

COUNTY OF LA SALLE
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MARTIN J. RUE
Superintendent
(815)433-1761

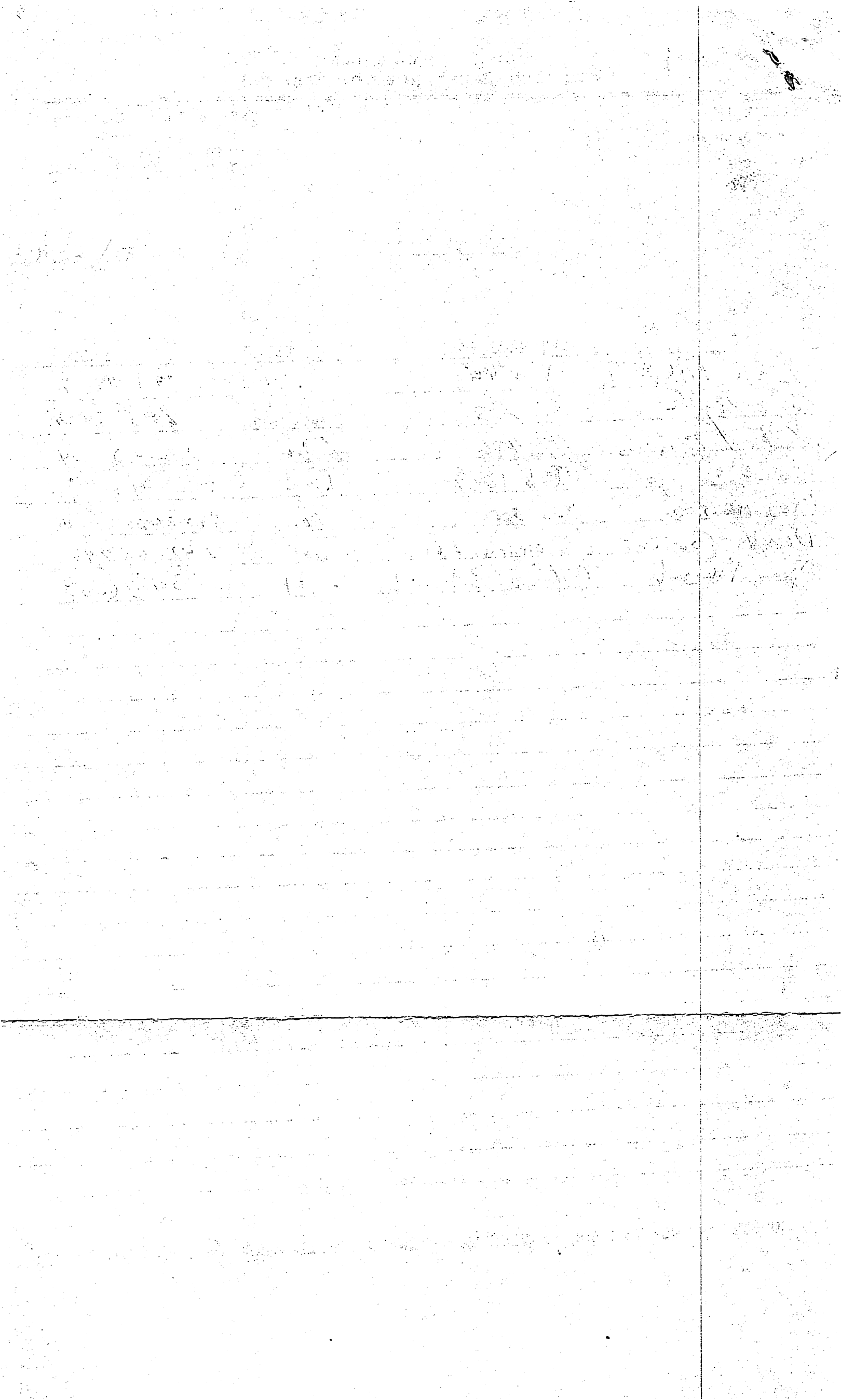
LaSalle County Courthouse
Room A103
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: Feb 23/05

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
NICK PACETTI	VFW 4668	DEL.	223-9257
Ralph Adler	AL 235	Chairman	795-5436
Nick McGowan	AA 426	Del	224-2204
Joseph Swartz	CDW 1229	Del	823 4179
Ken Hausken	VFW 5506	DEL	295-2466 FAA
Douglas Griener	Tonica 260	Del	252 6974
Jim Norwalk	Ottawa 33 AL	Del	434-4633

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



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DATE: Nov 17, 2004

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
NICK PACETTI	4668	DEL	223-9257
Ralph Adle	AL 235	Chairman	795-5436
Delbert Spitz	VFW 4079	Del	538-2023
Douglas M. Grice	Tonica Legion 260		252 6974
Nick Nebesinin	Am Legion 424	Del	224 2204
Joseph Swaszyk	1229	Del	223 4179
Ken Halko	VFW 5506	DEL	295-2466
Jim Novak	Post 33	DEL	434-4633

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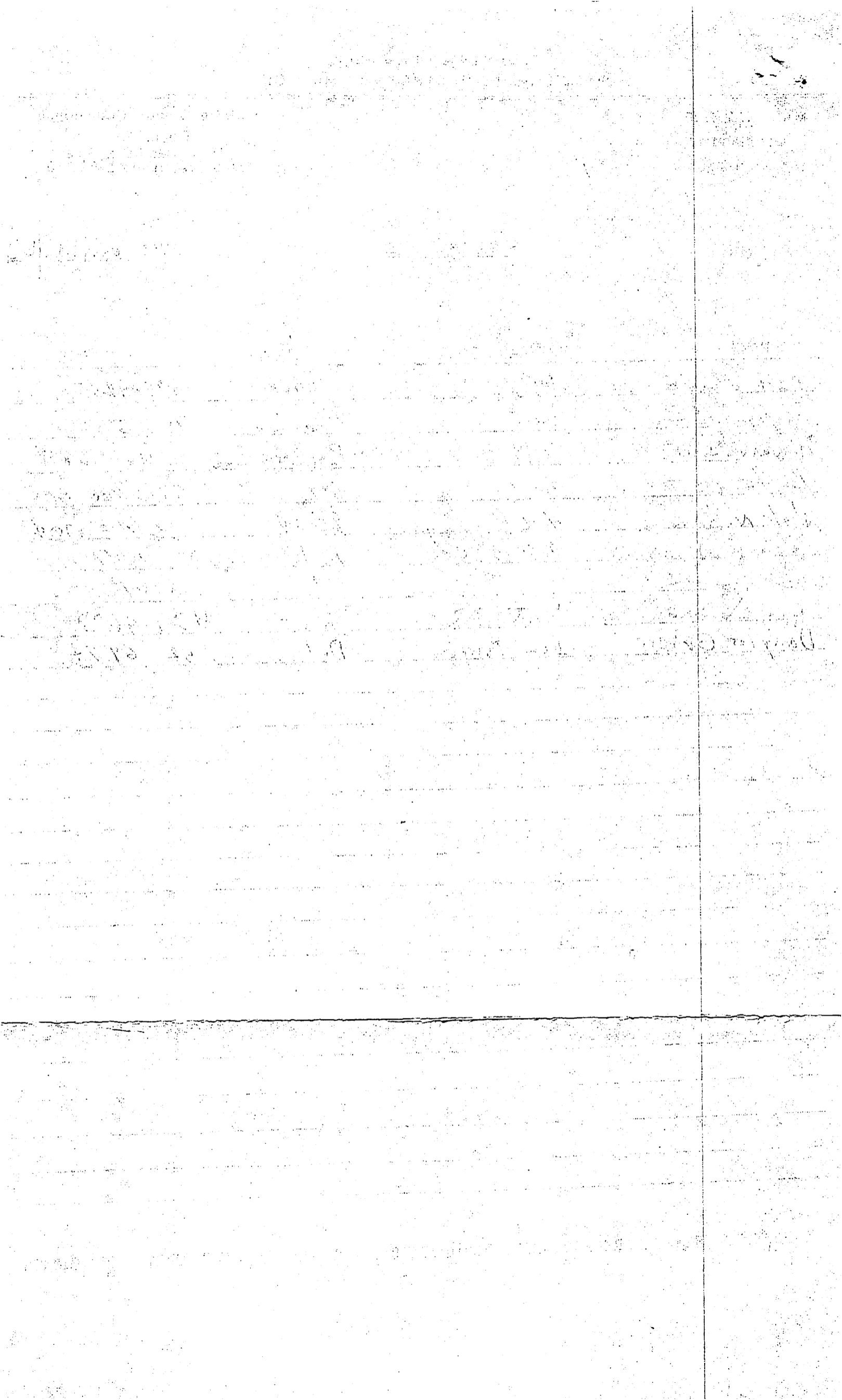
LaSalle County Courthouse
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DATE: Jan 26, 05

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
Nick Parotto	4668	DEL.	223-9257
Ralph Adler	235	Chairman	795-5436
Howard Gust	249	Part Commander	246-9689
Ken Hauke	5506	DEL	795-2466 FAX
Nick Nekrasov	426 Prof. League	Del.	224-2204
Joseph Dineen	Post 1225	Del	223 4179
Harry K... ..	"	"	224-3035
Jim	Post 33	Del	434-4633
Douglas Griere	262 Tonica	Del	252 6974

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DATE: March 23/05

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
NICK PACETTI	VFW 4668	DEL.	223-9257
Lawrence TORAKOM	DAV 86 Morris	Del	431-0106
Doug GRIFFIN	Tonica 261	Del	252 6974
Howard GAST	Post 549	Post Commr.	246-9689
Steve WASSON	Post 426	Delegate	224-2204
Joseph SWANZEL	Post 1279	DEL	223 4179
Ralph ADLER	Post 235	Chairman	785-5436
Ken HAWK	PVFW 5506	DEL	795-2466 FAX

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SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: April 27, 2005

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
GEORGE SEBASTIAN		VLSI TOR	815 303 9600
NICK PACETTI	VFW 4068	DEL.	223-9257
Lawrence Graham	DAV 86	Del	431 0106
Ralph Adler	AL 235	Chairman	795-5436
Joseph Jurasz	Post 1229	Del	223 4179
Nick Nektrosius	Poppy Legion 426	Del	224-2204
Jim DeMauro	VFW 5506	ALT. DEL	795-2959
Jan Hauke	VFW 5506	DEL	795-2466
Carl Key	Mendota	—	539-7759
Robert Spitz	VFW 4079	DEL	538-2023
Jim Nankala	Post 33	Del	434 4633
JERRY FUCHS	Post 520	VLSI TOR Del	495-9404
Doug Greer	Post 260	Tonica	252 6974

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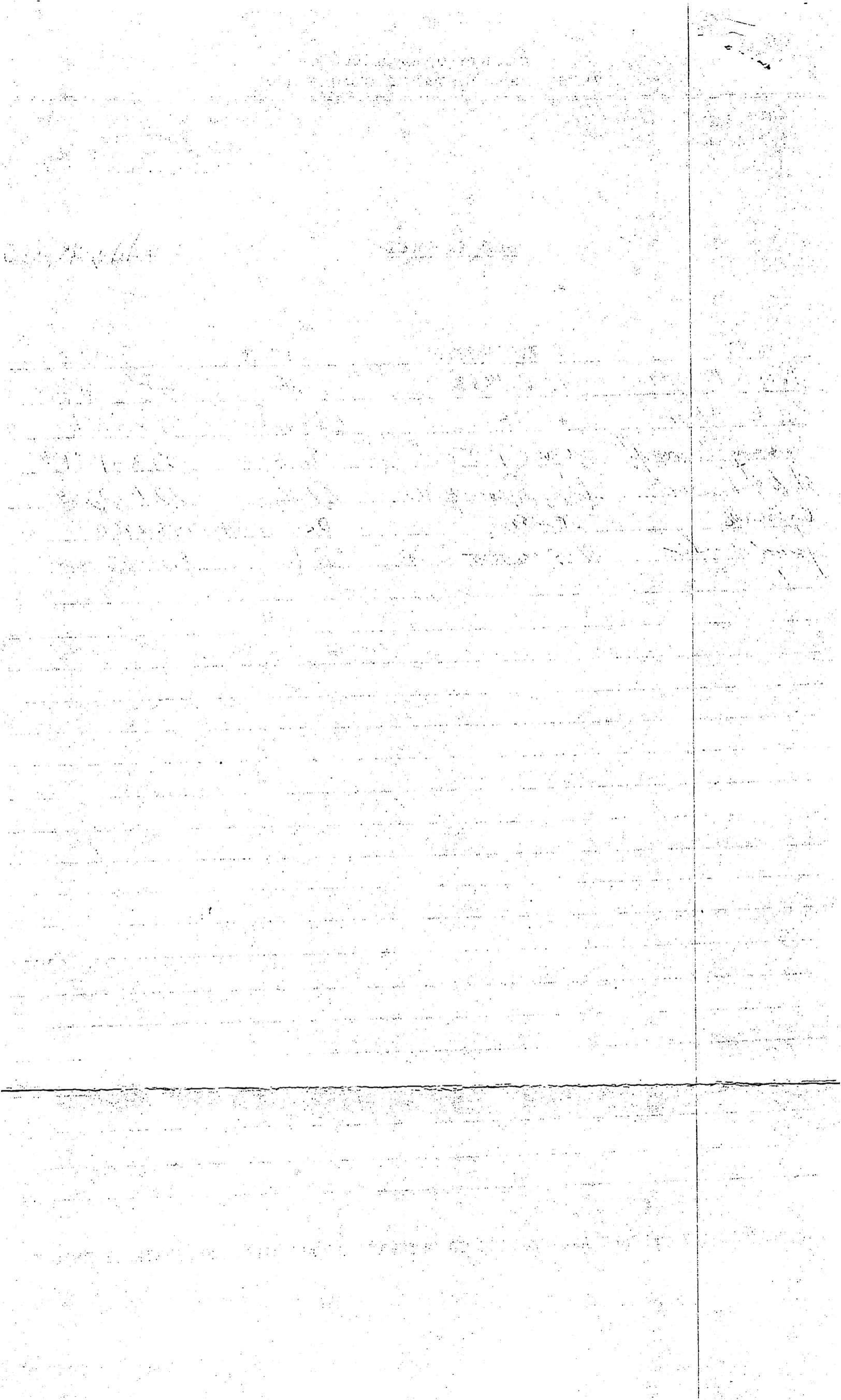
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DATE: May 25, 2005

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
NICK PACETTI	VFW 4668	DEP.	223-9257
Ralph Allen	AL 235	Chairman	795-5436
Joseph Swartz	CWU 1279	DEP.	923 4179
Mark Melrose	Am Legion 426	DEP.	224-2204
Ken Wank	VFW 5500	DEP. FAX	795-2466
James Truby	Legion Post 570	DEP.	815-495-9404

