislation that you recently signed into law that will expand the Illinois Home for Veterans in LaSalle. Congratulations on this accomplishment!

As a result of this landmark legislation, I urge you to apply for federal funds from the State Home Construction Grant program, which could reimburse the State for up to 65% of the cost of the expansion.

As you may know, in the past, the State of Illinois had expressed concerns about the State Home Construction Grant program. Specifically, the State had made repairs and/or improvements to the home in LaSalle and had not been awarded funding by the federal government for these projects through the grant program. Last July, after working with the Ryan Administration and the VA, the State was paid \$7.3 million as a reimbursement for renovations/improvements made to State veterans' homes. The State is no longer due any reimbursement funds from this program.

Included in legislation enacted in the 106th Congress were changes for the requirements needed for submitting an application. After submitting the application, the VA will assign it a priority (if it approves the application), and the State will then have 180 days to meet all necessary requirements, including proof of the 35% matching funds. With the new law that you have just signed that guarantees the State has the matching funds for the project, the expansion will likely be placed high on the priority list for FY2004 funding. The application deadline for submitting projects for FY2004 is August 15, 2003. Due to the budget problems that the State is now having, I strongly urge you to apply for federal funds through the State Home Construction Grant program.

As you may know, I offered amendments to the VA, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies appropriations bills in fiscal years 1999, 2000, and 2001 to increase the funding for veterans' state grants, which are used by the Manteno and LaSalle facilities for

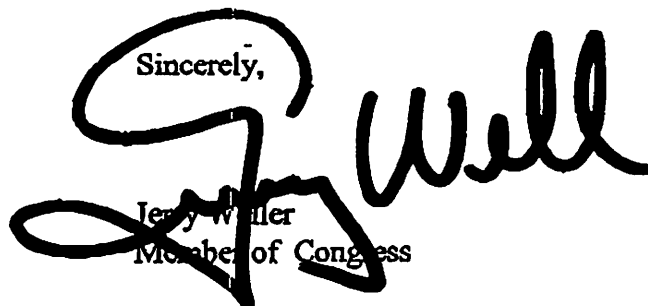
construction or addition of new beds or facilities. In FY2002 and FY2003, Congress fully funded the State Home Construction Grant Program, and President Bush has indicated that he will fully fund it in upcoming fiscal years. Our success with fully funding this program increases the chance that the state could be reimbursed for the LaSalle expansion project.

I am optimistic that funding for the LaSalle expansion would be awarded soon since this would most likely be designated by the VA as a Priority One project.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jack Dusik on my staff at (202) 225-3635.

Thank you for your support of the expansion.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Miller". The signature is written over the printed name and title.

Jerry Miller
Member of Congress

Officials optimistic on vets home expansion

Barley Jones 3/5/99

By **JOHN SCARBECK**

Staff Writer

LA SALLE — A bill that would add 80 beds to the Illinois Veterans Home has better chances of becoming law this year, state legislators and veterans officials believe.

"With the overwhelming support of the House, chances of Senate approval are improved," said State Sen. Patrick Welch, D-Peru.

"Last year when we had the bill in the Senate, the (Illinois) Department of Veterans' Affairs sent their liaison to testify against the bill," Welch said.

"This year, with the new governor, we might have a new view from the department of veterans."

House Bill 307 was approved in the Veterans Affairs Committee Monday, but still must be voted on by the House as a whole.

State Rep. Mary Kay O'Brien, D-Coal City, said for a House bill to be considered by the Senate, it must be passed by the House by March 26.

Martin Rue, spokesman for the Concerned Veterans of the Illinois Valley, said the bill was first introduced in the state Legislature last year.

It passed the House unanimously but was killed in the Senate's Rules Committee, he said.

Rue said former Gov. Jim Edgar was against the bill, but Gov. George Ryan expressed support when campaigning last fall.

"In October of '98, when he was in Streator, he said, 'If I'm elected, I will get you those beds,'" Rue said.

Welch said Ryan also endorsed adding veterans home beds when he campaigned in La Salle last



Welch



Mautino

year, and "we're going to remind the governor of his promise."

Welch said if the House passes the expansion bill, the Senate would probably consider it in April. The House and Senate must pass the measure, and Ryan sign it, for it to be enacted.

Rue believes the bill may well become law: "We feel we've got a great shot at this."

But Rue explained that for the state to get matching funds from the federal government, it must first complete the expansion project.

The expansion would entail building an addition to house the 80 new beds, according to Otto Faflogia, deputy director of operations for the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs.

Rep. Jerry Weller, R-Morris, said the matching funds — federal money equal to about 65 percent of the project's cost — would come from a pool allocated by the federal budget.

Weller said Thursday that congressional districts compete for funds from that pool, but "on the behalf of Illinois Valley veterans, I will seek those funds" if the bill becomes law.

He said the money won't be available until Oct. 1, when federal fiscal year 2000 begins. Also, the Illinois Department of Veter-

ans Affairs must first submit an application to the federal Department of Veterans Affairs before he can pursue funding.

Faflogia said the La Salle veterans home has 120 beds. If the home is expanded, it would have 200 beds, which Rue said represents the ideal figure for an Illinois veterans home according to a 1995 survey done by a Wisconsin agency for the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs.

The state has about 1 million veterans. Since 90 percent of them live within 100 miles of the Illinois Valley, Rue said, expansion advocates have argued the beds should be added in the La Salle facility.

He said veterans typically wait two to three years after applying before they are admitted to the La Salle home, but the 80-bed expansion would "considerably" cut the waiting time.

Weller said the La Salle home has the longest waiting list of any veterans home in Illinois.

Expansion advocates, including State Rep. Frank Mautino, D-Spring Valley, who sponsored House Bill 307, have fought for the bed increase since 1993, Rue said.

To qualify for admission to the veterans home, a person must have entered military service from Illinois, served at least one day during a period of armed conflict and was honorably discharged, Faflogia said.

An Illinois veterans home mainly provides nursing care, he said. Extended medical care is provided at Veterans Affairs hospitals.

Rue said the Illinois veterans population is not projected to decrease until 2024 because of the predominance of veterans ages 45 to 49 and their expected life span.

Legislators look to add space to veterans' home

By **STEPHANIE SIEVERS**
Daily Times Springfield Bureau

SPRINGFIELD — With hundreds of veterans waiting to get in and federal money available to help offset some construction costs, legislative efforts are again under way to add 80 beds to the Illinois Veterans Home in La Salle.

The \$12 million expansion could be paid for with \$7 million the federal government returned to Illinois for repairs and construction on earlier veterans' home projects and another \$5 million in state bonds, according to Rep. Frank Mautino, D-Spring Valley.

Because the federal government reimburses states for two-thirds of the cost of improvements made to veterans' homes, Illinois could get about \$8 million back after the project is complete, he said.

Mautino is sponsoring legislation this session to build the addition, which would bring bed totals up to 200 at La Salle. Sen. Pat Welch, D-Peru, is sponsoring similar legislation in the Senate.

Mautino said both lawmakers believe the project is a critical one. There are already 281 veterans waiting to get into the home and the man at the top of the list has been waiting for 15 months, he said.

There are waiting lists at all



Mautino



Welch

four of Illinois' veterans' homes, but La Salle's is the longest. Quincy has the smallest with 13, then Anna with 61 and Manteno with 243, according to John Johnston, acting director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs.

