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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name BLACKWELL, MORTON: FILES

Withdrawer

RBW 7/14/2011

File Folder DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) (1 OF 2)

FOIA

F06-0055/07

Box Number 43

POTTER, CLAIRE

54

DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
1	PAPER	RE. DISABILITY	24	ND	B6

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.



DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS



POST OFFICE BOX 1317
WEST COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29171

(803) 791-4422

ERVIN R. WAGNER, SR., Commander
114 Morse Street
Whitmire, S.C. 29178
Phone: 803-694-2755

PAUL H. GREER, Adjutant
102 S. Howell Street
Greer, S.C. 29651
Phone: 803-877-2088

May 18, 1983

Mr. Blackwell,

Your secretary was asked to leave you a note about my phone call of May 18.

The enclosed letters should explain my purpose in calling and writing.

I hear many comments by members that, "Reagan is cutting our benefits." Even though I know that we are doing okay so far, others don't believe it. Furthermore, we veterans overwhelmingly support your military build-up.

I am convinced that even a brief visit of the Vice President at our State Convention would go a long way to convincing veterans that the Administration respects the sacrifices that have made our country free and powerful.

Would you please lend your support to our request?

Ervin Wagner, Sr

**D
A
V**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**



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May 6, 1983

The Honorable George Bush
Vice President of the United States
OEOB, Room 281
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Vice President Bush:

The annual convention of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of South Carolina, will be held at the Holiday Inn, Clemson, South Carolina on June 3-5, 1983. You will be speaking at Furman University for a special convocation service on Friday, June 3, at 7:30 P.M.

We would be honored if you could arrange your schedule to include an appearance at our convention on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning in Clemson.

Clemson is approximately 43 miles from the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport at Greer, South Carolina. The distance to Furman University is approximately 38 miles.

The Department of South Carolina, Disabled American Veterans, has a membership of 6,713. There are approximately 33,000 disabled veterans in South Carolina

The Department Commanders of The American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the AMVETS, and the Veterans of World War I are scheduled to bring greetings to our convention. Any appearance or address by yourself will be well reported to all the above organizations. Our organizations have a combined membership of more than 100,000 in South Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ervin R. Wagner, Sr.
Ervin R. Wagner, Sr., Commander
Department of South Carolina

DAV

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS



POST OFFICE BOX 1, 17
WEST COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29171

(803) 791-4422

ERVIN R. WAGNER, SR., Commander
114 Morse Street
Whitmire, S.C. 29178
Phone: 803-694-2755

PAUL H. GREER, Adjutant
102 S. Howell Street
Greer, S.C. 29651
Phone: 803-877-2088

May 18, 1983

Mr. Edward G. Galian
National Commander
Disabled American Veterans
PO Box 14301
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Dear Commander Galian:

On June 3, 1983, the Vice President of the United States, George Bush, will be in South Carolina to address the graduating class of Furman University. The Department Convention will be under way at the same time at a nearby location.

We have extended an invitation to the Vice President to make a brief appearance at our Convention.

We have asked for the support of Senator Strom Thurmond, Representative Carrol Campbell, and Congressman Floyd Spence to persuade Vice President Bush to accept our invitation. We also secured a commitment by the South Carolina Adjutant General to provide any needed helicopter airlift. We have commitments from the Department Commanders of The American Legion, VFW, AMVETS, and WWI Veterans of South Carolina to have an officer to be present to greet the Vice President as a show of unity.

We know of only one other appearance before a DAV function of any Vice President, and that was many year ago at a National Convention at New Orleans. We believe this would be a great opportunity for the Administration to show some concern for the veterans of this Country by honoring our request if at all possible.

We ask you to call and write the Vice President to put in a good word for us.

May 18, 1983

Thank you for anything you can do.

Sincerely,

Ervin R. Wagner, Sr.
Ervin R. Wagner Sr., Commander
Department of South Carolina

Enclosure: Letter of invitation to Vice President Bush

cc: Senator Strom Thurmond
Representative Carroll Campbell
Representative Lloyd Spence
Mr. Morton Blackwell, Special Assistant to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1983

Mr. Stephen S. Marozsan,
Chairman
VETERANS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, INC.
54361 Palmer Street
South Bend, Indiana 46637

Dear Chairman Marozsan:

Thank you for your recent letter to me expressing your support for legislation to provide judicial review of decisions of the Veterans Administration concerning claims for veterans' benefits. Your commitment to the interests of disabled veterans is deeply appreciated.

