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Winter, 2010

Dear VMFP Member,

Your Board of Directors has voted to pursue a major action initiative for 2010. It begins with 5 legislative priorities.

1. Adoption of [National Veterans and Military Families Policy](#) approved by VMFP Board and submitted to members of Congress in 2009
2. Creation of [Veterans and Military Families' Savings Bond](#), tax-free-at-maturity, which are restricted to support initiatives in the National Veterans and Military Families Policy.
3. Ensure implementation of legislation to benefit those currently serving, veterans, and military families.
4. Eliminate the backlog of veteran benefit approvals.
5. Improve health care for veterans and military families in rural areas.

This effort, entitled **Agenda 2010**, focuses on reaching out to veterans and their families about a small number of key issues where legislation and VA rules changes should significantly improve benefits delivery. Agenda 2010 will seek to (a) convince the VA to effectively and efficiently implement these key changes, (b) place a major lobbying effort before Congress for effective oversight of these implementations, and (c) include a major push to enact the Veteran's Bond Program outlined in our white paper.

The success of Agenda 2010 is heavily dependent upon VMFP Chapters and individual members' actions such as:

- Inform individual veterans and their families about these goals.
- Outreach to veterans and their families to gather insight about problems accessing these new benefits and communicating these stories to the leadership of this project. (outreach@vmfp.org)
- Outreach to other VSOs for assistance in this effort.
- Maintain steady contact with elected officials regarding these issues-

The VMFP Board has also decided to focus on the following key issues:

- Compensation to family/caregivers of severely injured service members (Defense Appropriation Act Section 803)
- Family/caregiver assistance to prevent institutionalization of veterans (Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act (Section 1717A))
- Improved health services for women veterans (Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act (Section 202))
- VA proposed regulation AN-32 streamlining claims processing for PTSD

In the coming weeks I will be broadcasting more details about these projects and providing materials for your use in the outreach effort. In the meantime, I solicit your suggestions and recommendations for strengthening Agenda 2010.

Sincerely,

Tom Howe

Tom Howe VMFP, National President