And Manteno has 38 beds sitting empty because the home can't find enough nurses to meet staffing requirements, Johnston said.

With a nursing shortage statewide, James Arrington, administrator of the La Salle home, said staffing could eventually become an issue there as well.

Mautino and the La Salle home have been pushing for more beds for about a decade, but legislation got stalled in the Senate. Despite a state budget crisis, Mautino thinks it may still have a shot this time because the state's share would come out of bond revenue and not the general revenue fund, where a multi-billion dollar shortfall is anticipated.

FIGURES IN MILLIONS

II Funding in Jobs and Growth Tax Act of 2003

State or Territory	Medicaid	Flexible	TOTAL
Alabama	\$120.62	\$151.22	\$271.84
Alaska	\$34.11	\$50.00	\$84.11
Arizona	\$126.41	\$174.47	\$300.88
Arkansas	\$87.79	\$90.91	\$178.70
California	\$1,238.78	\$1,151.81	\$2,390.60
Colorado	\$94.21	\$146.27	\$240.47
Connecticut	\$140.75	\$115.81	\$256.56
Delaware	\$28.21	\$50.00	\$78.21
District of Columbia	\$44.48	\$50.00	\$94.48
Florida	\$398.48	\$543.48	\$941.97
Georgia	\$221.71	\$278.38	\$500.10
Hawaii	\$30.86	\$50.00	\$80.86
Idaho	\$33.91	\$50.00	\$83.91
Illinois	\$357.82	\$422.32	\$780.14
Indiana	\$163.41	\$206.77	\$370.18
Iowa	\$80.27	\$99.51	\$179.78
Kansas	\$79.40	\$91.42	\$170.82
Kentucky	\$153.77	\$137.44	\$291.21
Louisiana	\$162.30	\$151.97	\$314.27
Maine	\$64.30	\$50.00	\$114.30
Maryland	\$162.25	\$180.11	\$342.36
Massachusetts	\$298.61	\$215.90	\$514.51
Michigan	\$367.55	\$337.96	\$705.51
Minnesota	\$182.56	\$167.29	\$349.85
Mississippi	\$109.15	\$96.73	\$205.88
Missouri	\$208.22	\$190.27	\$398.48
Montana	\$23.40	\$50.00	\$73.40
Nebraska	\$57.95	\$58.19	\$116.15
Nevada	\$28.78	\$67.95	\$96.73
New Hampshire	\$34.36	\$50.00	\$84.36
New Jersey	\$290.58	\$286.13	\$576.71
New Mexico	\$71.40	\$61.86	\$133.26
New York	\$1,397.38	\$645.30	\$2,042.68
North Carolina	\$274.20	\$273.72	\$547.91
North Dakota	\$23.48	\$50.00	\$73.48
Ohio	\$383.13	\$386.07	\$769.20
Oklahoma	\$99.03	\$117.34	\$216.37
Oregon	\$125.58	\$116.35	\$241.93
Pennsylvania	\$490.34	\$417.62	\$907.96
Rhode Island	\$54.11	\$50.00	\$104.11
South Carolina	\$129.16	\$136.43	\$265.59
South Dakota	\$25.15	\$50.00	\$75.15
Tennessee	\$264.85	\$193.47	\$458.31
Texas	\$509.77	\$709.07	\$1,218.85
Utah	\$39.92	\$75.94	\$115.86
Vermont	\$29.83	\$50.00	\$79.83
Virginia	\$147.30	\$240.71	\$388.01
Washington	\$200.85	\$200.43	\$401.28
West Virginia	\$72.16	\$61.49	\$133.66
Wisconsin	\$196.74	\$182.39	\$379.13
Wyoming	\$12.75	\$50.00	\$62.75
American Samoa	\$0.46	\$10.00	\$10.46
Guam	\$0.77	\$10.00	\$10.77
N. Mariana Islands	\$0.28	\$10.00	\$10.28
Puerto Rico	\$25.53	\$129.51	\$155.05
Virgin Islands	\$0.80	\$10.00	\$10.80
TOTAL	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00

Our federal government passed the Jobs and Growth Tax Act of 2003 and President Bush signed it. Illinois received \$780,140,000 of which \$422,300,000 could be used for any state of Illinois budget need. Where is our money to build the additional 80 care beds that the La-Salle Veterans' Home urgently needs?

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Sitemap (Detailed)

Saturday, August 9, 2003

Governor releases pork money

Welch claims his district wronged

By Associated Press
News wire service

SPRINGFIELD — Just hours after releasing a list of pork-barrel projects Friday, Gov. Rod Blagojevich's administration took back three of them, angering one of his key Senate allies.

The state Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity said the proposals for lighting at a sports complex, a ball field and riverfront improvements, and a skate park were inadvertently added and would not be funded right now. Blagojevich has said he will only approve projects that benefit public health, safety, education and job creation.

That angered Sen. Patrick Welch, D-Peru, the appropriations chairman who helped push through Blagojevich's budget in the spring. Welch said Blagojevich's office told him last month that funding would be released to reimburse Mendota, which built a \$35,000 skate park.

"I've got a press release that I issued based on what they called and told me," Welch said. "That's ridiculous."

Laura Hunter, spokeswoman for the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, said the skate park, lights for a Springfield high school sports complex, and construction of a ball field and other improvements on Lyons' riverfront were never approved. The projects, totaling \$537,500, were accidentally added to the list released Friday, she said.

Lyons Village Manager Patrick Burelle said the \$1 million riverfront project, which includes an already completed ball field, has gotten half the money. Even though money was deleted from the list Friday, Burelle said he is confident the rest will come because the village has a contract with the state.

"We are in motion. It would be pretty hard to stop it now," Burelle said.

News: August 9

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• [County official defends role](#)

• [Bergland: Weber had chance to tell her side](#)

• [Money released for Schroeder Hall](#)

• [Governor releases pork money](#)

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Blagojevich's campaign for governor last fall included a pledge to end the practice of doling out lump sums to the Legislature for "member initiatives" — money that legislators could decide how to spend in their communities.

He later said he would OK \$450 million for projects already in the works if they met his criteria.

The list produced Friday included \$69 million in spending to complete 304 projects costing a total of \$147 million, to which \$78 million had already been paid.

Blagojevich said they passed muster and that he was obligated to fund them because lawmakers and the past governor had approved them.

"Education, health care, public safety and economic development (are) the principle that we're trying to follow," the governor said after cutting the ribbon to open the Illinois State Fair in Springfield.

Still, projects that raise questions remain. One involves \$1.7 million for remedial math and reading programs in Thornton Township High School District 205, in near south suburban Chicago.

Senate Republican budget negotiator Steve Rauschenberger of Elgin said sending extra money to a school district sets a dangerous precedent.

"It opens up for every state legislator and every school district a race to the bottom; everybody arguing that they need funding over and above what the state board (of education) allocates," Rauschenberger said.

The bulk of the money for the projects comes from the sale of bonds. That revenue cannot be used to balance the state budget's operating fund, which was running a \$5 billion deficit at the end of June.

But more than \$4 million of the money is from general revenue funds, including the Thornton school money, although the state faced a \$5 billion deficit at the end of June. Only \$550,000 of that was approved on the list Friday.

Historically, member-initiative money has been divided fairly evenly among the four partisan caucuses and the governor.

But of the \$147 million in projects on the current list, only \$7 million of them are allocated to Senate Republicans, who tried to block the budget, got only a fraction of what the other caucuses got.