Your letter indicates your view that the existing statutory prohibition of judicial review and the restrictions concerning attorneys' fees for representation in VA claims matters deny veterans constitutionally protected rights.

Statutes precluding judicial review of VA determinations concerning veterans' claims have been a part of the veterans' benefit laws since the 1930's. Restrictions on the receipt of attorneys' fees in veterans' claim matters have been enforced since shortly after the Civil War. Of course, abuse of power and arbitrary and capricious action in the consideration of veterans' claims cannot be condoned. However, despite the longstanding statutory limitations on judicial review and attorneys' fees, the overall fairness of the VA's adjudication process has not been seriously questioned, either by the overwhelming majority of veterans or by the major veterans' service organizations.

As you are probably aware, on June 15 of this year, the Senate approved H.R. 2936 after substituting the terms of S. 636 for the provisions of that bill. The latter bill being the Senate version of legislation providing for limited judicial review of VA claim decisions and permitting receipt of attorneys' fees for representation in connection with claims for veterans' benefits. To date, however, the House of Representatives has yet to act on judicial review legislation.

Similar legislation was approved by the Senate in both the 97th Congress (S. 349) and the 96th Congress (S. 330).

The President recognizes the debt of gratitude owed by this Country to our disabled veterans and shares your commitment to the protection of their rights. It is the Administration's belief that the present process for the adjudication of veterans' claims provides the best available opportunity for fair and efficient resolution of those claims. The Administration is concerned that the prospect of court review and the increased resort to attorneys in representation of veterans would undermine the informal, non-adversary nature of this process, which has worked well for so many years. Therefore, the Administration has not favored passage of the legislation in question as we do not believe it to be in the overall best interests of the veterans.

We also note that the concept of due process, as interpreted by the Federal courts, requires neither judicial review of administrative determinations effecting entitlement to benefits, nor freedom from regulation of financial arrangements between claimants and attorneys. The Supreme Court and other Federal courts have made clear that, as defined by judicial interpretation, section 211(a) of the United States Code title 38 is constitutional. Similarly, the Supreme Court has upheld the attorneys' fees limitations prescribed in current and prior veterans' benefit statutes against challenges based on due process and other constitutional grounds.

Therefore, far from relegating veterans to a second class status in the receipt of government benefits, the Administration believes existing procedures provide veterans with advantages in the pursuit of their claims which are not available to other citizens. In our view, these procedures provide due recognition of the special status of America's veterans.

I would be pleased to review any additional evidence or arguments you may wish to provide concerning the need for judicial review of Veterans Administration decisions. As President Reagan stated in his 1983 Veterans Day Proclamation, "None among us deserve more respect than the millions of patriotic men and women who have worn our Nation's uniform to preserve America's freedom and world peace."

Sincerely,



Morton C. Blackwell,
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

ATTENDEES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1983

Room #194-OEOB
1:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Congressman Norman F. Lent (R-N.Y.)

Mr. Brian Kirkpatrick, Department of State

Lt. Colonel Jerry Venanzi, Department of Defense

Mr. Frank Calderazzo, New York State Chairman
Disabled American Veterans, POW-MIA's

Mr. Rocco Castoro, Italian American War Veteran

Mr. Ralph Clemente, New York State, American Legion
Chairman POW-MIA's

Mr. Joel Cook, National Human Rights Committee for the POW-MIA's

Mr. Milton Farrington, Queens County Commander, VFW

Mr. Henry Grinthal, Catholic War Veterans of the U.S.A.

