

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - STATE

The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Services Organizations (JLC) modified their top priority legislative objectives on 14 October. Position papers on each priority were emailed to Legislative Reps and are posted on the VCOC website (VirginiaMOAA.com). You will also find links to JLC and Virginia General Assembly on the VCOC website.

MOAA is one of 23 Veterans Services Organizations of Virginia's JLC – all speaking with one voice.

**STORM
RICHMOND
25 JAN 2010**

STATE LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES 2010

1. **Real Estate Tax Exemption for 100% Disabled Veterans.** The JLC requests the General Assembly enact legislation to amend the Virginia Constitution to require local governments to grant real estate tax exemptions for 100% service-connected disabled veterans without regards to means testing. Legislation passed the 2009 General Assembly and **identical language** must also pass the 2010 General Assembly.
2. **Support the Department of Veterans Services FY11-FY12 Budget.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly:
 - a. Continue level funding for the Virginia **Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP)** at \$2 million per year (GF); and
 - b. Appropriate \$100,000 (GF) in FY11 to continue development of the **Automated Claims Processing System for veterans disability claims**; and
 - c. Provide the necessary resources to open and operate the **Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery**: \$40,000 (GF) in FY10, \$285,000 (GF) and \$15,000 (NGF) in FY11 and ongoing, and five positions.
3. **Virginia War Memorial Operating Funds and FFE Funds.** The JLC requests the Governor and General Assembly:
 - a. Appropriate \$910,000 (GF) in FY11 to purchase furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FFE) for the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center; and
 - b. Appropriate \$693,000 (GF) in FY11 and on-going to operate the Center.
4. **Burial Vaults for Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries.** The JLC requests that the Governor and General Assembly appropriate \$36,000 (GF) in FY11 so that burial vaults may be sold at cost at Virginia state veterans cemeteries.
5. **Military and Veteran Court Programs:** The JLC requests that:
 - a. The General Assembly enact legislation that would authorize localities to establish special court programs for veterans and military personnel; and
 - b. An educational program be established to educate judges, attorneys, first responders, and others on the unique challenges faced by combat veterans and the treatment options available to them; and
 - c. A study be conducted to identify further ways of helping combat veterans who come in contact with the legal and criminal justice systems.
6. **Military Family Relief Fund:** The JLC requests an administrative or legislative solution be found so grants from the Military Family Relief Fund are not treated as taxable income.

*/ Sam Wilder, Col, USA, Ret, VCOC Legislative Chair since 2006 and President-Elect for 2010-11
Don Kaiserman, Col, USA, Ret, is VCOC Legislative Chair and 1st VP for 2010-11
Vice-Chair for State Legislation beginning 2010 is John Clickener, LTC, USMC, Ret of Potomac Chapter*