Three of them were initially submitted by Sen. Kirk Dillard, R-Hinsdale, who was one of four Republican defectors to support Blagojevich on a key budget vote last spring.

Dillard did not dispute that politics played a role.

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"The governor and his staff operate by human nature and they're more inclined, in a close call, to do things for people they like and that cooperate with them," Dillard said. "And I'm sure the governor and his staff are sending a subtle political message."

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Department #: 31-2003 a 3:39PM Public Opportunity
 All member projects released to date as of 07/01/2003 @ 9:00 am
 State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
 no. 025 P.2

Project #	Legislator	Name	Fund	Count	Amount
DC0178	Shaw	Village of Dorton	BIBF	1	\$1,250,000
DC0174	Shaw	Village of Robb	BIBF	1	\$1,500,000
DC0376	Barrister	Village of Lincolnwood	BIBF	1	\$650,000
DC0542	Jones, E.	Chicago State University	BIBF	1	\$5,000,000
DC0671	Schmitt	City of Batavia	BIBF	1	\$187,200
DC0711	Wright, John	Northern Paul County Fire Protection District	FF	1	\$50,000
DC0727	Kingler	Village of Dixon	BIBF	1	\$200,000
DC0748	Zicus	Village of Willow Springs	BIBF	1	\$1,300,000
DC0837	Link	Village of Riverwoods	BIBF	1	\$500,000
DC0858	Munoz	Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACA)	FF	1	\$100,000
DC0880	O'Daniel	Village of Woodburn	BIBF	1	\$400,000
DC0895	Black	City of Danville	BIBF	1	\$800,000
DC0898	Black	City of Danville	BIBF	1	\$400,000
DC0887	May, Karen	City of Hillwood	GDF	1	\$300,000
GOV20011	Madigan, M.	AidCare	BIBF	1	\$3,500,000
GOV20004	Gov	City of Chicago for Horizons	BIBF	1	\$1,500,000
GOV20122	Gov	Illinois Institute of Technology	BIBF	1	\$1,000,000
GOV20006	Gov	Hoocaust Museum	BIBF	1	\$5,000,000
GOV30006	Gov	City of Mearns	GDF	1	\$1,230,000
GOV30032	Gov	Village of Chandon Hills	BIBF	1	\$300,000
GOV30039	Gov	Illinois Institute of Technology	BIBF	1	\$5,000,000
GOV30072	Gov	MidAmerica Inlandport Port Auth.	GRF	1	\$25,000
GOV30105	Gov	Village of Bellinghok	BIBF	1	\$2,000,000
GOV30108	Gov	Museum of Science and Industry	BIBF	1	\$5,000,000
GOV30118	Gov	City of Quincy	BIBF	1	\$2,000,000
GOV30137	Hassett	Jeffrey Area Community Hospice	BIBF	1	\$500,000
GOV30140	Gov	Access Link of Metro Chicago	BIBF	1	\$2,300,000
GOV30141	Gov	Village of Essex	BIBF	1	\$636,000
GOV30142	Gov	Village of Essex	BIBF	1	\$815,000
GOV30143	Gov	Village of Essex	BIBF	1	\$250,000
GOV30146	Gov	Thomson Township High School	FF	1	\$274,000
GOV30147	Gov	Thomson Township High School	FF	1	\$250,000
GOV30148	Gov	Thomson Township High School	FF	1	\$151,000
GOV30149	Gov	Thomson Township High School	FF	1	\$1,025,000
LD0057	Brady	Living Park YMCA	FF	1	\$100,000
HD0070	Davis, Montague	Scissors	FF	1	\$50,000
HD0218	McCarty	Village of Orland Park	GDF	1	\$50,000
HD0248	O'Brien	Harshbarger Legion Community Center	FF	1	\$32,000
HD0255	O'Brien	Brookville Township	GDF	1	\$29,000
HD0289	Fowler	Saline County Industrial Development Company	FF	1	\$100,000
HD0301	Fowler	City of Mound City	GDF	1	\$40,000
HD0361	Fowler	Saline Co. Sheriff's Dept.	FF	1	\$24,000
HD0371	Fowler	City of Cairo	GDF	1	\$10,000
HD0372	Fowler	Village of Edoville	GDF	1	\$20,000
HD0376	Quinn	Harris YMCA	FF	1	\$25,000
HD0470	Capprelli	City of Niles	GDF	1	\$125,000
HD0502	Capprelli	City of Chicago for the Chicago Public Library	GDF	1	\$100,000
HD0880	Shine	City of Peoria for the Neighborhood Development Commission	GDF	1	\$35,000
HD0739	Porty, Gary	Saline County	CRF	1	\$100,000
HD0872	Hebrack	Naplesh Township	GDF	1	\$29,000
HD0878	Habrook	Village of Caseyville	GDF	1	\$500,000
HD0921	Grandjean	City of Carthage	GDF	1	\$500,000
HD1042	Dart, T.	The Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago	FF	1	\$5,000
HD1059	Davis, Steve	Namook Township	GDF	1	\$25,000
HD1105	Acvedo	Hispanic American Construction Industry Assoc.	FF	1	\$50,000
HD1151	Ratitz	City of Neshville	GDF	1	\$76,000
HD1162	Ratitz	City of Rad Bud	GDF	1	\$50,000
HD1162	Hartke	City of Olney	GDF	1	\$976,000
HD1239	Fritsch	City of Woodstock	GDF	1	\$100,000