Mr. Thomas Horn, Marine Corps League, National POW-MIA Chairman

Mr. Frances Johanson, MIA-POW Chairman, Suffolk

Mr. Thomas Kaiser, New York State, American Legion, POW-MIA
Chairman

Mr. Francis Key, Allied Airborne

Mr. William McLaughlin, New York State Commander, of the American
Legion

Mr. Paul O'Connor, Concerned Veterans for MIA-POW's

Mr. Lewis Ortega, Vietnam Veterans of America,
POW-MIA Chairman

Mr. Jack Prismick, Past National President, U.S. Submarine
Veterans of World War II

Ms. Debra Stern, Jewish War Veterans

Mr. Albert Stokes, New York State, American Legion Judge Advocate

Mr. Kenneth Stribling

Mr. Dominic Volte, Sons of Italy

Mr. Seymour Weissman, Jewish War Veterans



Department of Indiana

Disabled American Veterans

2439-2441 WEST 16TH STREET

PHONE 632-9266

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46222



37

*Jean Marie
M.B.*

August 16, 1983

Answered

HONORABLE RONALD REAGAN
President of the United States
% White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Reagan:

We have as members a distinguished group of men who are interested in participating in the Inaugural Parades in the future.

We are including a write-up and some photos of these men. In the write-up you will see some of the programs they have participated in and who these gentlemen are.

We feel that these men are the type that would make any President very proud to have them representing them.

We hope that you will look upon these men in a favorable way.

I remain

Sincerely,

Harold Fields
Harold Fields
State Adjutant

HF:slp

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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) (1 OF 2)

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Motto: "If I cannot speak good of my comrade, I will not speak ill of him."

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NATIONAL SERVICE and LEGISLATIVE HEADQUARTERS
807 MAINE AVENUE, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024
(202) 554-3501

November 8, 1983

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The 63rd National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans will be held in Washington, DC, August 26 through 30, 1984 at the Sheraton Washington Hotel.

On behalf of the more than 810,000 members of the Disabled American Veterans, I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you a very warm, personal invitation to address the Opening Session of our Convention at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 26, 1984.

As you know, the Disabled American Veterans, created in 1920, is the third largest Congressionally chartered veterans' organization. Our national membership is composed of those men and women who incurred disabilities while defending our nation during the course of their active military service.

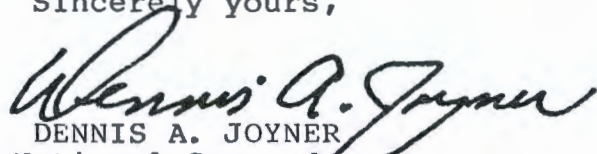
For more than 60 years, the DAV has been the official voice of America's service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors--the leader in advocating rehabilitation for wartime disabled veterans through fair and equitable benefits.

I know the members of the Disabled American Veterans in attendance at our 1984 National Convention would consider it a great honor if you would consent to address the Opening Session of our Convention.

If you are able to accept this invitation, and I hope you will, it would be most appreciated if your staff could inform Mr. Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., National Director of Services, of my Washington Office of your acceptance.

I hope that we shall have the pleasure of your company during our forthcoming National Convention.

Sincerely yours,


DENNIS A. JOYNER
National Commander

DAJ:ar



Motto: "If I cannot speak good of my comrade, I will not speak ill of him."



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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NATIONAL SERVICE and LEGISLATIVE HEADQUARTERS
807 MAINE AVENUE, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024
(202) 554-3501

November 8, 1983

NOV 9 - 1983

*FUT
M.B.
Proposal in*

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Washington, DC 20500

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I hope that we shall have the pleasure of your company during our forthcoming National Convention.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis A. Joyner
DENNIS A. JOYNER
National Commander

DAJ:ar

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 15, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY

FROM:

MORTON C. BLACKWELL *MB*

SUBJECT:

Schedule Proposal - DAV and
Auxiliary

I recommend that the President regret but
that we send a priority surrogate.

Disabled American Veterans has less interest
in defense matters than other veterans
organizations but they are generally supportive.
I think we should have a high profile Adminis-
tration official deliver a strong speech on
defense and foreign policy at this large
gathering.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

MARCH 7, 1983

TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY
FROM: ^{JAL} FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR., DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING
SCHEDULING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

EVENT: Address the National Convention of the Disabled
American Veterans and Auxiliary

DATE: July 31-August 4, 1983 (Prefer Joint Opening Session
on July 31, 1983)

LOCATION: Los Angeles, California

BACKGROUND: See attached

YOUR RECOMMENDATION:

Accept ___ Regret ___ Surrogate ___ Message ___ Other ___
Priority ___
Routine ___

IF RECOMMENDATION IS TO ACCEPT, PLEASE CITE REASONS:

RESPONSE DUE 3-14-83 TO Fred Ryan