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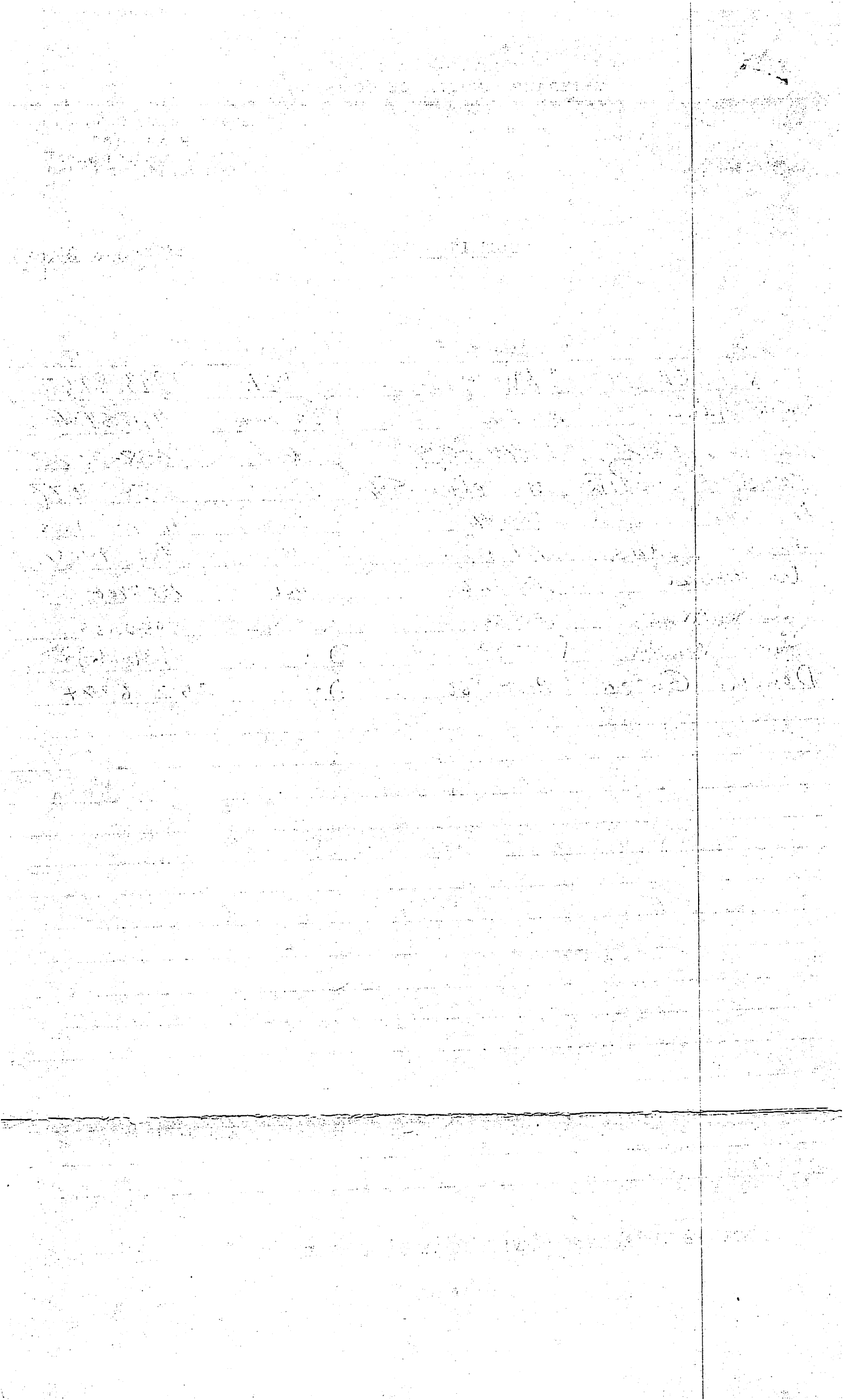
LaSalle County Courthouse
Room A103
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: June 22/05

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
NICK PACETTI	VFW 4668	DEL.	223-9257
Ralph Adler	AL 235	Chairman	795-5436
Albert Spitz	VFW 4099	Del.	538-2023
Fred Burdette	AM. Legion 547	DEL.	539-3077
Laurence Graham	DAV 86	Del	431-0106
JEFF FUCHS	AL 570	Del	495-9404
Ken Hausken	VFW 5506	DEL	795-2466 FAX
Jim DeMaso	VFW 5506	ALT DEL	795-2959
Jim Monahan	Post 33	Del	434-4633
Douglas Gniere	Post 260	Del	252 6979

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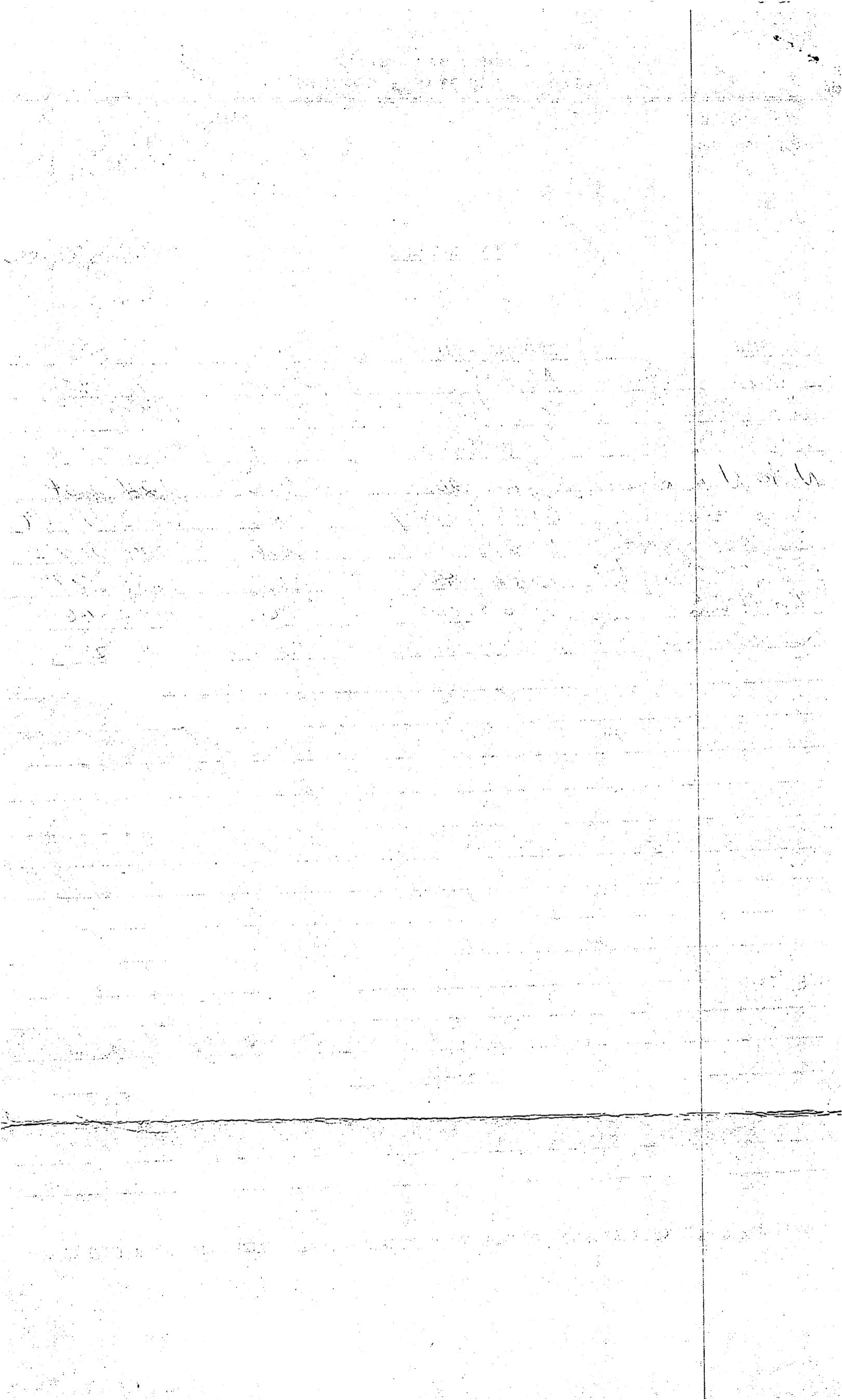
LaSalle County Courthouse
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DATE: July 27, 2005

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
Ralph Adle	AL 235	Chairman	795-5436
Nick Pacetti	VFW 4668	DEL	223-9257
LARRY LORHAM	DAV#86	del	431-0106
Nicko Nekrasus	Legion 426	Del	224-2209
Joseph Swartzel	CWV Post 1229	Del	223-4179
Ralph Spitz	VFW	Del.	538-2023
Orlando Smith	Legion 540	Del	539-3077
Ken Hauke	VFW 5506	DEL	795-2466
J. D. Moore	VFW 5506	ALT	795-2959

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



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MARTIN J. RUE
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119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: Aug. 24, 2005

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
Ralph Adler	AL 235	Chairman	795-5436
NICK PACETTI	VFW 4668	DEL	223-9257
Joseph Juraszko	CW 11229	Del	223 4179
Nick Hekroos	Am Legion 466	Del	224-2204
JERRI FUEHS	AL 570	Del.	485-9404
Ken Halsey	VFW 5506	Del	795-2466
Larry Schulman	DAV 86	Del	431-0106
Jan Novak	Post 33	Del	434-4632
George Mason	Post 2470 ^{Ottawa} _{IL.}	Del	433-0586
Doug Grieco	Post 260	Del	252 6974

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

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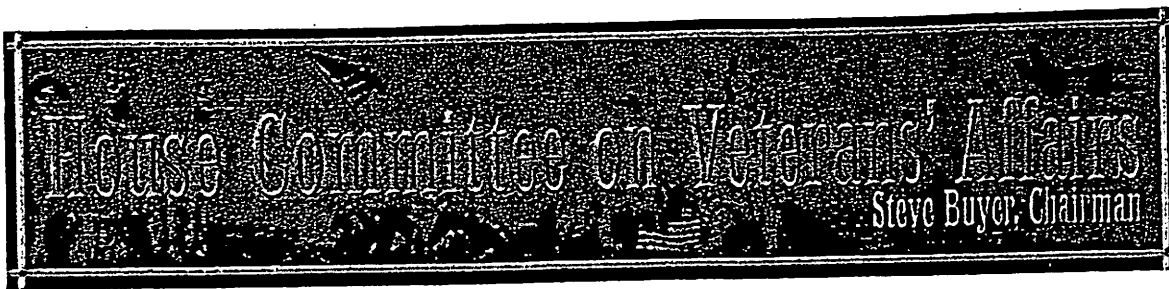
LaSalle County Courthouse
Room A103
119 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: Oct 26 / 05

NAME	VETERANS POST	TITLE	PHONE
Lawrence L. Latham	DAV Chapter 86	Chaplain	431-0106
Nick Aleksinski	Am Legion 426	Rep	224-2204
Joseph Iwaszek	DAV - V	Rep	323-4178
Jim Nason	Post 33 Ottawa	Delegate	434-4633
George Nason	Post 2470 Ottawa	Delegate	433-0586

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



(Courtesy: House Committee on Veterans' Affairs)

Congressional Accomplishments In Support of Veterans

A 10-Year Record of Support for Our Nation's Veterans

- The Veterans budget has increased by 77 percent since 1995, the year Republicans became the majority, averaging over 7 percent each year. The Veterans healthcare budget has increased by 86 percent in the same period.
 - From 1965 to 1995, total annual veterans' spending in constant dollars only grew an average of under 2 percent.
- The Republican-led Congress passed and President Bush enacted legislation that provides disabled military retirees with concurrent receipt of their military retirement and disability benefits.
- Republicans are committed to ensuring that the men and women serving in our Armed Services are given the access to healthcare they deserve both while serving their country and after their service:
 - *Republican budgets have enabled VA to care for a record number of high-priority patients, those veterans counting on us the most. This includes veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.*
 - *Five million veterans will receive health care services this year, about 1 million more than just four years ago.*
 - *Republican budgets have enhanced the quality of veterans health care: VA leads the health care industry in computerized records, patient safety and standards for high-quality care.*
 - *More than 90 percent of veterans will receive primary care within 30 days of their desired date, and more than 90 percent of veterans seeking specialty care will receive it within 30 days.*

The Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) program includes 28 new outpatient clinics, funding for design work for two new medical facilities in Biloxi, Miss., and Fayetteville, Ark., and funding for five other major construction projects in Las Vegas, Nev.; Cleveland, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Gainesville, Fla.; and Anchorage, Alaska.

Recent Accomplishments for the Republican-led Congress and President Bush:

- **Veterans Budget Increased More than \$20 billion in 5 years**

The total VA budget has increased from \$48 billion in FY 2001 to approximately \$70 billion in FY 2006, a 46 percent increase in five years.

- **Veterans Medical Care Funding Rose 46 percent in 4 years**
Veterans medical care funding has risen from \$21.3 billion in the FY 2001 budget to approximately \$31 billion in FY 2005.
- **Historic New \$22 billion Concurrent Receipt Benefit Enacted**
In 2004, Congress approved a historic concurrent receipt benefit for veterans that will provide over \$22 billion to more than 250,000 disabled military retirees over the next ten years. Effective January 2005, a retiree rated 100 percent service-connected disabled is authorized to receive their disability and military retirement benefits concurrently. (P.L. 108-375)
- **GI Bill Benefits Boosted 46 percent Since 2001**
In 2001 legislation, the GI Bill educational benefit was boosted by 46 percent, raising the lifetime benefit for qualified veterans from \$23,400 to \$35,460 and giving our nation's veterans more opportunities to pursue a higher education.
- **VA Home Loan Guarantees Increased by 67 percent Since 2001**
In 2004, Congress increased the maximum VA home loan guarantee to \$333,700, an increase of 67 percent from the prevailing maximum level in 2001, affording more veterans the opportunity of homeownership.
- **Dozens of Expanded and Improved Veterans Benefits and Services**
Over the past four years, Congress has passed and President Bush has signed, 17 separate bills to improve and expand veterans' benefits and services that:
 - *Expands the scope and quality of veterans' healthcare services;*
 - *Provides new and increased benefits to disabled veterans;*
 - *Improves job training and placement services for veterans;*
 - *Clarifies and strengthens employment and reemployment rights for veterans;*
 - *Extends new benefits to veterans' widows and dependents;*
 - *Helps eradicate homelessness among veterans – since 2001, homelessness among veterans has been reduced from 250,000 (about 33 percent of the total homeless population) to 192,000, about 25 percent (VA);*
 - *Strengthens legal rights and protections for all servicemembers;*
 - *Continues the largest expansion of the national cemetery system since the Civil War, the 2006 budget funds land purchase for six new national cemeteries in Bakersfield, Calif.; Birmingham, Ala.; Columbia-Greenville, S.C.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Sarasota, Fla.; and southeastern Pennsylvania; and expansion of the Fort Rosecrans Annex in Miramar, Calif.; and*
 - *Includes \$32 million for new state cemetery grants.*

(Courtesy: Department of Defense)

Legislative Update: Progress In Iraq

As mandated in the FY05 Defense Supplemental Appropriations Act, the Department of Defense has provided Congress with an update on Iraq's progress in moving toward a secure and self-supporting society. The report is one of a series of updates the Department provides to Congress. The report is not the single source of information about what is going on in Iraq. Other sources are listed at the bottom of this update. The report's findings indicate that there is considerable momentum towards the goal of a secure, stable Iraq with a democratic system supported by all Iraqis and accepted by the international community, yet there is more work ahead.