HD#	Date	Time	Organization	Fund	Yr	Amount
HD2006	JUL . 31, 2003	3: 40PM	Waukegan Elementary School	FIF	1	\$30,000
HD20128			City of Granite City	COF	1	\$300,000
HD20129			Village of Homewood	FIF	1	\$25,000
HD20148			Southwest Women Working Together	BIBF	1	\$800,000
HD20166			Village of Stone Park	COF	1	\$30,000
HD20168			Village of Orland Park	BIBF	1	\$2,300,000
HD20202			Hilltop Hospital	BIBF	1	\$2,000,000
HD20211			Chicago Youth Centers	FIF	1	\$30,000
HD30019			Chicago Park District	BIBF	1	\$10,000,000
HD30024			City of Lake Forest	BIBF	1	\$20,000
HD30026			City of Rockford	BIBF	1	\$3,000,000
HD30029			City of Rockford	BIBF	1	\$3,000,000
HD30030			City of Rockford	BIBF	1	\$2,500,000
HD30031			City of Rockford	BIBF	1	\$250,000
HD30032			City of Rockford	BIBF	1	\$750,000
HD30033			City of Rockford	BIBF	1	\$500,000
HD30034			City of Rockford	BIBF	1	\$300,000
HD30035			City of Rockford	BIBF	1	\$150,000
HD30041			City of Rockford	BIBF	1	\$1,225,000
HD30042			City of Rockford	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HD30057			Village of Hartford	BIBF	1	\$2,000,000
HD30073			Jewish Federation of Metro Chicago	BIBF	1	\$1,705,500
HD30074			Indo American Center	BIBF	1	\$77,000
HD30076			Agudath Israel	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HD30077			Open Hand Chicago	BIBF	1	\$825,000
HD30091			City of Morrisville	COF	1	\$50,000
HD30113			Village of Dalton City	FIF	1	\$300,000
HD30117			Erickson Institute	FIF	1	\$254,000
HD30119			Chicago Academy of Sciences	FIF	1	\$500,000
HD30127			Village of Essex	COF	1	\$500,000
HD30139			City of Chicago, DOT	BIBF	1	\$3,500,000
HD30146			Springfield Center for the Arts	BIBF	1	\$5,500,000
HR0079			Frankfort Township Road Dist	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR0130			Village of Northbrook	COF	1	\$150,000
HR0158			Village of LaGrange Park	BIBF	1	\$300,000
HR0169			City of Plano	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR0217			Village of Virgil	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR0268			Morgan Co. Historical Society	BIBF	1	\$150,000
HR0316			Village of Oswego	COF	1	\$200,000
HR0379			City of Park Ridge	BIBF	1	\$400,000
HR0473			Quincy Area Projects	FIF	1	\$5,000
HR0489			City of Chicago for the Chicago Public Library	COF	1	\$400,000
HR0490			Village of Harwood Heights	COF	1	\$100,000
HR0491			Village of Harwood Heights	COF	1	\$100,000
HR0531			Village of Darien	COF	1	\$50,000
HR0546			Village of Elizabeth	COF	1	\$100,000
HR0582			Town of Sterling/Sterling Township	COF	1	\$100,000
HR0666			City of Dixon	COF	1	\$50,000
HR0715			Village of Villa Park	COF	1	\$725,000
HR0744			City of Elgin	COF	1	\$225,000
HR0855			Village of Lemont	COF	1	\$100,000
HR0903			Village of Willow Springs	COF	1	\$700,000
HR0909			Village of Lena	COF	1	\$200,000
HR20018			Village of Stibman Valley	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20024			City of Elgin	BIBF	1	\$1,000,000
HR20029			Village of Lakewood	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20031			Family Services Community Mental Health Center for McHenry County	BIBF	1	\$25,000
HR20032			Lake in the Hills Police Department	BIBF	1	\$50,000
HR20033			City of Danville	BIBF	1	\$250,000
HR20034			City of Petersburg	BIBF	1	\$234,000
HR20035			Village of Berlin	BIBF	1	\$400,000
HR20038			Village of Mount Prospect	BIBF	1	\$400,000
HR20040			Head House Inc.	BIBF	1	\$75,000
HR20041			Mount Prospect School Dist. #57	BIBF	1	\$250,000
HR20042			Community Consolidated School District #2	BIBF	1	\$250,000
HR20051			Rolling Meadows Park District	BIBF	1	\$30,000
HR20062			Heaven World of Barrington	BIBF	1	\$23,000
HR20054			Clearbrook	BIBF	1	\$55,000
HR20057			Palatine Park District	BIBF	1	\$50,000
HR20058			Community Consolidated School District #15	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20080			Palatine Township	BIBF	1	\$28,000
HR20089			WINGS program	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20086			City of Trenton	BIBF	1	\$100,000

HR3002 JUL 31, 2003		3:41 PM Lab				
HR30033	Hoarumunson	Eight PADS	BIBF	1		\$75,000
HR30044	Leitch	City of Peoria for the Springdale Cemetery Management Authority	BIBF	1		\$280,000
HR30047	Mulligan	Fire Department, City of Dec Plaines	BIBF	1		\$1,000,000
HR30048	Mulligan	Maine Township High School District 207	BIBF	1		\$80,000
HR30066	Lindner	Big Rock Historical Society	BIBF	1		\$25,000
HR30065	Lindner	Kaneville Fire Protection District	BIBF	1		\$75,000
HR30079	Haasert	Village of Bolingbrook	BIBF	1		\$400,000
HR30082	Zickus	Village of Willow Springs	CDF	1		\$300,000
HR30083	Zickus	Village of Willow Springs	CDF	1		\$225,000
HR30096	Osgmond	Newport Township Fire Protection District for the Northwest Lake County Fire Training Cooperative	CDF	1		\$200,000
HR30098	Cross	Ready, Set, Ride Therapeutic Rec.	FIF	1		\$25,000
HR30101	Berna	City of Champaign	BIBF	1		\$75,000
HR30119	Brady	Bloomington Fire Department	BIBF	1		\$147,900
HR30122	Winkol	Eastern Illinois Foodbank	BIBF	1		\$20,000
HR30131	Daniels	Field Museum of Natural History	BIBF	1		\$6,000,000
HR30132	Krause	Village of Elk Grove	BIBF	1		\$125,000
HR30134	Krause	School Dist. #69	BIBF	1		\$75,000
HR30138	Schmitz	City of St. Charles	BIBF	1		\$125,000
HR30147	Moffitt	City of Galesburg	BIBF	1		\$60,000
HR30164	Zickus	Palos Comm. Cons. School Dist.	CDF	1		\$180,000
HR30180	Bedlock	Village of Clarendon Hills	CDF	1		\$500,000
HR30181	Biggins	Village of Westchester	BIBF	1		\$240,000
HR30164	Moffitt	Oncida Wexage FPD	BIBF	1		\$50,000
HR30189	Moffitt	City of Galesburg	BIBF	1		\$60,000
HR30173	Schmitz	Office of Kane County State's Attorney	CDF	1		\$40,000
HR30181	Borns, Tom	Eastern Illinois Foodbank	BIBF	1		\$25,000
HR30192	Daniels/Cross	Village of University Park	FIF	1		\$160,000
HR30188	Daniels/Cross	Wau. Co.	CDF	1		\$925,000
HR30205	Myers	Bushnell FPD	BIBF	1		\$100,000
HR30206	Myers	Emmet Chalmers FPD	BIBF	1		\$150,000
HR30208	Myers	City of Carthage for Carthage Fire	BIBF	1		\$150,000
HR30212	Hoelt	Village of East Dundee	BIBF	1		\$25,000
HR30214	Hoelt	Village of East Dundee	BIBF	1		\$50,000
HR30223	Pankau	Village of Glendale Heights	BIBF	1		\$50,000
HR30227	Daniels	Chicago Mem. Hospital	BIBF	1		\$1,000,000
HR30228	Schmitz	Village of Burlington	CDF	1		\$100,000
HR30230	Poe	Spfld. SE High School	BIBF	1		\$40,000
HR30236	Jones, John	SW IL Resource & Conservation	BIBF	1		\$60,000
HR30257	Black	Eastern Illinois Food Bank	BIBF	1		\$100,000
HR30260	Poe	Pleasant Plains Community Unit School District #8	BIBF	1		\$200,000
HR30264	Watson, Jim	City of White Hall	CDF	1		\$60,000
HR30285	Sommer, Keith	City of Minonk	BIBF	1		\$25,000
HR30288	Sommer, Keith	Village of Deer Creek	BIBF	1		\$25,000
HR30307	Sommer, Keith	Village of Rutland	BIBF	1		\$25,000
HR30325	Bedlock	Village of Hinsdale	BIBF	1		\$65,000
HR30331	Bedlock	Village of Hinsdale	CDF	1		\$35,000
HR30334	Winters	Rosecrance	BIBF	1		\$100,000
HR30355	Leitch	Methodist Medical Center	BIBF	1		\$1,250,000
HR30385	Cross	Greater Joliet Area YMCA	BIBF	1		\$260,000
HR30404	Coulson	Glenview Park District	CDF	1		\$200,000
HR30408	Coulson	SHORE	BIBF	1		\$60,000
HR30410	Coulson	SHORE	FIF	1		\$40,000
HR30412	Coulson	8Koko Chamber of Commerce	FIF	1		\$5,000
HR30432	Coulson	Glenkirk	FIF	1		\$40,000
HR30443	Poe	World War II Veterans Mem.	BIBF	1		\$800,000
HR30456	Moffitt	City of Princeton	BIBF	1		\$80,000
HR30471	Saviano	Village of Northlake	CDF	1		\$250,000
HR30473	Mulligan	City of Park Ridge	CDF	1		\$400,000
HR30479	Brady	El Paso FPD	FIF	1		\$24,200
HR30518	McAuliffe	Village of Noridge	BIBF	1		\$175,000
HR30544	Moffitt	City of Galesburg	BIBF	1		\$60,000
HR30611	Coulson	Village of Golf	BIBF	1		\$60,000
HR30612	Bassi	Hoffman Estates Park District	BIBF	1		\$100,000
HR30613	Bassi	Village of Palatine	BIBF	1		\$150,000
HR30644	Brady	Bloomington Twnshp. FPD	FIF	1		\$18,000
HR30655	Leach	Argonne Natl Lab	BIBF	1		\$1,000,000
HR30675	Saviano	Village of Elmwood Park	BIBF	1		\$250,000
HR30680	Daniels	Field Museum of Natural History	BIBF	1		\$728,000
IF0322	Fowler	Johnson County	CDF	1		\$350,000
IF0370	Franks	McHenry County	CDF	1		\$50,000
IF0933	Morrow	Noah's Ark	FIF	1		\$15,000

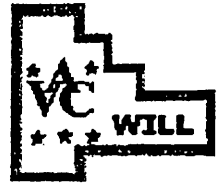
JUL. 31. 2003		3:40PM	Community Memorial Hospital & Nursing Home	BIBF	1	\$205,000
HR20069	Black		Markum Charities	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20074	Wojcik		Alfred Campanelli YMCA	BIBF	1	\$450,000
HR20076	Wojcik		Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20080	Wojcik		Glenside Fire Protection District	BIBF	1	\$50,000
HR20081	Wojcik		Village of Palatine	BIBF	1	\$175,000
HR20087	Bassi		City of Plano	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20089	Lindner		Blackberry Township	BIBF	1	\$50,000
HR20098	Lindner		Fox Valley Family YMCA	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20102	Lindner		Village of Bolingbrook	BIBF	1	\$300,000
HR20104	Hassert		City of Lockport	BIBF	1	\$360,000
HR20106	Hassert		Village of Elmhurst	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20110	Lindner		Village of Schaumburg	BIBF	1	\$70,000
HR20113	Wojcik		Village of Round Lake Park	BIBF	1	\$50,000
HR20117	Beaubien		Health World of Barrington	BIBF	1	\$50,000
HR20118	Beaubien		Seymour Fire Corporation	BIBF	1	\$30,000
HR20119	Winkel		Village of Sleepy Hollow	BIBF	1	\$75,000
HR20126	Schmitz		Kane County Sheriff's Office	BIBF	1	\$80,000
HR20132	Schmitz		Dundee Township Park District	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20133	Schmitz		Village of Gilberts	BIBF	1	\$75,000
HR20135	Schmitz		City of Athens	BIBF	1	\$250,000
HR20138	Kingler		Village of Prairie Grove	BIBF	1	\$35,000
HR20139	Beaubien		Village of Fox River Grove	BIBF	1	\$55,000
HR20140	Beaubien		Winthrop Harbor Grade School District #1	BIBF	1	\$50,000
HR20155	Osmond		First Fire Protection District of Antioch	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20157	Osmond		Cadlin Public Library District	BIBF	1	\$120,000
HR20160	Black		Algonquin Township	BIBF	1	\$48,000
HR20163	Beaubien		Grant Township	BIBF	1	\$40,000
HR20164	Beaubien		Village of Fox River Valley Gardens	BIBF	1	\$88,000
HR20165	Beaubien		Village of Tower Lakes	BIBF	1	\$35,000
HR20166	Beaubien		Village of Woodard	BIBF	1	\$50,000
HR20167	Beaubien		Westville Public Library District	BIBF	1	\$120,000
HR20173	Black		Walter Lawson Children's Home	BIBF	1	\$40,000
HR20177	Winters		Harlem Township	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20183	Winters		Village of Oswego (Veterans Memorial Fund)	CDF	1	\$20,000
HR20186	Cross		Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook	BIBF	1	\$50,000
HR20192	Coulson		Village of Round Lake	BIBF	1	\$50,000
HR20198	Beaubien		Village of Westchester	BIBF	1	\$75,000
HR20203	Biggins		Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sangamon County	BIBF	1	\$30,000
HR20206	Poe		Village of Loda	BIBF	1	\$70,000
HR20210	Black		YMCA of Benwyn Cicero, Inc. (PAV YMCA)	BIBF	1	\$30,000
HR20211	Lyons, Eileen		City of Ava	BIBF	1	\$30,000
HR20216	Boel		McHenry County PADS, Inc	BIBF	1	\$25,000
HR20221	Kurtz, Rosemar		Elgin PADS	BIBF	1	\$75,000
HR20224	Hogel/Munson		Village of Shawswood	BIBF	1	\$300,000
HR20228	Cross		Township of Troy	BIBF	1	\$50,000
HR20230	Cross		Village of Plainfield	BIBF	1	\$300,000
HR20232	Cross		Oswego/Lake Park District	BIBF	1	\$50,000
HR20233	Cross		Village of Channahon	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20234	Cross		Housing Authority of the County of DeKalb	BIBF	1	\$76,000
HR20237	Wisting		Public School District #170 of Dixon	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20240	Mitchell, Jerry		Way Back Inn	BIBF	1	\$25,000
HR20242	Biggins		Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Fire Protection District	BIBF	1	\$27,800
HR20244	Kurtz, Rosemar		Warrington Greer Fire Protection District	BIBF	1	\$95,000
HR20254	Black		Denville Family YMCA	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20255	Black		YWCA of Danville	BIBF	1	\$48,000
HR20256	Black		Township of Schaumburg	BIBF	1	\$108,734
HR20257	Wojcik		Thomas H. Boyd Memorial Hospital	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20278	Watson, Jim		City of Grifton	BIBF	1	\$25,000
HR20280	Watson, Jim		Youth Attention Center, Inc.	BIBF	1	\$80,000
HR20283	Watson, Jim		Village of Rockbridge	BIBF	1	\$25,000
HR20284	Watson, Jim		Rutland Dundee Washo FPD	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR20295	Schmitz		Brookfield North Riverside Water Commission	CDF	1	\$250,000
HR20297	Lyons, Eileen		Save A Life Foundation	BIBF	1	\$100,000
HR30010	Poe		Mt. Pulaski Rural Fire Protection District	BIBF	1	\$30,000
HR30015	Mitchell, Bill		City of Des Plaines	BIBF	1	\$300,000
HR30020	Mulligan					