Political Progress: Terrorists have failed to derail the political process in Iraq.

- The constitution drafting process remains on schedule and the Iraqi Transitional Government and Transitional National Assembly continue to demonstrate a willingness to accept additional Sunni participation into the political process.
 - Draft Constitution Deadline - August 15, 2005
 - National Referendum on Constitution - October 15, 2005
 - Elections for Permanent Iraqi Government - December 15, 2005
 - International support is on the rise.
 - The U.N. is supporting Iraq's constitutional development process.
 - The United States and the E.U. jointly hosted a conference in Brussels that led to additional pledges of financial support for the new Iraqi government.
 - Jordan will host an international donors' conference later this month.
 - Iraqis' confidence in their future is increasing - a recent poll showed the numbers of Iraqis who believe their country is heading in the right direction has risen from 52 percent in January to 61.5 percent today.

Economic Progress: The Coalition continues to assist the Iraqi government to establish a foundation for a strong economy.

- The stability of the Iraqi Dinar has prevented hyperinflation.
- Iraq's fiscal outlook has improved with debt forgiveness programs.
- New business registrations have increased by 50 percent in the first six months of this year.
- Cell phone and Internet usage is up- access to both was severely restricted under Saddam's regime. As of June 2005, there were 2.7 million active cell phone subscribers in Iraq, up from 800,000 a year ago.

Security Progress: The number of Iraqi Security Forces exceeds the number of Coalition troops by a good number.

- Since the January elections, the number of insurgent attacks has remained stagnant and centered in three of the 18 provinces.
- Week-to-week incidents are off their pre-election peak.
- Time is not a yardstick to measure Iraqi security readiness; troop capability will determine when Iraqi security forces are prepared.

Challenges: A candid assessment of challenges ahead.

- Although they've suffered numerous setbacks, terrorists in Iraq remain effective, adaptable, and intent on carrying out attacks against Iraqi civilians and Iraqi officials.
- The extremists continue to try to foment tension, ethnic strife and even civil war between Sunnis and Shi'ias through murder and attacks on religious sites.
- Countries such as Syria and Iran remain notably unhelpful in assisting Iraq secure its borders from foreign invaders.
- Unemployment remains a concern- though increasing business investment should help alleviate that problem.

(Courtesy: House Armed Services Committee)

STRENGTHENING TRICARE COVERAGE AND BENEFITS FOR OUR RESERVISTS

- As our nation continues to fight the global war on terror, we increasingly rely on the skills of our reservists and national guardsmen. These individuals and their families serve our nation with dedication. We honor their commitment and sacrifice.
- Recognizing the need to improve benefits for those we call on to serve, the Congress has been instrumental in expanding TRICARE coverage. In the National Defense Authorization Acts (NDAA) for Fiscal Years 2004, 2005 and 2006, for example, we incorporated the following changes:
 - made all reservists and their families eligible for TRICARE coverage upon alert for mobilization (up to 90 days prior to mobilization); expanded the eligibility of TRICARE coverage for 180 days after separation from active duty;
 - extended health care benefits for qualified members who are involuntarily retired, and for those mobilized reservists with a commitment to continued service, they and their families are eligible for TRICARE Reserve Select. (TRICARE Standard coverage is provided for reservists and their families who have been activated for more than 30 days since September 11, 2001, in support of a contingency operation and commit to continued service in the Selected Reserves. For every 90 days of consecutive active duty service, the member and their family are eligible for one year of TRICARE coverage while in a non-active duty status.)
- The NDAA for Fiscal Year 2006 builds on our efforts to provide reservists with additional benefits in other areas.
 - eliminated the Basic Allowance for Housing Type II, thereby making the reserve rates for basic allowance of housing the same as active duty rates when reservists are mobilized for over 30 days;
 - increased the amounts that may be paid for reserve enlistments to \$15,000; added reserve personnel to be eligible to receive a Critical Skill Retention Bonus;
 - increased the reserve affiliation bonus to \$15,000, increased the death gratuity to \$100,000, increased the hardship duty pay from \$300 to \$750 per month and
 - required the Government Accountability Office to review all compensation and benefit programs for reservists.



COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Steve Buyer, Chairman, 335 Cannon House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515

Congressional Accomplishments In Support of Veterans

Past 10 Years: The record speaks for itself

- The Veterans budget increased by 77 percent since 1995, the year Republicans became the majority -- averaging over 7 percent each year.
- The VA healthcare budget was increased 85 percent in the same period.
- Congress and President Bush enacted law that provides disabled military retirees with concurrent receipt.
- Access to VA health care has improved:
 - *Republican budgets have enabled VA to care for a record number of high-priority patients, those veterans counting on us the most, as well as veterans of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.*
 - *Five million veterans will receive health care services this year, about 1 million more than just four years ago.*
 - *Republican budgets have enhanced the quality of veterans health care: VA already leads the health care industry in computerized records, patient safety and standards for high-quality care.*
 - *More than 90 percent of veterans will receive primary care within 30 days of their desired date, and more than 90 percent of veterans seeking specialty care will receive it within 30 days.*
 - *The Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) program includes 28 new outpatient clinics, funding for design work for two new medical facilities in Biloxi, Miss., and Fayetteville, Ark., and funding for five other major construction projects in Las Vegas, Nev.; Cleveland, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Gainesville, Fla.; and Anchorage, Alaska.*

FACTS – When Democrats were the Majority Party

- The VSO's "Independent Budget" was not adopted. A Committee or Floor vote was never allowed.
- Concurrent Receipt was not enacted.
- From 1965 to 1995 -- from the Vietnam War to Operation Desert Storm -- total annual veterans' spending in constant dollars grew an average of under 2 percent.
- From 1983 to 1993, total veterans' spending saw zero growth in constant dollars.

Past 4 years: Congress and President Bush working for veterans:

☑ Veterans budget increased more than \$20 billion in 5 years

The total VA budget has been increased from \$48 billion in FY 2001 to approximately \$70 billion in FY 2006, a 46 percent increase in five years.

☑ Veterans medical care funding rose 46 percent in 4 years

Veterans medical care funding has risen from \$21.3 billion in the FY 2001 budget to approximately \$31 billion in FY 2005.

☑ Historic new \$22 billion concurrent receipt benefit enacted

After more than a century of inaction the federal government, Congress approved a historic concurrent receipt benefit for veterans that will provide over \$22 billion to more than 250,000 disabled military retirees over the next ten years. Public Law 108-375: Effective January 2005, a retiree rated 100 percent service-connected will be authorized to receive full retirement benefits.

☑ GI Bill boosted record 46 percent since 2001

With 2001 legislation, the GI Bill educational benefit was boosted by 46 percent, raising the lifetime benefit for qualified veterans from \$23,400 to \$35,460.

☑ VA home loan maximums increased by 67 percent since 2001

Public Law 108-454 increases the maximum VA home loan guarantee to \$333,700, an increase of 67 percent from the prevailing maximum level in 2001.

☑ Dozens of veterans benefits and services expanded and improved

Over the past four years, Congress has passed, and President Bush signed, 17 separate bills to improve and expand veterans' benefits and services that will:

- *Expand the scope and quality of veterans' health care services;*
- *Provide new and increased benefits to disabled veterans;*
- *Improve job training and placement services for veterans;*
- *Clarify and strengthen employment and reemployment rights for veterans*
- *Extend new benefits to veterans' widows and dependents;*
- *Help eradicate homelessness among veterans – since 2001, homelessness among veterans has been reduced from 250,000 (about 33 percent of the total homeless population) to 192,000, about 25 percent (VA);*
- *Strengthen legal rights and protections for all servicemembers;*
- *Continue the largest expansion of the national cemetery system since the Civil War, the 2006 budget funds land purchase for six new national cemeteries in Bakersfield, Calif.; Birmingham, Ala.; Columbia-Greenville, S.C.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Sarasota, Fla.; and southeastern Pennsylvania; and expansion of the Fort Rosecrans Annex in Miramar, Calif.;*
- *Include \$32 million for new state cemetery grants.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS ACTIONS OF 109th CONGRESS TO DATE

Insurance Programs

- In response to the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance program amendments ultimately enacted in the Emergency Supplemental (Public Law 109-13), the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs (DAMA) hosted a roundtable discussion with the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs and private insurance companies, to discuss the policy rationale underlying the proposals.
- On June 16, 2005, DAMA held a legislative hearing to discuss, among other things, draft legislation to improve the SGLI, VGLI, and traumatic injury protection amendments made in PL 109-13. The draft legislation was introduced by Mr. Jeff Miller on July 11, 2005, as H.R. 3200. H.R. 3200 would:
 - Make permanent the increase from \$250,000 to \$400,000 in maximum Servicemembers' Group and Veterans' Group Life Insurance coverage;
 - Make permanent the increments of SGLI coverage from \$10,000 to \$50,000;
 - Require the military service Secretary concerned to notify a servicemember's spouse or unmarried servicemember's next-of-kin, in writing, if the servicemember declines SGLI or chooses an amount less than the maximum, and also require the military service Secretary concerned to notify a spouse if someone other than the spouse or child is designated as the policyholders' beneficiary;
 - Clarify that spousal notification requirements do not apply to VGLI; and
 - Permit a servicemember to decline Traumatic Injury Protection coverage established by section 1032 of Public Law 109-13.
- H.R. 3200 passed the House on July 26, 2005 by a vote of 424-0.

National Cemetery Administration

- On April 20, 2005, DAMA held an oversight hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs' National Cemetery Administration (NCA) to examine policy and operational issues facing NCA, short- and long-term goals with respect to new cemetery construction, and what efforts NCA is taking to address the 928 restoration and repair projects identified in 2002 by the Logistics Management Institute. Additionally, DAMA took testimony on VA's State Cemetery Grants Program. Congress is committed to ensuring that the benefits and services provided by VA's National Cemetery Administration remain a standard of excellence.

Disability Compensation and Pension

- On March 10, 2005, Chairman Steve Buyer introduced H.R. 1220, a bill to provide a cost of living allowance (COLA) to VA monetary benefits effective December 1, 2005. The COLA bill ensures that that monetary benefits provided to veterans and survivors retain their purchasing power and are not eroded by

inflation. The COLA is estimated to be 2.3% this year. H.R. 1220 passed the House on July 13, 2005.

- On May 5, 2005, DAMA conducted an oversight hearing to review the operations of the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) and VA's Appeals Management Center (AMC). Representatives from the Board of Veterans' Appeals, Appeals Management Center, veterans' service organizations and other veterans' advocates testified on the state of VA claims processing and the appeals process. Congress is committed to improving the timeliness and accuracy of claims decisions. The Committee will continue to work with VA to determine what is necessary to adjudicate claims in a timely and accurate manner.

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)

- On May 4, 2005, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a legislative hearing to discuss, among other things, draft legislation to improve SCRA and USERRA.
- On May 3, 2005, H.R. 2046, Servicemembers' Health Insurance Protection Act of 2005, was introduced by Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee, Honorable Steve Buyer and Honorable Lane Evans, respectively, and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, Honorable John Boozman, and Honorable Stephanie Herseth, respectively. On May 11, 2005, a markup was held on H.R. 2046 and reported favorably out of Committee. H.R. 2046 would:
 - Amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to limit premium increases on reinstated health insurance coverage of servicemembers who are released from active duty; and
 - Amend the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights to preserve employer-sponsored health plan reinstatement rights for certain Reserve-component members who acquire TRICARE eligibility prior to entering active duty.
- H.R. 2046 passed the House on May 23, 2005 by voice vote.

Small Business

- Public Law 106-50, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Act of 1999, made improvements in access to capital, federal contracts, and government procurement information for veterans and service-disabled veterans who own or aspire to own small businesses. Public Law 108-183, established a contract set-aside "tool" for use by contracting officers to reach the three-percent goal. However, even with these tools the government-wide goal has yet to be reached.
- On April 7, 2005, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity and the Subcommittee on Tax, Finance and Exports of the Small Business Committee conducted a roundtable discussion on veterans' entrepreneurship with several government departments and agencies, veteran small business owners, and veterans service organizations.

- On May 24, 2005, the Subcommittee held a joint hearing with Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment, and Government Programs of the Committee on Small Business received testimony on laws to assist veterans, especially service-disabled veterans, in starting and growing a small business and sharing in federal procurement opportunities.
- On July 27, 2005, the Subcommittee held a legislative hearing on H.R. 3082, the Veteran-Owned Small Business Promotion Act of 2005, introduced by Mr. Boozman on June 28, 2005. H.R. 3082 would:
 - Require that 9 percent of procurement contracts entered into by VA be awarded to veteran-owned small businesses, including existing 3 percent requirement for service-disabled veteran small business owners;
 - Require that all veteran small business owners seeking procurement preference through this program be listed in a database of veteran-owned small businesses maintained by VA; and
 - Allow a surviving spouse of a veteran who inherits ownership rights to maintain the status of a veteran-owned small business for ten years or until the surviving spouse remarries.

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP)

- On May 4, 2005, the Subcommittee conducted a legislative hearing to discuss, among other things, a draft bill to reauthorize HVRP. On July 14, 2005, Mr. Boozman introduced H.R. 3279, the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Reauthorization Act of 2005. On July 27, 2005, the Subcommittee marked up H.R. 3279. H.R. 3279 would:
 - Reauthorize the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program for fiscal years 2007 through 2009; and
 - Retain the maximum authorization of \$50,000,000 per year.

The President's National Hire Veterans Committee

- On January 1, 2005, Mr. Mike Simpson introduced H.R. 419, the Hire Veterans Act of 2005. On May 4, 2005, the Subcommittee conducted a legislative hearing to discuss, among other things, H.R. 419. On July 27, 2005, the Subcommittee marked up H.R. 419. H.R. 419, as amended, would:
 - Extend the operation and authorization for use of appropriated funds for the President's National Hire Veterans Committee until December 31, 2006;
 - Require the Assistant Secretary to assume certain duties of the President's National Hire Veterans Committee and report to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, no later than July 1, 2006, on a plan for the transfer of such duties;
 - Modify the title and membership of the "Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment and Training" to be the "Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment, Training, and Employer Outreach"; and
 - Expand the duties of the Advisory Committee to assist the Assistant Secretary in carrying out outreach activities to employers with respect to the training and skills of veterans and make recommendations to the Assistant Secretary on outreach activities and the employment and training of veterans.



COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN STEVE BUYER

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE BUDGET SHORTFALL TIMELINE

Presently July 26, 2005: The budget shortfall is expected to be resolved in conference by amending the vehicle of choice, H.R. 2361, the FY 2006 Interior Appropriations Bill, to add \$1.5 billion dollars in supplemental funding for veterans' health care in FY 2005. Floor action on H.R. 2361 is anticipated this Thursday, before the August recess.

The funding shortfall for FY 2006 is expected to be fully resolved with a budget amendment, the amount of which has yet to be determined.