IF1248	JUL. 31, 2003	3:42 PM	of YMCA of Pisen	BIBF	1	\$450,000
IF1253	Mendoza, Susa	YMCA Pisen-Little Village	FIF	1	\$100,000	
IF1321	Young, W.	East St. Louis Community Action Network	FIF	1	\$150,000	
IF1348	Beaubien	Wauconda	BIB	1	\$250,000	
IF1395	Black	Vermilion County Airport	BIB	1	\$580,000	
IF1487	Durkin	City of Oakbrook Terrace	BIBF	1	\$500,000	
IF1854	Krause	Prospect Heights	BIB	1	\$700,000	
IF1748	Mitchell, Bill	City of Neoga	BIBF	1	\$160,000	
IF1848	Mulligan	Park Ridge	FIF	1	\$100,000	
IF1873	Myers, R.	Arendsville	BIB	1	\$200,000	
IF1901	Pankau	Roselle	BIB	1	\$100,000	
IF1919	Marquardt, Rog	Village of Glen Ellyn	BIBF	1	\$900,000	
IF1945	Pos	Oakford	BIB	1	\$230,000	
IF2023	Watson, Jim	Village of Woodson	BIBF	1	\$400,000	
IF2226	Wising	City of Rochelle	BIBF	1	\$500,000	
IF2312	Clayborne	Clyde Jordan Senior Center	FIF	1	\$75,000	
IF2349	del Valle	Norwegian American Hospital	FIF	1	\$20,000	
IF2469	Madigan, L.	Lesban Community Cancer Project	FIF	1	\$30,000	
IF2594	Donahue	Mt. Sterling Brown County	CDP	1	\$360,000	
SD0024	Halvorson	Village of Thornton	BIBF	1	\$200,000	
SD0051	Jones, E.	City of Chicago	BIBF	1	\$1,015,000	
SD0061	Jacobs	Erie Police Dept.	FIF	1	\$22,000	
SD0104	Shaw	Riverdale Redevelopment Corporation	BIBF	1	\$300,000	
SD0164	Jones, E.	University of Illinois, Dept. of Curriculum & Instruction	FIF	1	\$50,000	
SD0177	Bowles	Senior Citizens Services, Inc.	BIBF	1	\$200,000	
SD0280	Shadd	Bradley University for the West Main Redevelopment Association	BIBF	1	\$500,000	
SD0348	Rosen	Rogers Park Community Council	BIBF	1	\$800,000	
SD0428	Walsh, Larry	Manee Township	BIBF	1	\$50,000	
SD0494	Lightford	Lee's Infant and Child Care Center, Inc	FIF	1	\$78,000	
SD0599	Lightford	Loyola University Chicago Niehoff School of Nursing	BIBF	1	\$525,000	
SD0638	O'Daniel	City of Olney	BIBF	1	\$375,000	
SD20005	Demuzio	Blackburn College	BIBF	1	\$1,600,000	
SD20007	Jones, E.	Roseland Hospital	BIBF	1	\$1,500,000	
SD20012	Jones, E.	Bethel New Life	BIBF	1	\$1,100,000	
SD20013	Jones, E.	Lakeside Community Committee	FIF	1	\$400,000	
SD20082	Cullerton	Children's Memorial Hospital	BIBF	1	\$400,000	
SD20094	del Valle	Erie Family Health Center	BIBF	1	\$700,000	
SD20089	Munoz	Rainbow House	BIBF	1	\$50,000	
SD20101	Welch	City of Streator	BIBF	1	\$1,250,000	
SD20121	Woolard, Larry	Village of Valer	BIBF	1	\$30,000	
SD20122	Woolard, Larry	County of Putnam	BIBF	1	\$50,000	
SD20123	Woolard, Larry	Village of North City	BIBF	1	\$100,000	
SD20124	Woolard, Larry	City of Vienna	BIBF	1	\$50,000	
SD20125	Woolard, Larry	Village of Royaton	BIBF	1	\$50,000	
SD20126	Woolard, Larry	City of Mount City	BIBF	1	\$100,000	
SD20184	Jones, E.	Chicago Association for Retarded Citizens	BIBF	1	\$400,000	
SD20185	Jones, E.	Lakeside Community Committee	BIBF	1	\$500,000	
SD20178	Woolard, Larry	Village of Joppa	CDP	1	\$30,000	
SD20179	Jones, E.	Southwest Women Working Together	BIBF	1	\$780,000	
SD20180	Jones, E.	Chicago Housing Authority	BIBF	1	\$500,000	
SD20183	Jones, E.	Howard Area Community Center	BIBF	1	\$600,000	
SD20191	Bowles	City of Granite City	BIBF	1	\$200,000	
SD20195	Bowles	Nameoki Township	BIBF	1	\$400,000	
SD20201	Jacobs	Village of Erie	BIBF	1	\$100,000	
SD20205	Jacobs	Colona Grade School	BIBF	1	\$50,000	
SD20206	Link	Vernon Hills Park District	BIBF	1	\$75,000	
SD20211	Link	Lake County Forest Preserve	BIBF	1	\$75,000	
SD20237	Viverto	Central Stickney Sanitary District	BIBF	1	\$540,000	
SD20238	Viverto	Garden Center for Handic.	BIBF	1	\$500,000	
SD20244	Link	Central Baptist Children's Home Family Services	BIBF	1	\$25,000	
SD20245	Link	Countryside Fire Protection District	BIBF	1	\$75,000	
SD20246	Link	Lake County Health Department & Community Health Center	BIBF	1	\$75,000	
SD20253	Smith, MA	Chinese American Service League, Inc	BIBF	1	\$50,000	
SD20255	Smith, MA	Charles Hayes Family Investment Center	BIBF	1	\$125,000	
SD20288	Trotter	Chesterfield Community Council	FIF	1	\$50,000	
SD20301	Jones, E.	Horizons Community Services	BIBF	1	\$5,000,000	
SD20302	Jones, E.	Access Community Health Network	BIBF	1	\$1,350,000	
SD20303	Jones, E.	Muntu Dance Theatre	BIBF	1	\$4,500,000	
SD20309	Cullerton	Chicago Historical Society	BIBF	1	\$75,000	

SD2031 JUL 31 2003 3:42PM		Memorial Hospital	BIBF	1	\$1,412,000
SD20313	Jacobs	Colona Police Department	BIBF	1	\$28,000
SD20324	O'Daniel	Southtown Youth Program	BIBF	1	\$600,000
SD20341	Demuzio	City of Carlinville	CDP	1	\$400,000
SD30042	Jones, E	Little Black Pearl Workshop	FFI	1	\$250,000
SD30047	Demuzio	Carlinville Public Schools Foundation	BIBF	1	\$100,000
SD30060	Jones, E	IL Assoc. of Minorities in Gov't	BIBF	1	\$250,000
SD30071	Hendon	Outreach Mission Christian Center	FFI	1	\$200,000
SD30078	Jones, E	Little Black Pearl Workshop	BIBF	1	\$1,500,000
SD30080	Jones, E	Palliative Health Care	BIBF	1	\$250,000
SD30104	Demuzio	Blackburn College	BIBF	1	\$170,000
SD30130	Jones, E	Seniors Centre	BIBF	1	\$125,000
SD30133	Jones, E	Children's Home and Aid Society	BIBF	1	\$3,500,000
SD30135	Jones, E	Little Company of Mary Hospital	BIBF	1	\$2,000,000
SD30137	Jones, E	St. Leonard's Ministries	BIBF	1	\$500,000
SD30139	Jones, E	Chicago Music & Dance Theatre	BIBF	1	\$10,000,000
SD30168	Jones, E	Children's Mem. Hospital	BIBF	1	\$1,000,000
SD30175	Viverto	Thomas Edison School	FFI	1	\$0,000
SD30192	Jones, E	Chicago Housing Authority	CDP	1	\$2,000,000
SD30207	Jones, E	Chicago State University	BIBF	1	\$100,000
SD30213	Jones, E	Chicago State Univ/Argonne	BIBF	1	\$1,000,000
SD30216	Jones, E	Concordia Lutheran Church	BIBF	1	\$2,000,000
SR20041	Dillard	Village of Clarendon Hills	CDP	1	\$200,000
SR20042	Dillard	City of Danan	CDP	1	\$100,000
SR20048	Dillard	Village of Lemont	CDP	1	\$100,000
SR20053	Dillard	Village of Woodridge	CDP	1	\$128,000
SR20263	Dillard	Village of Mount Prospect	BIBF	1	\$150,000
SR20327	Noland	Austin Twship Road District	BIBF	1	\$40,000
SR20385	Danahue	Schuyler Co FPD	BIBF	1	\$175,000
SR30060	Phillip	Village of Glendale Heights	BIBF	1	\$100,000
SR30088	Phillip	City of Elmhurst Public Library	BIBF	1	\$1,000,000
SR30141	Cronin	City of Elmhurst Public Library	BIBF	1	\$275,000
SR30150	Weaver	University of Illinois	BIBF	1	\$0,000,000
SR30160	Parker	SHORE Community Services	FFI	1	\$33,000
SR30225	Radogno	Trinity Services	BIBF	1	\$100,000
SR30292	Sullivan	Village of Norridge	BIBF	1	\$50,000
SR30421	Phillip	Museum of Broadcast Communications	BIBF	1	\$1,800,000
SR30453	Dillard	Village of Clarendon Hills	BIBF	1	\$360,000
Total				380	\$197,578,334