Background: On June 23, 2005, Chairman Steve Buyer of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs held an oversight hearing to examine the VA healthcare cost model, which uncovered weaknesses within VA health care forecasting for FY 2005. During their testimony, VA officials testified that there was a shortfall in large part, because of flaws in the forecasting model and the need to assess demand for health care services two to three years into the future, due to the budget cycle process.

This hearing provided the Committee the opportunity to assess VA's weaknesses in accurately predicting healthcare demand resources necessary. Eighteen months ago, the VA model forecasted a 2.3 percent growth in enrollment for FY 2005; the actual demand for FY 2005 is 5.2 percent. This inaccuracy is a result of underestimation of the impact of the Iraqi and Afghanistan wars. VA also indicated they were conducting workarounds in the FY 2005 veterans' health care budget: using \$375 million intended to be carried over in FY 2006 and transferring roughly \$600 million originally budgeted for non-recurring maintenance and capital accounts to pay for FY 2005 health care services, subsequently also creating a shortfall for FY 2006.

At a June 30, 2005, hearing before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Secretary Nicholson notified Congress that the Administration is requesting \$975 million in additional funds for veterans' health care for FY 2005. On that same day, the House passed H.R. 3130, an FY 2005 supplemental appropriations bill that would provide VA with \$975 million, the amount requested by the Administration. The previous day, June 29, 2005, the Senate passed H.R. 2361, the Fiscal Year 2006 Interior Appropriations bill, which included \$1.5 billion in emergency funds for VA health care. The amendment would allow unused funds for FY 2005 to carry over to FY 2006.

The VA revealed that an additional \$300 million is needed to meet FY 2005 health care needs on July 11, 2005, based on updated VA field data. The following day on July 12, the Senate unanimously adopted a \$1.5 billion amendment as part of H.R. 2360, the FY 2006 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, for veterans' health care. This move by the Senate created two vehicles for moving the \$1.5 billion for FY 2005 forward.

On Thursday, July 14, 2005, the Administration submitted to Congress an amendment to the Administration's Fiscal Year 2006 budget requesting \$1.977 billion for higher-than-expected veteran's health care needs. The FY 2006 budget amendment includes the \$300 million to replenish carry-over funds to be expended in FY 2005.

On July 21, 2005, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a Full Committee oversight hearing on the Administration's Fiscal Year 2006 budget amendment (in the amount of \$1.977 billion) for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Chairman Buyer called for greater accountability and tasked the VA to look inwardly at its personnel make-up to press for necessary changes and asked members of the Committee "to continue to monitor the FY07 budgetary process to ensure that the VA changes its methodology and assumptions so that the mistakes of FY05 and 06 are not made again."

**Chairman Buyer also announced his intention to investigate the rumors of denial of access to care for returning soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan by traveling to a VA polytrauma rehabilitation center during the upcoming recess.

Senate Action: On July 21, the Senate acted on the Administration's budget amendment to address the FY 2006 shortfall; the Senate Appropriations Committee added an amendment for \$1.977 billion to H.R. 2528, the FY 2006 Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, and reported the bill out of Committee.

MARCH

- **March 24, 2005**—Sec. Nicholson letter to Chairman Walsh and Ranking Member Edwards of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs informing of VA's intention to transfer \$684 million to the medical services account, taking \$232 million from medical administration and \$452 million from medical facilities.

APRIL

- **April 5, 2005**—Sec. Nicholson letter to Senator Hutchinson, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, stating that VA, as part of good management, prudently uses reserve funding whenever trends indicate the need for refocusing priorities.

- **April 7, 2005**—Dr. Perlin, Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs, testified to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee at his confirmation hearing that reserve funds were being used to meet operational needs in 2005.
- **April 12, 2005**—Dr. Perlin letter to Senate VA Committee stating that projected carryover for FY2006 might be diminished to address current operational demands, including care of OIF/OEF returning combat veterans noting that “we do feel confident that VHA has sufficient resources for the remainder of 2005.”
- **April 19, 2005**—VA staff met with both majority and minority Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee. During the meeting management decision to reallocate capital funds for direct patient care in 2005 was discussed.

MAY

- **May 26, 2005**—H.R. 2528, the FY 2006 Military Quality of Life Appropriations Act passes the House with a total of \$28.8 billion for the Veterans Health Administration, \$600 million above the President’s original request.
 - Approximately \$21 billion is for medical services, \$1 billion above President’s original budget request for this account (to compensate for legislative requests not enacted by Congress, i.e. \$250 enrollment fee and an increase in pharmaceutical co-payments).

JUNE

- **June 3, 2005**—VA meeting with House and Senate Majority Staff (at the request of staff) detailing the modeling differences between the Independent Budget and the VA’s annual budget process. (Chief Business Officer, Chief Financial Officer)
- **June 9, 2005**—Chairman Buyer meeting with Sec. Nicholson, General Counsel McClain, and General Love regarding budget shortfall and the extent to which reprogramming had already taken place.
- **June 21, 2005**—Chairman Buyer meeting with Sec. Nicholson regarding upcoming hearing on budget modeling.
- **June 22, 2005**—Chairman Buyer meeting with Dr. Perlin regarding mid-year review and reprogramming of capital asset and rollover accounts into medical services.
- **June 23, 2005**—Hearing before HVAC investigating the budget modeling process at VA, the independent budget and the private sector.

- **June 27, 2005**—Senators Santorum/Hutchison offered a 2nd degree amendment for \$1.5 billion for VA Medical Funding for the FY 2005 shortfall, designated as emergency, to Sen. Murray's \$1.42 billion amendment offered earlier in the day.
 - The \$1.5 billion amendment for FY 2005 passed unanimously in the Senate.
- **June 28, 2005**—House Democrats send letter to the Administration requesting that the President submit an FY 2005 supplemental funding request adding at least \$1.3 billion to address the shortfall.
- **June 28, 2005**—Sec. Nicholson testifies before House Appropriations Military Quality of Life Subcommittee regarding newly identified budget shortfall for 2005 and 2006.
 - Sec. Nicholson identifies an updated growth in demand of approximately 6 percent rather than the original 2.4% on which the budget request was based.
- **June 28, 2005**—Sec. Nicholson testifies before SVAC regarding newly identified budget shortfall for 2005 and 2006.
- **June 29, 2005**—Sec. Nicholson joins HVAC Republicans in a press conference to alert the committee to a forthcoming request for a 2005 supplemental.
- **June 29, 2005**—Senate passes H.R. 2361, the Fiscal Year 2006 Interior Appropriations bill, which included \$1.5 billion in emergency funds for VA health care. The amendment would allow unused funds for FY 2005 to carry over to FY 2006.
- **June 30, 2005**—Sec. Nicholson and Dr. Perlin testify before HVAC regarding the Administration's specific request for \$975M in supplemental funding for VA FY 2005 that included:
 - \$273 million to fund healthcare for returning Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom veterans, including members of the Guard and Reserve;
 - \$226 million to continue funding the shared federal and state VA long-term care nursing home program;
 - \$200 million to fund unanticipated increases in the healthcare for priority-group 1-6 veterans;
 - \$95 million to fund unanticipated energy, fuel and utility costs;
 - \$84 million to buy emergency medical equipment; and
 - \$39 million to pay for the increase in healthcare benefits for dependants of 100-percent service-connected veterans as the need has increased at a rate greater than expected.

JULY

- **July 11, 2005**—VA reveals that an additional \$300 million is needed to meet FY 2005 health care needs.
 - Updated VA field data identifies that the average cost per patient in the entire system has increased by 1 percent and now \$300 million of expected carryover will be used for the re-estimated FY 2005 needs.
- **July 12, 2005**—Senate unanimously adopted a \$1.5 billion amendment as part of H.R. 2360, the FY 2006 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, for veterans' health care.
- **July 14, 2005**—OMB Director, Joshua Bolten, testified on the Mid Session Review of the President's FY 2006 Budget Request before the House Budget Committee:
 - Bolten claimed that Congress has given VA more than it needs: in each of the last three years, appropriations have exceeded the VA medical care needs by \$500 million.
- **July 14, 2005**—Administration submits to Congress an amendment to the Administration's Fiscal Year 2006 budget requesting an additional \$1.977 billion. The FY 2006 budget amendment includes:
 - \$300 million to replenish carry-over funds to be expended in FY 2005 to cover the increase in average cost per patient;
 - \$677 million to cover an estimated 2 percent increase in the number of patients expected to seek care in FY 2006;
 - \$400 million increase in recognition of the expected cost of providing more costly treatment; and
 - \$600 million to correct for the estimated cost of long term care.
- **July 18, 2005**—Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid attempted to call up H.R. 3130 by unanimous consent in an attempt to increase the bill's funding from \$975 million to \$1.5 billion.
 - Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist blocked this move.
- **July 19, 2005**—Senator Frist identifies the FY 2006 Interior Appropriations bill as the preferred vehicle to move \$1.5 billion for veterans' health care in FY 2005.
 - The \$1.5 billion is likely to be removed from the FY 2006 Homeland Security appropriations bill as a result of this decision.

- **July 19, 2005**—Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs reports its FY 2006 appropriations bill.
 - The medical services account would be funded at \$23.3 billion, including \$1.977 billion to address the FY 2006 shortfall.
 - FY 2005 funding is not addressed in this spending bill

- **July 21, 2005**—HVAC holds a Full Committee oversight hearing on the Administration’s Fiscal Year 2006 budget amendment (in the amount of \$1.977 billion) for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):
 - Chairman Buyer tasked the VA to look inwardly at its personnel make-up to press for necessary changes and asked members of the Committee “to continue to monitor the FY07 budgetary process to ensure that the VA changes its methodology and assumptions so that the mistakes of FY05 and 06 are not made again.”
 - Chairman Buyer announced his intention to travel to a VA polytrauma rehabilitation center during the upcoming recess to investigate the rumors of denial of access to care for returning soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan.

- **July 21, 2005**—Senate Appropriations Committee marked up H.R. 2528 and reported the bill out of Committee with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and without a written report.
 - The amendment includes \$1.977 billion to address the FY 06 shortfall.
 - HR 2528 was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

- **July 26, 2005**—A conference meeting has been scheduled on HR 2361, the FY 06 Interior Appropriations bill, with both House and Senate appropriators close to writing a conference agreement on the bill.
 - There is still debate over whether to designate the FY 05 funds as emergency spending or not:
 - Emergency spending does not count against budget caps.
 - The House argues that VA has adequate funds to cover the shortfall before the health care accounts are renewed for the balance of FY 05, while the Senate claims the VA’s health care accounts are in a state of emergency.
 - The Interior conference report may be considered on the floor as early as mid-week if a deal is agreed to by the House and Senate.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of October 24, 2005.

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

Minutes of the previous meeting were read. All questions pertaining to the minutes were answered. Chairman Adler stated the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: Delegates and Alternates were asked to contact their state of Illinois governor, senator and representative pleading that our LaSalle Veterans' Home gets authorization to hire the ten health service personnel needed in order to open those twelve vacant beds at our home. Let us not forget that there was a time when our home had ample staff and all 118 beds were filled. We must also remember that opening those 12 vacant beds will not alleviate the need for the 80 additional health care beds because we have over 400 veterans on our list for admission. In fact, there are over 40 veterans who are currently in Quincy or Mantino that are waiting for admission to our LaSalle Veterans' Home. One individual has been at the Quincy Veterans' Home for over 3 years.

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 Larry Graham and seconded by Jerry Fuchs that we accept the Service Officer's report as presented. Motion passed.

Superintendent Rue stated that the Finance Committee has requested that we change the line item in our budget for education to \$1500. They stated that they want actual figures of known expenditures submitted in our budget line items. A motion was made by Larry Graham and seconded by Joe Iwaszek that we increase our education line item for 2006 to \$1500. Motion passed.

Supt. Rue will be attending the Illinois Veterans Assistance Commission State Association Annual Training from September 26-29, 2005. As a result on September 28, 2005 our LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission meeting will be canceled. A letter will be sent out to all Delegates and Alternates stating our next official Commission meeting will be October 26, 2005.

A motion as made by Ken Hausken and seconded by Nick Pacetti that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Nick Pacetti, VFW Post 4668; Joseph Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Jerry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Larry Graham, DAV Post 86; Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33; George Mason, VFW Post 2470; Doug Grieve, American Legion Post 260; and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

Veterans Assistance Liaison Committee Minutes

The Veterans' Assistance Liaison Commission met at American Legion State Headquarters in Bloomington, Illinois September 24, 2005. Our meeting was called to order by Chairman Rue in due form at 10:00 a.m. Roll call of members was taken. They are as follows:

1. Martin J. Rue, Chairman Division 2 – District 12 LaSalle County – Present
2. Jack Thompson, Division 1 – District 4 Cook County – Present
3. Jack Carrico, Division 3 – District 14 Mercer County – Present
4. Richard P. Moran, Division 3 – District 17 McLean County – Present
5. Bernard R. Schwartz, Division 5 – District 22 St. Clair County – Present

Introduction of Guests:

Department Commander Eugene Thompson
Department Sr. Vice Commander Luis V. Gonzalez

OLD BUSINESS:

LaSalle Veterans' Home in LaSalle, Illinois has 12 empty beds because the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs cannot get permission to hire the ten health service personnel needed to provide the quality health care to those veterans who would be admitted. This is truly disgraceful when there are over 425 veterans on its current waiting list for admission. Our current health care staff is spread very thin having to work many hours of overtime. It is costing the state of Illinois hundreds of thousands of dollars in overtime by not hiring the staff that is needed to provide the quality health care our veterans deserve. Write to the governor and your state of Illinois senator and representative telling them to hire the necessary staff at our LaSalle Veterans' Home. Remember also that there are forty of our veterans at other state veterans' homes waiting for a bed opening at our LaSalle Veterans' Home.

Congressman Jerry Weller's Bill H.R. 995, which would exempt those severely wounded combat veterans who had received a Purple Heart Award and were military medically retired by the Department of Defense as unfit to perform their military duties from the 20-year longevity or 15 year (T.E.R.A.) Temporary Early Retirement for "Concurrent Receipt" legislation. H.R. 995 would permit those severely wounded military medically retired soldiers to receive their pro-rated military retirement pension along with their V.A. compensation without the dollar for dollar reduction of V.A. compensation from their military retirement pension. This would correct this deplorable inequity placed on our severely wounded combat veterans. None of our Illinois United States Congressional Representatives have signed onto H.R. 995 as co-sponsors. Are they against our American combat soldiers? Do they not care or appreciate the dear price our combat wounded soldiers have paid to protect our countries way of life and freedoms? Are they upset that our severely wounded combat soldiers who had received a Purple Heart Award and were military medically retired as physically unfit to serve in our military had not

died of their wounds so they would not have to provide medical care for their wounds? We must get on them now and request that they co-sponsor H.R. 995. Contact them immediately. Have your friends and organization contact them also.

NEW BUSINESS:

Illinois 94th General Assembly

1. H.B. 3472 – Public Act 94-0585 – 8/15/2005 - Lottery – Scratch Off For Veterans “This instant scratch-off game revenue will be deposited into the Illinois Veterans Assistance Fund for making grants, funding additional services, or conducting additional research projects relating to certain veterans issues.”
2. H.B. 0815 – Public Act 094-0583 – 8/15/2005 – Illinois Veterans grant program changes. “This bill has caused all kinds of confusion in our veteran higher education students assistance act by which some of the educational programs of the past will no longer qualify for funding. Two such programs are the truck driver C.D.L. Program and Pilot License Program. Chairman Rue is already appealing two veterans’ cases that were denied educational benefits after they returned from their tour of duty in Iraq.
3. We discussed the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (U.S.D.V.A.) reviewing some of the 100% service connected disability award for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (P.T.S.D.) and Individual Unemployability (I.U.E.) since 1999. The U.S.D.V.A. has discovered that once the veterans was awarded 100% service connection (S/C) for P.T.S.D. they no longer require counseling sessions nor medication for their treatment. U.S.D.V.A. also discovered that some who were awarded 100% (S/C) for I.U.E. went out and worked for cash. Either you can work or you cannot. It is abuses such as these that our taxpayers see and it makes them want to do away with all our entitlement programs.

Our next meeting will be December 1 and 2, 2005 in conjunction with the Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commission in Bloomington, Illinois at Jumer. Further updates will be sent out later.

Having no further business we adjourn at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Martin J. Rue, Liaison Chairman
Veterans Assistance Committee

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of October 26,
2005

The meeting opened in due form by Vice-Chairman Joe Iwaszek. A roll call of officers was taken showing Vice-Chairman Joe Iwaszek present and all other officers excused.

Minutes of previous meeting were read. All questions pertaining to the minutes were answered. Acting Chairman Iwaszek stated the minutes would stand approved as presented.

New Business: Superintendent Rue told the delegates and alternates that Chairman Ralph Adler had passed away. He would find out the arrangements for Chairman Adler's wake and contact the Commission delegates and alternates with the information. We will gather as a unit at Chairman Adler's wake.

Due to the passing of Chairman Adler, the Commission made a motion to elect Joe Iwaszek as our chairman for the remainder of the year. Motion was made by Lawrence Graham and seconded by George Mason that Joe Iwaszek be elected chairman of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

Jim Nanowski announced that Mendota has asked veterans posts to bring their color guard for a rededication of a memorial to a Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. Jim said that the Ottawa American Legion post would be taking their color guard and asked all other posts to participate.

A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Jim Nanowski that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Delegates Lawrence Graham, D.A.V. Chapter 86; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33; George Mason, V.F.W. Post 2470; and Chairman Joseph Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of October 24, 2005.

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

Minutes of the previous meeting were read. All questions pertaining to the minutes were answered. Chairman Adler stated the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: Delegates and Alternates were asked to contact their state of Illinois governor, senator and representative pleading that our LaSalle Veterans' Home gets authorization to hire the ten health service personnel needed in order to open those twelve vacant beds at our home. Let us not forget that there was a time when our home had ample staff and all 118 beds were filled. We must also remember that opening those 12 vacant beds will not alleviate the need for the 80 additional health care beds because we have over 400 veterans on our list for admission. In fact, there are over 40 veterans who are currently in Quincy or Mantino that are waiting for admission to our LaSalle Veterans' Home. One individual has been at the Quincy Veterans' Home for over 3 years.

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 Larry Graham and seconded by Jerry Fuchs that we accept the Service Officer's report as presented. Motion passed.

Superintendent Rue stated that the Finance Committee has requested that we change the line item in our budget for education to \$1500. They stated that they want actual figures of known expenditures submitted in our budget line items. A motion was made by Larry Graham and seconded by Joe Iwaszek that we increase our education line item for 2006 to \$1500. Motion passed.

Supt. Rue will be attending the Illinois Veterans Assistance Commission State Association Annual Training from September 26-29, 2005. As a result on September 28, 2005 our LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission meeting will be canceled. A letter will be sent out to all Delegates and Alternates stating our next official Commission meeting will be October 26, 2005.

A motion as made by Ken Hausken and seconded by Nick Pacetti that we adjourn. Motion passed.

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OLD BUSINESS:

LaSalle Veterans' Home in LaSalle, Illinois has 12 empty beds because the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs cannot get permission to hire the ten health service personnel needed to provide the quality health care to those veterans who would be admitted. This is truly disgraceful when there are over 425 veterans on its current waiting list for admission. Our current health care staff is spread very thin having to work many hours of overtime. It is costing the state of Illinois hundreds of thousands of dollars in overtime by not hiring the staff that is needed to provide the quality health care our veterans deserve. Write to the governor and your state of Illinois senator and representative telling them to hire the necessary staff at our LaSalle Veterans' Home. Remember also that there are forty of our veterans at other state veterans' homes waiting for a bed opening at our LaSalle Veterans' Home.

Congressman Jerry Weller's Bill H.R. 995, which would exempt those severely wounded combat veterans who had received a Purple Heart Award and were military medically retired by the Department of Defense as unfit to perform their military duties from the 20-year longevity or 15 year (T.E.R.A.) Temporary Early Retirement for "Concurrent Receipt" legislation. H.R. 995 would permit those severely wounded military medically retired soldiers to receive their pro-rated military retirement pension along with their V.A. compensation without the dollar for dollar reduction of V.A. compensation from their military retirement pension. This would correct this deplorable inequity placed on our severely wounded combat veterans. None of our Illinois United States Congressional Representatives have signed onto H.R. 995 as co-sponsors. Are they against our American combat soldiers? Do they not care or appreciate the dear price our combat wounded soldiers have paid to protect our countries way of life and freedoms? Are they upset that our severely wounded combat soldiers who had received a Purple Heart Award and were military medically retired as physically unfit to serve in our military had not

died of their wounds so they would not have to provide medical care for their wounds? We must get on them now and request that they co-sponsor H.R. 995. Contact them immediately. Have your friends and organization contact them also.

NEW BUSINESS:


Illinois 94th General Assembly

1. H.B. 3472 – Public Act 94-0585 – 8/15/2005 - Lottery – Scratch Off For Veterans “This instant scratch-off game revenue will be deposited into the Illinois Veterans Assistance Fund for making grants, funding additional services, or conducting additional research projects relating to certain veterans issues.”
2. H.B. 0815 – Public Act 094-0583 – 8/15/2005 – Illinois Veterans grant program changes. “This bill has caused all kinds of confusion in our veteran higher education students assistance act by which some of the educational programs of the past will no longer qualify for funding. Two such programs are the truck driver C.D.L. Program and Pilot License Program. Chairman Rue is already appealing two veterans’ cases that were denied educational benefits after they returned from their tour of duty in Iraq.
3. We discussed the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (U.S.D.V.A.) reviewing some of the 100% service connected disability award for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (P.T.S.D.) and Individual Unemployability (I.U.E.) since 1999. The U.S.D.V.A. has discovered that once the veterans was awarded 100% service connection (S/C) for P.T.S.D. they no longer require counseling sessions nor medication for their treatment. U.S.D.V.A. also discovered that some who were awarded 100% (S/C) for I.U.E. went out and worked for cash. Either you can work or you cannot. It is abuses such as these that our taxpayers see and it makes them want to do away with all our entitlement programs.

Our next meeting will be December 1 and 2, 2005 in conjunction with the Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commission in Bloomington, Illinois at Jumer. Further updates will be sent out later.

Having no further business we adjourn at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Martin J. Rue, Liaison Chairman
Veterans Assistance Committee

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of July 27, 2005.

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

Minutes of the previous meeting were read. All questions pertaining to the minutes were answered. Chairman Adler stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: A lengthy discussion ensued pertaining to the ten empty beds at the LaSalle Veterans' Home in LaSalle, Illinois. Superintendent Rue stated that the reason for the empty beds was due to the fact that the State of Illinois will not permit the home to hire the needed health care staff to open those beds. He advised all to contact Governor Blagojevich, Senator Dahl and Representative Mautino to let them know of their disgust with their refusal to take care of the needs of our honorably discharged veterans. There are currently over 425 veterans on the waiting list for admission to our LaSalle Veterans' Home. It is truly repulsive to think that they will not provide the moneys needed to hire the staff needed to provide quality health care as our state statutes require.

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 and seconded by Larry Graham that the service officer's report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Nick Pacetti, VFW Post 4668; Larry Graham, DAV Post 86; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Joseph Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229; Delbert Spitz, VFW Post 4079; Fred Burnett, American Legion Post 540; 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 2005

CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 15 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 15 veterans
3. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 526 for 10 veterans.
4. Sent out birth, death, DD214, and marriage certificates to service offices for 18 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 16 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 22 requests for medical records to various doctors, hospitals, etc for various veterans.
8. Sent copy of veteran's records to 10 veteran
9. Sent medals received to 1 veteran.
10. Sent letter to 2 veterans 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 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 3 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 2 veterans.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 2 veterans.
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 15 medical records for veterans to Social Security office.
23. Sent VA Form 5655 to VA for 6 veterans.
24. Sent VA Form 9 to VA for 2 veteran(s).
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 15 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 1 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 514 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 1 veterans.
36. Sent VA Form 674 to Veterans Administration for 1 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 1 VA Form 149 to veterans pertaining to upgrade of discharges.
40. Sent VA Form 517 for 0 veterans.
41. Sent 0 request 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 effective 12/2005-11/2005, \$1253 monthly, \$15036 (Total \$15,036)
EARLVILLE BACK/KNEE/DEPRESSION GULF WAR
2. Veteran awarded 70% S/C Compensation, effective 10/2003-11/2003, \$991 monthly, \$1982; 12/2003-11/2004, \$1029 monthly, \$12,348; 12/2004-11/2005, \$1056 monthly, 12,632 (Total \$16,692)
WESTEND PTSD/BACK/KNEE WWII
3. Veteran awarded 70% S/C Compensation w/TDIU, effective 10/2004-11/2004, \$2239 monthly, \$4478; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2299 monthly, \$28,588 (Total \$33,066)
OTTAWA, PTSD, VIETNAM

4. Veteran's son awarded SSI benefits effective
2/2003-8/2003, \$443 monthly, \$3101; 9/2003, \$293 monthly
\$293; 10/2003-12/2003, \$443 monthly, \$1329;
1/2004-12/2004, \$455 monthly, \$5460; 1/2005-12/2005,
\$470 monthly, \$5640, (Total \$15,823)
OGLESBY, MENTAL/BACK DISORDER KOREA

5. Veteran awarded 80% S/C Compensation, 9/2004-11/2004
\$1195 monthly, \$2390; 12/2004-11/2005, \$1227 monthly,
\$14,724 (Total \$17,114)
LASALLE PTSD/BACK CONDITION/FACIAL SCAR GULF WAR

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS:	\$	15,823.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	507,114.00
TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS:	\$	98,382.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	2,221,565.00
TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE:	\$	2,728,679.00

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

Minutes of June 22, 2005 LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission meeting.

Meeting was opened in due form by Chairman Ralph Adler. A roll call of officers was taken showing Vice-Chairman Joe Iwaszek excused and all other officers present.

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

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 Jerry Fuchs and seconded by Doug Grieves that the service officer's report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

Superintendent Rue went through the handouts that were presented and shared a letter of appreciation from Robert Acosta for services rendered at his request. All questions pertaining to the handouts were answered.

Our Commission went through the line item budget recommendations form for the fiscal year 2006. Delegates questioned the line items pertaining to the office supervisor's salary for fiscal year 2005 and the service officer's salary for fiscal year 2005. Superintendent Rue stated that the budget recommendations for fiscal year 2005 that was submitted to the LaSalle County Board requested that the office supervisor be paid \$32,150.00 for fiscal year 2005 and the service officer's salary be set at \$37,496.00 for fiscal year 2005. With asterisks after each salary line item stating that should the County Board pay higher salaries for like personnel positions that they should adjust our salary line items so that our personnel are paid equally to what like personnel are paid. Superintendent Rue stated that our non-union employees are being held back their raises as a result of ongoing negotiations with some county union personnel contracts. Delegates present could not understand why our non-union administrative personnel are not being paid what was requested by our Commission for fiscal year 2005 included in our total budget requests for fiscal year 2005 and past by the full County Board at their final November meeting in 2004. The Commission strongly recommended that Superintendent Rue take the steps necessary to rectify this situation in a timely fashion.

A motion was made by Lawrence Graham and seconded by Delbert Spitz that the line item budget recommendations for fiscal year 2006 in the amount of \$262,161.00 be passed by the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission, including the salary increases for the officer supervisor, service officers and superintendent. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ken Hausken and seconded by Jim Nanowski that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Nick Pacetti, VFW Post 4668; Delbert Spitz, VFW Post 4099; Fred Burnette, American Legion Post 540; Lawrence Graham, DAV Post 86; Jerry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33; Doug Grieves, American Legion Post 260; Alternate Jim DeMoss, VFW Post 5506; and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion 235.

VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR JUNE 2005

CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 32 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 8 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 14 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 29 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 24 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 3 veterans 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 0 veteran.
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 5 veterans.
15. Sent application for headstone to sexton for 2 veteran.
16. Sent application for headstone to Washington DC for 2 veterans
17. Sent VA Form 534 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
18. Sent VA Form 8940 to Veterans Administration for 5 veterans.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 1 veterans.
20. Sent VA Form 527 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
21. Sent Request for Reconsideration to SSA reference denial of disability benefits for 4 veteran.
22. Sent 18 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 veteran(s).
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 25 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 32 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 514 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 1 veterans.
36. Sent VA Form 674 to Veterans Administration for 1 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 veterans.
41. Sent 0 request 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, effective 11/2004, \$2325 monthly; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2387 monthly, \$28,644 (Total \$30,969)
OTTAWA, MENTAL DISORDER, VIETNAM
2. Veteran awarded NSC Pension, effective 2/2005-5/2006, \$831 monthly, \$9972 (Total \$9972)
PERU, ARTHRITIS/HEPATITIS C, VIETNAM
3. Veteran awarded SSD benefits retroactive payment of \$13,120 for 8/2004-5/2005; \$1326 monthly, 6/2005-11/2005 \$7956 (Total \$21,076)
OTTAWA, DIABETES, VIETNAM

4. Veteran awarded 20% S/C Compensation, effective 6/2004-7/2004, \$205 monthly, \$410; 8/2004-9/2004, 100% \$2239 monthly, \$4478; 10/2004-12/2004, \$106, \$212; 12/2004-11/2005, \$108 monthly, \$1296
(Total \$6396)
STREATOR, KNEE SURGERY, GULF WAR
5. Veteran awarded S/C Compensation 20% S/C Compensation effective 5/2003-11/2003, \$201 monthly, \$1206; 12/2003-11/2004, \$205 monthly, \$2460; 12/2004-11/2005, \$210 monthly, \$2530 (TOTAL \$6196)
WESTEND, DIABETES, VIETNAM
6. Veteran awarded 20% S/C Compensation, effective 3/2004-11/2004, \$205 monthly, \$2050; 12/2004-11/2005, \$210 monthly, \$2520.
(TOTAL \$4570)
EASTEND, LEFT ANKLE INJURY, VIETNAM
7. Veteran awarded adaptive equipment grant by VA for new automobile, \$11,000 (TOTAL \$11,000)
OTTAWA, RIGHT HAND/FOOT, VIETNAM
8. Veteran awarded Housebound benefit, effective 4/2005-3/2006, \$222 monthly, \$2664
(TOTAL \$2664)
WESTEND, COPD, KOREA

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS: \$ 21,076.00
YEAR-TO-DATE: \$ 491,291.00
TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS: \$ 71,767.00
YEAR-TO-DATE: \$2,123,183.00
TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE: \$2,614,475.00

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 meeting of May 25, 2005.