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF WILL COUNTY



EXECUTIVE CENTRE • 128 N. SCOTT STREET • JOLIET, IL 60432-4210 • (815) 740-8389 • FAX (815) 740-4329
<http://www.willcountyillinois.com/veterans/VetHomePage.htm> vacwc/willcountyillinois.com

TO: SUPT. MARTIN RUE *Marty*
FROM: JIM DENBOW *Jim Denbow*
DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2003
RE: VAC VAN DRIVERS

OFFICE STAFF
SUPERINTENDENT
JAMES W. DENBOW

SERVICE OFFICER
CYNTHIA KETCHAM

ADMIN. AIDE
SHARON L. FRANK

TRANSIT V.S.O.
MICHAEL SEVERADO

I really enjoyed our conversation concerning Will County VAC providing transportation to our 38,601 veterans. Just to cover a few points of our conversation.

Van Driver: VAC Will County Transit Service Officer
Salary: \$21,500.00 yearly
Started: March 17, 2003.
Benefits: Complete umbrella of Will County Employee benefits. Including health insurance, sick days, personal days, vacation days, yearly salary increases. and IMRF Retirement.

COMMISSION OFFICERS
CHAIRMAN
WAYNE HORNE

Our driver is also an accredited service officer. He does some case work at Hines VAMC, the only VA hospital we deliver veterans to. We also keep him in our office at least one day per week to do additional VA case work. Our advocacy work continues to increase the dollars returned to our community by the USDVA. With our population increase that Will County has experienced, we could use a third VSO in our office.

VICE CHAIRMAN
TONY SALLESE

To accomplish this task, the Will County Board has allowed us to continue to use a select group of volunteer drivers. These volunteer drivers drive the Will County para-transit 14 passenger bus, usually 1-2 times weekly, and are covered by Will County auto insurance. They are volunteers and are not paid a salary from Will County or my VAC office.

SECRETARY
ALVIN KNOX

One thing my Commission Board does, now not my VAC Office or my will county budget, is to provide a gift certificate to a local restaurant for the volunteer drivers. When they have driven five days, they are given a \$25.00 meal certificate. This is provided by my Commission. They have 2 yearly fund raisers to be able to provide this incentive to their volunteers. They raise close to \$4,000.00 yearly and also provide a yearly banquet for their volunteer drivers.

TREASURER
PAUL E. BRIESE

I hope this idea can assist your VAC in continuing this very important service to your 11,224 LaSalle County Veterans.

SGT-AT-ARMS
ANTHONY MIKULIC

TO PROTECT-PROMOTE-PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES TO ALL MILITARY VETERANS

CHAPLAIN
THOMAS RILEY

MEMBERS
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Minutes of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission meeting of September 24, 2003.

Meeting opened in due form by Chairman Ralph Adler. Roll call of officers was taken showing our Chaplin and Sgt. At Arms excused and all other present.

Minutes of previous meeting were read. Being no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Adler stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: Once again our LaSalle Veterans Home was discussed and Supt. Rue shared with the delegates and alternates present the minutes of the Sept. 13, 2003 Illinois Veterans Advisory Council meeting which took place at our LaSalle Veterans Home. He stated that the LaSalle Veterans Home was experiencing higher expenses each year for their pharmaceutical needs. Supt. Rue suggested that the home contact Hines VA Hospital and see if they couldn't enter into an intergovernmental agreement to purchase all pharmaceutical needs from the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs. Their cost would surely be significantly less. It was also discovered that the LaSalle Veterans Home was short sixteen full-time health service providers resulting in eleven beds remaining vacant at the home. The State of Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs has not given them authorization to hire those sixteen needed employees. Supt. Rue asked Senator Pat Welch who was present to see that those sixteen employees are authorized to be hired immediately. It was also noted at the meeting that the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs cannot hire graduating nurses until they receive their license from the State of Illinois. Supt. Rue noted that many private and public health care providers do hire those graduates while their license are pending. Supt. Rue asked Senator Welch to change that state law so your veterans homes can hire these individuals while their license are pending instead of waiting 120 days or more for those graduates to get their grades from testing.

New Business: Service Officer's Report was read. All questions pertaining to the Service Officer's Report were answered. Motion by Nick Nekrosius, seconded by Frank Suarez that the Service Officer's Report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

Supt. Rue shared with the delegates and alternates present the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Opportunity Funded Programs and the Illinois funds received from the federal government as a result of the Jobs and Growth Tax Act, which was passed in Washington, D.C. and signed by President Bush. He also reminded those present that the law passed to generate one billion dollars of funds for bricks and mortar for Illinois First Projects has not been rescinded. As a result of the enclosed funding charts and the Illinois First Pork Barrel Funds there is approximately two billion dollars for priority projects. From that we should be able to get \$12 million for our 80-bed expansion. All present were asked to write to Governor Rod Blagojevich and their state senator and representative asking that they immediately fund the badly needed 80 beds for our LaSalle Veterans Home. There are over 365 individuals waiting for admission.