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

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

Old business: Again questions were asked pertaining to the additional staff needed at the LaSalle Veterans Home as well as the funding for the additional 80 needed beds. Superintendent Rue stated that all people in the Illinois valley area should contact their state of Illinois representatives, senators and governor. There are over 400 veterans on the waiting list and they need our help.

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 and seconded by Joe Iwaszek that the service officer's report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Ken Hausken and seconded by Nick Pacetti that we adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Nick Pacetti, VFW Post 4668; Joseph Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Jerry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570 and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

**VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR MAY 2005**

CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 36 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 19 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 25 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 22 veterans to discuss, explain or inquire as to the status of their case.
6. Sent out 6 Form 180 to St. Louis for veterans personnel records.
7. Sent out 24 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 veterans 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 530 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 1 veterans.
15. Sent application for headstone to sexton for 2 veteran.
16. Sent application for headstone to Washington DC for 2 veterans
17. Sent VA Form 534 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
18. Sent VA Form 8940 to Veterans Administration for 3 veterans.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 3 veterans.
20. Sent VA Form 527 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
21. Sent Request for Reconsideration to SSA reference denial of disability benefits for 1 veteran.
22. Sent 3 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 veteran(s).
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 26 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 0 veterans.
29. Sent various SSA forms for 2 veterans to Hearing Office for Social Security Disability

30. Sent 0 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 514 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
33. Sent VA Form 686c to Veterans Administration for 3 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 veterans.
41. Sent 0 request 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, effective 2/2005-11/2005, \$2429 monthly, \$24,290;12/2005-1/2006, \$4858 (Total \$29,148)
Oglesby, Large cell lymphoma, Vietnam
2. Veteran awarded 30% S/C Compensation effective 4/2004-11/2004, \$316 monthly, \$2528;12/2004-11/2005, \$324 monthly, \$3888 (Total \$6416)
Streator, Back/DJD of Knees, Gulf War
3. Veteran awarded 70% S/C Compensation, effective 10/2004-11/2004, \$1029 monthly, \$2,058;12/2004-11/2005, \$1056 monthly, \$12,672 (Total \$14,730)
Ottawa, PTSD, Vietnam

4. Veteran awarded SSD benefits retroactive payment
\$4827, 3/2005-5/2005; 6/2005-5/2006, \$1609 monthly
\$19,308 (Total \$24,135)
WestEnd PTSD/BiPolar, Vietnam
5. Veteran awarded S/C compensation 10% S/C Compensation
effective 11/2004, \$106 monthly; 12/2004-11/2005,
\$108 monthly, \$1296 (total \$1402)
Peru Left Knee Injury Vietnam
6. Veteran awarded 90% S/C Compensation, w/TDIU
effective 3/2003-11/2003, \$2399 monthly, \$28,788;
11/2003-11/2004, \$2448 monthly, \$29,344;
12/2004-11/2005, \$2513 monthly, \$30,156 monthly
(Total \$88,288)
Sheridan PTSD/Diabetes/Diabetic Retinopathy Vietnam
7. Veteran awarded SSD benefits effective 8/2004-5/2005
retroactive payment, \$6712; 6/2005-5/2006, \$1678 monthly
\$19,136 (Total \$25,848)
WestEnd PTSD/Diabetes Vietnam
8. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, Dependency
Allowance, \$3348 for children; \$870 monthly,
for (3) children; 6/2005-11/2005, \$5220
(Total \$8568)
WestEnd PTSD/Diabetes Vietnam
9. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective
10/2004-11/2005, \$1682 monthly, \$21,866
(Total \$21,866)
LaSalle PTSD/Right Hand Vietnam
10. Veteran's Spouse awarded SSD benefits effective
9/2005-11/2006, \$160 monthly, \$2240 (Total \$2240)
Peru Mental

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS: \$ 82,657.00
 YEAR-TO-DATE: \$ 470,215.00
 TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS: \$ 139,984.00
 YEAR-TO-DATE: \$2,041,317.00
 TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE: \$2,511,532.00

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 April 27, 2005

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

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

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 and seconded by Lawrence Graham that the service officer's report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Joseph Iwaszek and seconded by Nick Pacetti that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Nick Pacetti, VFW Post 4068; Lawrence Graham, Disabled American Veterans Post 86; Joseph Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229; Nick Nedrosius, American Legion Post 426; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Carl Key, VFW Post 4079; Delbert Spitz, VFW 4079; Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33; Jerry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570; Doug Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Alternate Jim DeMoss, VFW Post 5506; Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235; and George Sabastian, visitor

EXPLANATION OF VA FORMS:

1. Form 526-APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION OR PENSION
2. VA Form 4138-STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM
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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

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes
of April 27, 2005

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

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

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 and
seconded by Lawrence Graham that the service officer's
report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Joseph Iwaszek and seconded by
Nick Pacetti that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Nick Pacetti, VFW Post
4068; Lawrence Graham, Disabled American Veterans Post
86; Joseph Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229;
Nick Nedrosius, American Legion Post 426; Ken
Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Carl Key, VFW Post 4079;
Delbert Spitz, VFW 4079; Jim Nanowski, American
Legion Post 33; Jerry Fuchs, American Legion Post 570;
Doug Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Alternate Jim
DeMoss, VFW Post 5506; Chairman Ralph Adler,
American Legion Post 235; and George Sabastian, visitor

**VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR APRIL 2005**

CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 25 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 8 veterans
3. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 526 for 3 veterans.
4. Sent out birth, death, DD214, and marriage certificates to service offices for 5 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 34 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 15 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 veterans 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 1 veteran.
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 3 veterans.
15. Sent application for headstone to sexton for 2 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 4 veterans.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
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 9 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 1 veteran(s).
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 19 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 0 veterans.
29. Sent various SSA forms for 8 veterans to Hearing Office for Social Security Disability

30. Sent 1 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 514 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
33. Sent VA Form 686c to Veterans Administration for 0 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 1 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 veterans.
41. Sent 0 request 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, (permanent & total), effective 3/2004-11/2004, \$2366 monthly, \$23,660; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2429, \$29,148 (Total \$52,808)
WestEnd, lymphatic leukemia, VIETNAM
2. Veteran's Widow awarded Widow Pension, effective 8/2004-11/2004, \$73 monthly, \$292; \$88 monthly, \$1144; 3/2005-8/2005, \$539 (Total \$1975)
Peru, WWII
3. Veteran awarded 50% S/C Compensation, 1/2005-12/2005, \$663 monthly, \$7293 (Total \$7293)
WestEnd, Diabetes/Peripheral Neuropathy, Vietnam

4. Veteran awarded 30% Service-Connected Compensation, effective 8/2003-11/2003, \$310 monthly, \$1240; 12/2003-11/2004, \$316 monthly, \$3,792; 12/2004-11/2005, \$324 monthly, \$3888 (Total \$8920) WestEnd Bilateral Knee/Tinnitus Gulf War
5. Veteran awarded S/C compensation 70% W/IUE, effective 5/2003-11/2003, \$2193 monthly, \$17,544; 12/2004-11/2004, \$2239 monthly, \$26,868; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2299 monthly, \$27,588 Ottawa, PTSD, Vietnam
6. Veteran awarded 70% s/C Compensation, effective 12/2003-4/2004, \$824 monthly, \$4120; awarded IUE 5/2004-11/2004, \$2239 monthly, \$15,673; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2299 monthly, \$27,888 (Total \$47,681) WestEnd, PTSD, Vietnam
7. Veteran awarded NSC Pension effective 10/2004-11/2004, \$1361 monthly, \$2722; 12/2004-11/2005, \$1398 monthly, \$16,776 (Total \$19,498) Ottawa, Diabetes/Peripheral Neuropathy, Vietnam
8. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 2/2005-11/2005, \$1473 monthly, \$14,730 (Total \$14,730) WestEnd, Spinal Tumor/Herniated Disc, Vietnam
9. Veteran awarded 100% S/C Compensation, (Permanent & Total), effective 12/2005-11/2005, \$2299 monthly, \$27,588 (Total \$27,588) Ottawa, Multiple Myeloma, KOREA/VIETNAM
10. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 12/2004-11/2005, \$1889 monthly, \$22,668 (Total \$22,668) EastEnd, Diabetes, Vietnam
11. Veteran awarded 30 % S/C Compensation, effective 8/2003-11/2004, \$318 monthly, \$1,264; 12/2004-11/2005 \$324 monthly, \$3888 (Total \$5152) Streator, Hernia/Bursitis/DJD, Gulf War
12. Veteran's mother awarded SSD benefits, \$465 monthly, effective 1/2005-11/2005, \$5580 (Total \$5580) Earlville, Back condition
13. Veteran awarded 80% S/C Compensation, TDIU, effective 11/2004-12/2005, \$2523 monthly, \$30,276, (Total \$30,276) Ottawa, PTSD, Persian Gulf

14. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 4/2002-5/2005,
\$34,967 retroactive payment; 6/2005-11/2005, \$1789
monthly, \$10,734 (Total \$45,701)
Oglesby, PTSD/Diabetes, VIETNAM

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS:	\$	88,679.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	387,558.00
TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS:	\$	273,371.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	1,901,333.00
TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE:	\$	2,288,891.00

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.
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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

The LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of March 23, 2005.

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

Minutes of previous meeting were read. A lengthy discussion ensued once again pertaining to the 80 beds needed at our LaSalle Veterans' Home in LaSalle, Illinois. Superintendent Rue once again ensured the delegates and alternates that they must continue to discuss this issue with their state of Illinois representative, senator and governor. They must get their friends and relatives to do the same. As we all know this has been an ongoing discussion since 1993. We now have over 400 applicants on the waiting list with a two and a half year wait for admission. Supt. Rue reintegrated that this discussion should have taken place under old business. Chairman Adler stated due to no additions or corrections to the minutes they will stand approved as presented.

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 and seconded by Lawrence Graham that they service officer's report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

Chairman Rue shared a letter from United States Representative Jerry Weller announcing that he has re-introduced "Combat Military Medically Retired Veterans Act" HR 995. That letter and the language of HR 995 was shared with our veterans. Congressman Weller will be holding a press conference in front of the Downtown Courthouse in Ottawa, Illinois and asks that veterans be present on March 29, 2005 to hear the announcement.

Chairman Adler announced that the superintendent at the Lincoln National Cemetery in Joliet, Illinois will be replaced in April of 2005. As a result the Lincoln National Cemetery Committee feels very strongly that their previous problems will be resolved.

Motion by Joe Iwaszek and seconded by Nick Pacetti that our meeting be adjourned. Motion passed.

Members present: Delegates Nick Pacetti, VFW Post 4668; Lawrence Graham, DAV Post 86; Doug Grieves, American Legion Post 260; Howard Gast, American Legion Post 549; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Joseph Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

The LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of March 23, 2005.

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

Minutes of previous meeting were read. A lengthy discussion ensued once again pertaining to the 80 beds needed at our LaSalle Veterans' Home in LaSalle, Illinois. Superintendent Rue once again ensured the delegates and alternates that they must continue to discuss this issue with their state of Illinois representative, senator and governor. They must get their friends and relatives to do the same. As we all know this has been an ongoing discussion since 1993. We now have over 400 applicants on the waiting list with a two and a half year wait for admission. Supt. Rue reintegrated that this discussion should have taken place under old business. Chairman Adler stated due to no additions or corrections to the minutes they will stand approved as presented.

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**VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR MARCH 2005**

CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 26 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 16 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 48 veterans to discuss, explain or inquire as to the status of their case.
6. Sent out 4 Form 180 to St. Louis for veterans personnel records.
7. Sent out 35 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 1 veteran.
10. Sent letter to 2 veterans 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 1 veteran.
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 7 veterans.
15. Sent application for headstone to sexton for 2 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 veterans.
20. Sent VA Form 527 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
21. Sent Request for Reconsideration to SSA reference denial of disability benefits for 4 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 1 veteran(s).
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 0 veterans.
29. Sent various SSA forms for 12 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 514 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 4 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 veterans.
41. Sent 0 request for Aid & Attendance for veterans.
42. Sent 2 request for Outpatient Fee Basis Card for veteran to Hines VAMC
43. Sent VA Form 5490 for 1 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 1 veteran.
49. Sent VA Form 5281 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran

AWARDS.

1. Veteran awarded 60% w/IUE, effective 10/2003-11/2003, \$2318, \$4636; 12/2003-12/2004, \$2366, \$28,392; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2429, \$29,148 (Total \$62,176)
WestEnd, COPD, VIETNAM
2. Veteran awarded 20% Service-Connected Compensation, effective 9/2004-11/2004, \$205, \$615; 12/2004-11/2005, \$210 monthly, \$2520 (Total \$3135)
Mendota, Rt shoulder/knee, PEACETIME
3. Veteran awarded 20% S/C Compensation, with a (k), \$294 monthly, 12/2004-11/2005, \$3528 (Total \$3528)
WestEnd, Diabetes w/(k), VIETNAM

4. Veteran awarded 60% Service-Connected Compensation, effective 9/2004-11/2004, \$817 monthly, \$2451; 12/2004-11/2005, \$839 monthly, \$10,068 (Total \$12,519)
LaSalle, PTSD, Chin injury IRAQI WAR
5. Veteran awarded S/C compensation 60% W/IUE, effective 11/2004, \$2239; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2299 monthly, \$27,588 (Total \$29,827)
Earlville, Diabetes/Peripheral Neuropathy, VIETNAM
6. Veteran awarded 90% s/C Compensation, w/IUE, effective 9/2003-11/2003 (40%-100%) (diff. \$1954), \$5862; 12/2003-11/2004, (diff. \$1994) \$23,938; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2513 monthly, \$28,156 (Total \$57,956)
Marseilles, PTSD/Diabetes, VIETNAM
7. Veteran granted waiver of overpayment of NSC Pension (Total \$46,588)
Mendota, Heart, COPD, WWII
8. Veteran awarded S/C Compensation, 50%, effective 1/2004-11/2004, \$646 monthly, \$7106; 12/2004-11/2005, \$663 monthly, \$7956; (Total \$15,062)
WestEnd, Bi-Polar, VIETNAM
9. Veteran awarded SSD, effective, 8/2003-3/2005, \$16,344; 4/2005-11/2005, \$1549 monthly, \$11,392 (Total \$27,736)
Marseilles, PTSD/Diabetes, VIETNAM
10. Veteran awarded 60% S/C Compensation, W/IUE, effective 4/2004-11/2004, \$2448 monthly, (diff. \$1491), \$11,928 12/2004-11/2005, \$2513 monthly, \$30,156 (Total \$42,084)
Marseilles, Diabetes/Peripheral Neuropathy, VIETNAM
11. Veteran awarded S/C Compensation, 80%, effective 3/2003-11/2003, \$1252 monthly, \$12,520; 12/2003-11/2004 \$15,324; 12/2004, \$1311; 1/2005-11/2005, \$1464 monthly, \$16,104 (Total \$45,259)
Sheridan, Diabetes/Peripheral Neuropathy, VIETNAM
12. Veteran awarded 90% W/IUE, effective 3/2003-11/2003, (diff. \$1001), \$9,009; 12/2003-11/2004, \$2366 monthly, \$28,392; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2429 monthly, \$29,148 (Total \$63,549)
WestEnd, PTSD, CAD, Diabetes, VIETNAM
13. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 11/2003, \$1167; 12/2003-11/2004, \$1167 monthly, \$14,004; 12/2004-11/2005, \$14,204 (Total \$29,375)
WestEnd, Cancer/Diabetes, VIETNAM

14. Veteran awarded 80% S/C Compensation, effective
10/2003-11/2003, \$1271 monthly, \$2542; 12/2003-11/2004,
\$1296 monthly, \$15,552; 12/2004-11/2005, \$1331 monthly,
\$15,972 (Total \$34,066)
WestEnd, PTSD/CAD/Hypertension, VIETNAM
15. Veteran awarded NSC Pension w/A&A, effective
4/2004-11/2004, \$1375 monthly, \$12,375;
12/2004-11/2005, \$1412 monthly, \$16,944 (Total \$29,319)
Ottawa, Stroke, VIETNAM
16. Veteran awarded SSD, effective 10/2004-12/2005,
\$1450 monthly, \$18,850 (Total \$18,850)
Ottawa, Diabetes w/multiple residuals, VIETNAM
17. Veteran awarded 100% S/C Compensation (by schedule)
effective 12/2004-11/2005, \$2730 monthly
(Total \$32,760)
Ottawa, PTSD/tinnitus, VIETNAM

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS:	\$	75,961.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	298,879.00
TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS:	\$	475,589.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	1,627,962.00
TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE:	\$	1,926,841.00

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



John Kass

30 years later, Vietnam vet asks: 'Was it worth it?'

Next week marks the 30th anniversary of the end of the war in Vietnam. Rather than talk to a professor, I talked to John Colovos.

He owns the Cambridge House Restaurant where I eat lunch, at Ohio and St. Clair, near the Tribune. He's a few days shy of 60, but wiry and strong, a hunter, still.

One early morning last week, we sat in a booth in the back. John didn't eat. He spiked his coffee with sugar and smoked. It was the first time we'd ever talked about Vietnam.

"I love my country. I fought for my country. I got wounded in Vietnam. But was it worth it? I still think about that."

He received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and a Purple Heart. Though born in Europe, the immigrant became an American through loss of blood.

"In the old country, in the village, a Communist guerrilla captain was going to kill my dad because he wouldn't join the Communists. He put the gun to my father's head. The man with the gun was my father's first cousin. He let him live, but that's how bad it was. That civil war was cousin against cousin. I thought Vietnam would have the same dynamic."

They left Greece and settled in Chicago, where his father cut leather in a shoe factory.

"One day one of those presses took his left hand off. I quit school and worked."

He was drafted in June 1965. After boot camp, a sergeant approached: "'Hey, you Greeks did good in Korea. Come here you.' That was it and I was in the 101st Airborne.

"... In Vietnam, we'd capture a hill. Then they'd say, 'We're moving out' and you say, 'What happens to the hill when we move out?' and they say, 'We're here to show our power. This hill doesn't mean anything.' You think to yourself, 'Oh,' and you think about friends who died.

"We'd see the Frenchmen in a Michelin plantation. They were protected by us. They lived in style. Every time we cut rubber trees to clear the area, our government paid them something like \$1,500 per tree. And we were protecting *them*?

"And that's when I started asking, why am I here? It was strictly a business war. Real estate and business."

We didn't discuss China and Russia, dominos, gradual escalation, political theory. Theory was so thin so early in the morning, so airy, so light. As John Colovos thought back almost 40 years, his own kids grown, smoking in a booth in his restaurant, his boots were on the ground.

He thought about the deadly village of Cu Chi, at a camp situated above a series of enemy underground tunnels.

"They came at us about 5:30 in the morning. They overran the camp. We beat them back. They overran it again. We beat them back. I'd never seen hand-to-hand before. It lasted more than six hours. I see a personnel carrier. One of the Vietnamese, he didn't even have a weapon anymore, just a little guy with a hatchet. The battle was over, but he ran and attacked the personnel carrier, banging on it with his hatchet.

"One of our guys on top of the carrier looked down at him. He shook his head. He couldn't believe an enemy like this, no gun, had the will to fight. With his hands.

With a hatchet. That's how we would be if some country attacked America. But we were over there, thousands of miles away.

"That's when I was thinking, maybe we shouldn't have been in Vietnam. An officer showed up. We saluted. He said that he should be saluting us. Then I looked down at my leg and it was all bloody. Then I passed out. It was a hand grenade."

On June 6, 1967, he flew into O'Hare International Airport. His buddy, Joe, from Michigan, was worse off, having lost his leg below the knee.

"We were all spit and polish, we had our medals on, walking to another gate for Joe to take his flight home," Colovos said. "Then we got the welcome home. There were three guys with long hair. They walked up to us. We stood there. They spit."

Wounded and outnumbered, they brawled on the floor with the other three. John screamed for bystanders to help.

"The bystanders were in a circle, watching. They didn't help. That broke my heart."

John pulled a pistol and the fight stopped. Two police officers calmed things down, let him keep his pistol but took the bullets, then scattered the crowd. After seeing Joe off to Michigan on another flight, the police drove Colovos home to North and Central.

"The older officer, he was a nice man, kept saying, 'Settle down, the war's over,' and I said, 'Maybe for you, but not for me.' It took me a long time to get back to normal.

"Now the Vietnamese have vacation tours, but I'm not going there. I don't blame the Vietnamese. They did what they did. We did what we did. But I'm not going back. So many kids got killed, and now our country and Vietnam are friends. They have vacations, resorts, and you ask me if it was worth it.

"So many dead. My friends are dead. What did we get out of it? What did we gain?"

jskass@tribune.com

Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of February 23, 2005.

Meeting opened in due form by Chairman Ralph Adler. A roll call of officers was taken showing our Chaplin excused and all other officers present. Minutes of the previous meeting were read. All questions pertaining to those minutes were answered. Chairman Adler stated that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Old Business: Once again the 80 beds for the LaSalle Veterans' Home were discussed. Superintendent Rue stated that all people in our Illinois valley should keep calling or writing to the Governor and their state representatives and senator.

New Business: Service Officer's report was presented. All questions pertaining to the Service Officer's report were answered. Motion was made by Nick Nekrosius and seconded by Joe Iwaszek that the Service Officer's report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

Chairman Adler discussed the problems surrounding the National Cemetery at Joliet. He stated that many veterans' organizations were being denied Honor Guard duty. He said that would be straightened out.

Motion by Douglas Grieves and seconded by Ken Hausken to adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Delegates Nick Pacetti, VFW Post 4668; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Joseph Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33; and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

**VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2005**

CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 41 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 14 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 20 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 43 veterans to discuss, explain or inquire as to the status of their case.
6. Sent out 6 Form 180 to St. Louis for veterans personnel records.
7. Sent out 32 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 3 veteran.
10. Sent letter to 2 veterans 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 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 2 veteran.
16. Sent application for headstone to Washington DC for 2 veterans
17. Sent VA Form 534 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
18. Sent VA Form 8940 to Veterans Administration for 2 veterans.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 1 veterans.
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 13 medical records for veterans to Social Security office.
23. Sent VA Form 5655 to VA for 2 veterans.
24. Sent VA Form 9 to VA for 1 veteran(s).
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 39 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 11 veterans to Hearing Office for Social Security Disability

30. Sent 6 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 514 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 1 veterans.
36. Sent VA Form 674 to Veterans Administration for 1 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 veterans.
41. Sent 0 request for Aid & Attendance for veterans.
42. Sent 2 request for Outpatient Fee Basis Card for veteran to Hines VAMC
43. Sent VA Form 5490 for 1 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 1 veteran.
49. Sent VA Form 5281 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran

AWARDS.

1. Veteran awarded adaptive equipment and automobile allowance award, \$12,000 (Total \$12,000)
left hand/leg condition, Vietnam, OTTAWA
2. Veteran awarded 100% Service-Connected Compensation, effective 9/2004-11/2004, (80%-100%-diff.\$1070), \$3210; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2513 monthly, \$30,516 (Total \$33,366)
Diabetes/Peripheral Vascular Disease, Vietnam, OTTAWA
3. Veteran awarded 100% S/C Compensation, (50%-100%) (diff.\$1636), 4/2004/11/2004, \$13,088; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2429, \$29,148 (Total \$42,236)
Psychiatric Condition, Sheridan, Gulf War

4. Veteran awarded 10% Service-Connected Compensation, effective 9/2004-11/2004, \$106 monthly, \$318; 12/2004-11/2005, \$1296 (Total \$1614)
Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Gulf War Mendota
5. Veteran awarded S/C compensation for seizure disorder, 100%, 6/95; 40%, 11/97; 20%, 1/2001. Earlier effective date for award of TDIU effective 11/97; 100% from 6/95; 70% from 11/97; 90% S/C Compensation from 8/2000; Retroactive payment of \$76,208 (Total \$76,208)
Seizure Disorder, Vietnam, Oglesby
6. Veteran awarded 40% s/C Compensation effective 5/2004-11/2004, \$504 monthly, \$3528; \$518 monthly, \$6216 (Total \$9744)
Knees/Right Arm, Gulf War, SHERIDAN
7. Veteran awarded 40% S/C Compensation, effective 7/20094-11/2004, \$593 monthly, \$2965; 12/2004-11/2005, \$607 monthly, \$7284 (Total \$10,249)
BiPolar/Hearing Loss, Peacetime, EastEnd
8. Veteran awarded S/C Compensation, 60%w/IUE, effective 5/2002-11/2002, \$2287 monthly, \$16,009; 12/2002-11/2003, \$2318 monthly, \$27,816; 12/2003-11/2004, \$2366 monthly, \$28,392; 12/2004-11/2005, \$29,148 (Total \$101,365)
Hip/Spine conditions, WWII, Peru
9. Veteran awarded 70% S/C Compensation, w/IUE, effective 12/2000. Veteran received retroactive payment of \$84,220 for period from 12/2000-12/2004; \$2299 monthly, \$26,888
PTSD/Tinnitus, Vietnam, WestEnd
10. Veteran awarded 10% S/C Compensation, effective 8/2003-11/2003, \$104 monthly, \$312; 12/2003-7/2004 \$106 monthly, \$954; 8/2004-11/2004, 100%, \$2588, \$10,352; 12/2004-3/2005, \$2657, \$10,628; 4/2005-11/2005, 90% \$1464 monthly, \$11,712 (Total \$34,062)
PTSD/Prostrate Cancer/Tinnitus, Vietnam, Ottawa
11. Veteran awarded increased S/C Compensation (10%-40%) (diff. \$358), 10/2003-11/2003, \$358; 12/2003-11/2004, \$4256; 11/2004-11/2005, \$4296 (Total \$8910)
Right Wrist/Migraines, Gulf War, Mendota

12. Veteran awarded increased S/C Compensation, 60%-90%
(diff.\$527) 7/2004-11/2004, \$2635;12/2004-11/2005,
\$1518 monthly, \$18,972 (Total \$21,607)
Peripheral Neuropathy/PTSD, Vietnam, Marseilles

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS:	\$.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	222,918.00
TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS:	\$	472,469.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	1,151,373.00
TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE:	\$	1,374,291.00

EXPLANATION OF VA FORMS:

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
January 26, 2005.

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

Minutes of the previous meeting were read. All questions pertaining to the minutes were answered. Chairman Adler stated that the minutes were stand approved as presented.

Old Business: The delegates and alternates were concerned about the funding of the 80 beds at the LaSalle Veterans' Home. Superintendent Rue encouraged them to write to the Governor of the State of Illinois and their State of Illinois representatives and senator.

New Business: The Service Officer's report was presented. All questions pertaining to the Service Officer's report were answered. A motion was made by Nick Nekrosius, seconded by Joe Iwaszek that the Service Officer's report be accepted as presented. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Nick Pacetti, seconded by Ken Hausken that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.

Members present: Delegates Nick Pacetti, VFW Post 4668; Howard Gast, American Legion Post 249; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Joe Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229; Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33; Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 262; Alternate Tony Karczewski, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229; and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

VAC & IT PROCESSING
January 12, 2005

VAC

A meeting of the VAC Committee was held January 12, 2005 in room 242 with the following members present: George Gruenwald, Mike Hall, Joseph Panzica, Jerry Myers, Gary Small and Art Rigby

Motion by Myers 2nd by Panzica that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as read. Carried.

Motion by Small 2nd by Gruenwald that the bills in the amount of \$960.00 (20-01) be allowed. Carried.

Comments: Mr. Rue reported on the 80 bed expansion for the LaSalle Vets Home. He asked that the board support the funding – next month's agenda will include a resolution to go to the full board to ask the State Legislators to release funding.

Motion by Myers 2nd by Panzica that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

Present: Marty Rue

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

A meeting of the Data Processing Committee was held January 12, 2005 in room 242 with the following members present: George Gruenwald, Mike Hall, Joseph Panzica, Jerry Myers, Gary Small and Art Rigby

Motion by Gruenwald 2nd by Hall that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as read. Carried.

Motion by Small 2nd by Hall that the bills in the amount of \$37,352.84 (01-05) be allowed. Carried.

Motion by Myers 2nd by Panzica to go into executive session at 4:03 p.m. to review past executive session minutes. Ayes -- Gruenwald, Hall, Panzica, Myers, Small

Motion by Gruenwald 2nd by Hall that committee come out of executive session. Ayes -- Gruenwald, Hall, Panzica, Myers, Small

Motion by Panzica 2nd by Small to keep closed due to continued need for confidentiality the executive session minutes of 04-30-01, 12-15-99, 11-30-99 & 11-10-99. Carried.

Motion by Myers 2nd by Gruenwald to approve and release minutes dated 06-10-04. Carried.

LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission minutes of November 17, 2005.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS: Delegates and alternates were given handouts of news articles announcing that the LaSalle Veterans Home will finally get its 80-bed expansion. A press conference was held by Senator Pat Welch and Representative Frank Mautino announcing that Governor Blagojevich had told them that the funding for this project has been approved in the Capital Bond Fund Budget. This press conference was held at the LaSalle Veterans Home on Sunday, March 21, 2004.

New Business: Superintendent Rue shared with the Commission the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission's annual report, which was sent to Governor Rod Blagojevich on November 17, 2004.