Motion by Nick Nekrosius, seconded by Joe Iwaszek that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Joseph Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Frank Suarez, American Legion Post 375; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Alternate Jim DeMoss, VFW Post 5506; Rick Olesen, VFW Post 2470 and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

**VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2003**

CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 32 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 10 veterans
3. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 526 for 6 veterans.
4. Sent out birth, death, DD214, and marriage certificates to service offices for 17 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 27 veterans to discuss, explain or inquire as to the status of their case.
6. Sent out 5 Form 180 to St. Louis for veterans personnel records.
7. Sent out 40 requests for medical records to various doctors, hospitals, etc for various veterans.
8. Sent copy of veteran's records to 2 veteran
9. Sent medals received to 1 veteran.
10. Sent letter to 9 veteran placing their file on inactive status.
11. Sent out various VA forms to 12 veterans to sign and return.
12. Sent VA Form 4142 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
13. Sent VA Form 530 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 3 veterans.
15. Sent application for headstone to sexton for 1 veteran.
16. Sent application for headstone to Washington DC for 2 veterans
17. Sent VA Form 534 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
18. Sent VA Form 8940 to Veterans Administration for 2 veterans.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
20. Sent VA Form 527 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
21. Sent Request for Reconsideration to SSA reference denial of disability benefits for 1 veteran.
22. Sent 14 medical records for veterans to Social Security office.
23. Sent VA Form 5655 to VA for 0 veterans.
24. Sent VA Form 9 to VA for 2 veterans.
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 35 veterans.
26. Sent VA Form 1900 to Veterans Administration for 1 veterans.
27. Sent Request for Presidential Memorial Certificate to VA Regional Office for 0 veterans' widows.
28. Sent NA Form 13055 to National Personnel for 3 veterans.
29. Sent various SSA forms for 16 veterans to Hearing Office for Social Security Disability

30. Sent 7 memo to National Service Offices to check progress of client's claims.
31. Sent VA Form 516 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
32. Sent VA Form 518 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
33. Sent VA Form 686c to Veterans Administration for 4 veterans.
34. Sent VA Form 10-10t to Veterans Medical Centers for 0 veterans.
35. Sent VA Form 10-10F to Veterans medical Centers for 1 veterans.
36. Sent VA Form 674 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
37. Sent 0 request for waiver of overpayment to the Social Security Administration.
38. Sent 0 requests for review of ALJ decision denying claim for benefits.
39. Sent 0 VA Form 149 to veterans pertaining to upgrade of discharges.
40. Sent VA Form 517 for 0 veteran.
41. Sent 3 requests for Aid & Attendance for veterans.
42. Sent 0 request for Outpatient Fee Basis Card for veteran to Hines VAMC
43. Sent VA Form 5490 for 0 Veteran.
44. Sent 0 claim to Court of Veterans Appeals (BVA) for their consideration and review.
45. Sent 0 VA Form 0304 to Veterans Administration for spina bifida benefits for children.
46. Sent VA Form 293 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
47. Sent VA Form 4502 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
48. Sent VA Form 4555 to Veterans administration for 0 veteran.
49. Sent VA Form 5281 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran

AWARDS.

1. Veteran awarded NSC Pension, \$1195 monthly, effective 6/03-5/04, \$14,240 (Total \$14,240) (WESTEND , Vietnam)
2. Veteran awarded NSC Pension, effective 5/03-11/03, \$807 monthly, \$5666; 12/03-11/04, \$9684 (Total \$15,340) (STREATOR, Vietnam)
3. Veteran awarded SSD retroactive payment for period, 7/02-8/03, \$1,560 monthly, \$21,735; 9/03-8/04, \$18,720 (Total \$40,455) (OTTAWA, Vietnam)
4. Veteran awarded increased S/C compensation, (20%-30%) (diff. \$109) 8/03-11/03, \$327; 12/03-11/04, \$1308 (Total \$1635) (SENECA, PEACETIME)

5. Veteran awarded SSD effective 10/03-11/03,
\$1002 monthly, \$2004;12/03-11/04, \$12,240
(Total \$14,244) (Streator, Vietnam)
6. Widow of Veteran awarded DIC, effective
5/03-11/03, \$948 monthly, \$6636;12/03-11/04,
\$4740, (Total \$11,376797) (WestEnd, Vietnam)
7. Veteran awarded 30% S/C Compensation effective
6/01-8/02, \$101 monthly, \$202;9/01-12/01, \$404;
12/01-5/02, \$103 monthly, \$618; 6/02-11/02,
\$306 monthly, \$1866;12/02-6/03, \$310 monthly,
\$1860;7/03-5/04, \$347 monthly, \$4164
(Total \$7,864) (Marseilles, Vietnam)
8. Veteran awarded increased S/C Compensation,
effective 10/98-10/03, (diff \$1624) (50%-100%)
BVA decision, \$97,440;11/03-11/04, \$19,488.
(Total \$116,928) (Grand Ridge, Persian Gulf)
9. Veteran awarded 30% S/C Compensation, 10/02-11/02,
\$306 monthly, \$612;12/02-11/03, \$310 monthly,
\$3720 (Total \$4,332) (Peru, Persian Gulf)
10. Veteran awarded 30% S/C Compensation, effective
2/03-11/03, \$347 monthly, \$4,164 (Total \$4,164)
(SouthEnd, Vietnam)
11. Veteran awarded 20% S/C Compensation with a (k),
\$282 monthly, 12/02-11/03, \$3384 (Total \$3,384)
(Marseilles, Vietnam)

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS: \$ 54,699.00
YEAR-TO-DATE: \$ 583,068.00
TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS: \$ 179,263.00
YEAR-TO-DATE: \$2,456,187.00
TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE: \$3,039,255.00

EXPLANATION OF VA FORMS:

1. Form 526-APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION OR PENSION
2. VA Form 4138-STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM
3. VA Form 180-REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS
4. VA Form 534-APPLICATION FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION OR DEATH PENSION BY SURVIVING SPOUSE OR CHILD.
5. VA Form 21-22-APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE ORGANIZATION
6. VA Form 518-IMPROVED PENSION EVR (Surviving Spouse with no children)
7. VA Form 530-APPLICATION FOR BURIAL BENEFITS
8. VA Form 535-APPLICATION FOR DIC (DISABILITY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION) BY PARENTS
9. VA Form 512V-SECTION 306 EVR (VETERAN)
10. VA Form 686C-DECLARATION OF MARITAL STATUS
11. DD Form 149- APPLICATION FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS UNDER THE PROVISION OF TITLE 10 U.S.CODE, SECTION 1552
12. VA Form 10-10-APPLICATION FOR MEDICAL BENEFITS
13. VA Form 5655-FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT
14. VA Form 512S- SECTION 306 EVR (Surviving Spouse)
15. VA Form 8416-REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING MEDICAL, LEGAL, OR OTHER EXPENSES.
16. VA Form (1-9)-APPEAL TO BOARD OF APPEAL
17. VA Form 517 IMPROVED PENSION ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION REPORT (VETERAN WITH CHILDREN)
18. VA Form 527-INCOME-NET WORTH AND EMPLOYMENT STATEMENT
19. VA Form 519-CERTIFICATION OF INFORMATION FOR VA PURPOSES
20. VA Form 4125-CLAIM FOR ONE SUM PAYMENT
21. VA FORM 8940-VETERANS APPLICATION FOR INCREASED COMPENSATION BASED ON UNEMPLOYABILITY
22. VA FORM 1900-DISABLED VETERANS APPLICATION FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
23. VA FORM 1990-APPLICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
24. VA FORM 5281-APPLICATION FOR REFUND OF EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS
25. VA FORM 4125-REQUEST FOR LUMP SUM PAYMENT
26. VA FORM 5490-APPLICATION FOR SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
27. VA FORM 0304-APPLICATION FOR SPINA BIFIDA BENEFITS.
28. VA FORM 4502-APPLICATION FOR AUTOMOBILE OR OTHER CONVEYANCE OR ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT
29. VA FORM 4555-VETERAN'S APPLICATION IN ACQUIRING SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING OR SPECIAL HOME ADAPTATION GRANT.
30. VA FORM 8678-APPLICATION FOR CLOTHING ALLOWANCE