Our annual election was held for our VAC officers and superintendent of the commission. Those officers nominated are as follows:

1. Chairman – Ralph Adler
 - a. Nominated by Nick Nekrosius, moved to close nominations by Nick Pacetti. Passed
2. Vice-Chairman – Joe Iwaszek
 - a. Nominated by Ralph Adler, moved to close nominations by Ken Hausken. Passed
3. Chaplain – Delbert Spitz
 - a. Nominated by Joe Iwaszek, moved to close nominations by Ralph Adler. Passed
4. Sgt. At Arms – Ken Hausken
 - a. Nominated by Nick Nekrosius, moved to close nominations by Jim Nanowski. Passed

Motion was made by Jim Nanowski, seconded by Douglas Grieve that a unanimous ballot be cast for all VAC officers nominated. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Nick Nekrosius, seconded by Delbert Spitz that Martin Rue be elected superintendent of the LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission for the years 2005 through 2008. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Rue announced that we have to elect a treasurer and three directors to add to our Not-For-Profit Annual Report, due to deaths. Those nominated by the alternates and delegates present at our annual meeting are as follows:

Treasurer – Ken Hausken
Director – Nick Nekrosius
Director – Delbert Spitz
Director – Jim Nanowski

All four nominated candidates agreed to serve. Motion by Joe Iwaszek, seconded by Nick Pacetti that the Commission elect the four above named individuals who were nominated. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Delbert Spitz, seconded by Doug Grieve that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delegates Nick Pacetti, VFW Post 4668; Delbert Spitz, VFW Post 4079; Douglas Grieve, American Legion Post 260; Nick Nekrosius, American Legion Post 426; Joe Iwaszek, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229; Ken Hausken, VFW Post 5506; Jim Nanowski, American Legion Post 33; and Chairman Ralph Adler, American Legion Post 235

VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2004
CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 47 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 23 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 28 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 40 veterans to discuss, explain or inquire as to the status of their case.
6. Sent out 4 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 4 veteran
9. Sent medals received to 1 veteran.
10. Sent letter to 5 veterans placing their file on inactive status.
11. Sent out various VA forms to 22 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 2 veteran.
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 7 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 5 veterans.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 3 veterans.
20. Sent VA Form 527 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
21. Sent Request for Reconsideration to SSA reference denial of disability benefits for 4 veteran.
22. Sent 15 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 veteran(s).
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 50 veterans.
26. Sent VA Form 1900 to Veterans Administration for 2 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 31 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 1 veteran.
32. Sent VA Form 514 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 0 veterans.
41. Sent 1 request for Aid & Attendance for veterans.
42. Sent 3 request for Outpatient Fee Basis Card for veteran to Hines VAMC
43. Sent VA Form 5490 for 1 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 1 veteran.
49. Sent VA Form 5281 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran

AWARDS.

1. Veteran awarded TDIU w/80% service connected compensation, effective 7/2004-11/2004, \$2448, \$9792; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2538 monthly, \$30,356 (Total \$40,148) PTSD, Vietnam, STREATOR
2. Veteran awarded 20% Service-Connected Compensation, \$205 monthly, effective 3/2004-11/2004, \$1845; 12/2004-11/2005, \$212 monthly, \$2544 (Total \$4389) Diabetes, Vietnam, SHERIDAN
3. Veteran awarded 10% Service-Connected Compensation, \$106 monthly, effective 7/2004-11/2004, \$530; 12/2004-11/2005, \$111 monthly, \$1332 (Total \$1862) Knee Condition, Gulf War, STREATOR

4. Veteran awarded 70% Service-Connected Compensation, effective 7/2004-11/2004, \$1182 monthly, \$5910; 12/2004-11/2005, \$14,712 (Total \$20,622)
PTSD, Vietnam, OTTAWA
5. Veteran awarded SSD benefits retroactive payment for period 3/2003-10/2004, \$30,492; 11/2004, \$1539 monthly; 12/2004-11/2005, \$1596 monthly, \$19,052 (Total \$51,083)
Mental Condition/Stroke Residuals, PeaceTime, WESTEND
6. Veteran awarded SSD benefits effective 12/2004-11/2005 \$1760 monthly, \$21,120 (Total \$21,120)
Back/Heart Condition, Vietnam, PERU
7. Veteran awarded SSD benefits effective 2/2004-11/2004 \$1610 monthly, \$16,100; 12/2004-11/2005, \$1647 monthly \$19,764 (Total \$35,864)
Diabetes & Residuals, Vietnam, EASTEND
8. Veteran awarded 100% S/C Compensation, effective 9/2003-10/2005, for right knee replacement, \$2299 monthly, \$29,887 (Total \$29,887)
Right Knee condition, Vietnam, MARSEILLES
9. Veteran awarded 50% Service-Connected Compensation effective 8/2002-11/2002, \$790 monthly, \$3160; 12/2002-11/2003, \$9672; 12/2003-11/2004, \$9804 (Total \$22,636)
Depression, PeaceTime, OTTAWA
10. Veteran awarded permanent and total rating for unemployability.
Multiple Sclerosis, Vietnam, OTTAWA
11. Veteran awarded 70% Service-Connected Compensation effective 6/2004-11/2004, \$1117, \$6702; 12/2004-11/2005, \$1147, \$13,764 (Total \$20,466)
Diabetes/PTSD, Vietnam, WESTEND
12. Veteran awarded 10% Service-Connected Compensation by the BVA for period 2/2001-11/2004, (20% to 30%) \$4995 (Total \$4995)
Digestive Disorder, Desert Storm, PERU
13. Veteran awarded 80% Service-Connected Compensation, w/IUE, effective 10/2004-11/2004, \$2523, \$5046; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2589 monthly, \$31,068 (Total \$36,114)
Multiple Sclerosis, PeaceTime, LaSalle

14. Veteran awarded 100% Service-Connected Compensation, effective 8/2003-11/2003, \$2274, \$9096; 12/2003-11/2004, \$2321, \$27,852; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2513 monthly, \$30,156 (Total \$67,104)
Diabetes/PTSD, Vietnam, EASTEND
15. Veteran awarded IUE effective 8/2003-11/2003, \$2193, \$8772; 12/2003-11/2004, \$26,868 (Total \$35,460)
PTSD/Leg Condition, Vietnam, EASTEND
16. Veteran awarded 60% Service-Connected Compensation, effective 3/2003-11/2003, \$899 monthly, \$8091; 12/2003-11/2004, \$10,788 (Total \$18,879)
Heart Disease/Diabetes, Vietnam, OTTAWA
17. Veteran awarded 80% Service-Connected Compensation, w/IUE, effective 9/2003-11/2003, \$2472, \$7416; 12/2003-11/2004, \$2523, \$30,276; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2589, \$31,068 (Total \$68,760)
Back Condition, Gulf War, OTTAWA
18. Veteran awarded 60% Service-Connected Compensation, effective 12/2003-11/2004, \$817 monthly, \$9804; 12/2004-11/2005, \$827 monthly, \$9924 (Total \$19,744)
Heart Condition, Vietnam, LASALLE
19. Veteran awarded 40% Service-Connected Compensation, effective 5/2004-11/2004, \$504 monthly, \$3528; 12/2004-11/2005, \$516, \$6192 (Total \$9720)
Hypothyroidism, Persian Gulf, SHERIDAN
20. Veteran's Widow awarded DIC benefits, 11/2004, \$967; 12/2004-11/2005, \$993 monthly, \$11,916 (Total \$12,883)
Heart Condition (POW), WWII, PERU
21. Veteran awarded IUE effective 6/2004-11/2004, \$2439, \$14,634; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2531 monthly, \$28,372 (Total \$43,006)
Knee condition, Bilaterally, Vietnam, WESTEND
22. Veteran awarded NSC Pension w/A&A, effective 4/2004-11/2004, \$1375 monthly, \$11,000; 12/2004-11/2005 \$1401 monthly, \$16,812 (Total \$27,812)
Heart/Stroke conditions, Vietnam/Gulf War, OTTAWA

23. Veteran awarded 20% Service-Connected Compensation, effective 9/2003-11/2003, \$201 monthly, \$603; 12/2003-9/2004, \$205 monthly, \$1845; increased to 60% effective 10/2004-11/2004, \$893 monthly, \$1786; 12/2004-11/2005, \$917 monthly, \$11,004 (Total \$14,345) Diabetes/Peripheral Neuropathy, Vietnam, LaSalle

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS:	\$	108,067.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	108,067.00
TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS:	\$	499,040.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	499,040.00
TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE:	\$	607,107.00

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

**VAC SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT
SERVICE OFFICER REPORT FOR JANUARY 2005**

CASEWORK:

1. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 4138 for 30 veterans.
2. Sent to Service Offices VA Form 21-22 for 21 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 15 veterans.
5. Sent out letters to 20 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 31 requests for medical records to various doctors, hospitals, etc for various veterans.
8. Sent copy of veteran's records to 5 veteran
9. Sent medals received to 3 veteran.
10. Sent letter to 3 veterans 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 1 veteran.
13. Sent VA Form 530 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
14. Sent Representative forms for Social Security for 2 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 534 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
18. Sent VA Form 8940 to Veterans Administration for 2 veterans.
19. Sent VA Form 8416 to Veterans Administration for 0 veterans.
20. Sent VA Form 527 to Veterans Administration for 1 veteran.
21. Sent Request for Reconsideration to SSA reference denial of disability benefits for 2 veteran.
22. Sent 10 medical records for veterans to Social Security office.
23. Sent VA Form 5655 to VA for 2 veterans.
24. Sent VA Form 9 to VA for 1 veteran(s).
25. Sent medical records to various service organizations for 33 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 13 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 514 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran.
33. Sent VA Form 686c to Veterans Administration for 0 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 1 VA Form 149 to veterans pertaining to upgrade of discharges.
40. Sent VA Form 517 for 0 veterans.
41. Sent 0 request 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 1 veteran.
49. Sent VA Form 5281 to Veterans Administration for 0 veteran

AWARDS.

1. Veteran awarded SSD benefits effective 11/04, \$1773;12/2004-11/2005, \$21840 (Total \$23,613)
Diabetes/Heart Condition, Vietnam, OTTAWA
2. Veteran awarded 100% Service-Connected Compensation, effective 11/2004, \$2,458;12/2004-11/2005, \$2523, \$30,276 (Total \$32,734)
PTSD, Persian Gulf, OTTAWA
3. Veteran Widow awarded DIC, effective 9/2004-11/2004, \$967 monthly, \$2901;12/2004-11/2005, \$11,916 (Total \$14,817)
Diabetes/Heart Disease, Vietnam, OTTAWA

4. Veteran awarded 20% Service-Connected Compensation, effective 8/2004-11/2004, \$205 monthly, \$820; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2520 (Total \$3340)
Adjustment Disorder/tinnitus, Gulf War LASALLE
5. Veteran awarded SSD benefits effective 6/2004-11/2004, \$1774 monthly, \$10,644; 12/2004-11/2005, \$1810 monthly, \$21,120 (Total \$31,764)
Back Condition, Korea, MENDOTA
6. Veteran awarded 100% S/C Compensation, effective 8/2004-11/2004, \$2458 monthly, \$9832; 12/2004-12/2005, \$30,276 (Total \$40,108)
PTSD, Vietnam, WESTEND
7. Veteran awarded SSD benefits effective 9/1999-2/2005, retroactive payment of \$44,047; 3/2005-11/2005, \$1703 monthly, \$15,327 (Total \$59,474)
PTSD/Back Condition/Seizures, Vietnam, WESTEND
8. Veteran awarded 100% S/C Compensation, Permanent and Total
PTSD, Vietnam, WESTEND
9. Veteran awarded 40% S/Compensation, effective 10/2003-11/2003, (\$244 diff., 20%-40%), \$488; 12/2003-11/2004, \$2928; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2964 (Total \$6380)
Peacetime, Leg Injury, WESTEND
10. Veteran awarded 70% S/C Compensation, effective 3/2004-11/2004, \$1117 monthly, \$10,053; 12/2004-11/2005 \$1147, \$13,764 (Total \$23,817)
PTSD, Vietnam, WESTEND
11. Veteran awarded IUE, effective, 12/2003-11/2004, 42366 monthly, \$28,392; 12/2004-11/2005, \$30,376 (Total \$58,668)
Diabetes/Heart Disease, Vietnam, MENDOTA

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS:	\$	114,851.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	222,918.00
TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS:	\$	179,864.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	678,904.00
TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE:	\$	901,922.00

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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
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23. VA FORM 1990-APPLICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
24. VA FORM 5281-APPLICATION FOR REFUND OF EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS
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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 30% Service-Connected Compensation, effective 8/2003-11/2003, \$310 monthly, \$1240; 12/2003-11/2004, \$316 monthly, \$3,792; 12/2004-11/2005, \$324 monthly, \$3888 (Total \$8920) WestEnd Bilateral Knee/Tinnitus Gulf War
5. Veteran awarded S/C compensation 70% W/IUE, effective 5/2003-11/2003, \$2193 monthly, \$17,544; 12/2004-11/2004, \$2239 monthly, \$26,868; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2299 monthly, \$27,588 Ottawa, PTSD, Vietnam
6. Veteran awarded 70% s/C Compensation, effective 12/2003-4/2004, \$824 monthly, \$4120; awarded IUE 5/2004-11/2004, \$2239 monthly, \$15,673; 12/2004-11/2005, \$2299 monthly, \$27,888 (Total \$47,681) WestEnd, PTSD, Vietnam
7. Veteran awarded NSC Pension effective 10/2004-11/2004, \$1361 monthly, \$2722; 12/2004-11/2005, \$1398 monthly, \$16,776 (Total \$19,498) Ottawa, Diabetes/Peripheral Neuropathy, Vietnam
8. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 2/2005-11/2005, \$1473 monthly, \$14,730 (Total \$14,730) WestEnd, Spinal Tumor/Herniated Disc, Vietnam
9. Veteran awarded 100% S/C Compensation, (Permanent & Total), effective 12/2005-11/2005, \$2299 monthly, \$27,588 (Total \$27,588) Ottawa, Multiple Myeloma, KOREA/VIETNAM
10. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 12/2004-11/2005, \$1889 monthly, \$22,668 (Total \$22,668) EastEnd, Diabetes, Vietnam
11. Veteran awarded 30 % S/C Compensation, effective 8/2003-11/2004, \$318 monthly, \$1,264; 12/2004-11/2005 \$324 monthly, \$3888 (Total \$5152) Streator, Hernia/Bursitis/DJD, Gulf War
12. Veteran's mother awarded SSD benefits, \$465 monthly, effective 1/2005-11/2005, \$5580 (Total \$5580) Earlville, Back condition
13. Veteran awarded 80% S/C Compensation, TDIU, effective 11/2004-12/2005, \$2523 monthly, \$30,276, (Total \$30,276) Ottawa, PTSD, Persian Gulf

14. Veteran awarded SSD benefits, effective 4/2002-5/2005,
\$34,967 retroactive payment; 6/2005-11/2005, \$1789
monthly, \$10,734 (Total \$45,701)
Oglesby, PTSD/Diabetes, VIETNAM

TOTAL SSA AWARDS FOR MONTHS:	\$	88,679.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	387,558.00
TOTAL VA AWARDED FOR MONTHS:	\$	273,371.00
YEAR-TO-DATE:	\$	1,901,333.00
TOTAL AWARDS YEAR-TO DATE:	\$	2,288,891.00