

to provide that any disability of a service-connected totally disabled veteran shall be considered for the purposes of outpatient medical treatment to be a service-connected disability incurred or aggravated in a period of war.

Mr. Chairman, on August 15 of this year, the Disabled American Veterans presented testimony relating to the veterans' nursing home care program to the Subcommittee on Intermediate Care of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. As our position on this important matter was fully covered at that time, I am attaching a copy of my statement in an attempt to conserve the Commission's valuable time.

BURIAL BENEFITS

The hearing records indicate there were many recommendations made to the Commission in connection with the national cemetery system. This is a subject which has the abiding interest of the DAV.

Our primary recommendations in this regard are that the operation and maintenance of the national cemeteries be transferred from the Department of the Army to the Veterans' Administration; that legislative matters relating to the cemeteries be transferred from the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee to the jurisdiction of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. We firmly believe that this transfer will serve to bring about solutions to the many longstanding problems associated with the national cemetery system; that at least one national cemetery be established in each State; and that the present \$250 burial allowance be increased to \$400.

It is noted that, in some instances, the next of kin are reluctant to have the veteran buried in a national cemetery. Some are unwilling to use national cemetery space because the cemetery is too far removed from the veteran's hometown. In these circumstances, a \$400 allowance would more adequately defray the expenses of burial in a private cemetery.

CIVIL SERVICE

The DAV has a fundamental and continuing concern with keeping intact the benefits accorded veterans under the Veterans' Preference Act of 1944, as amended. Despite repeated efforts by groups and individuals to weaken or eliminate this protective legislation, the DAV, in cooperation with other veterans' organizations, has thus far successfully opposed and defeated these efforts.

It is our hope that the Commission will recommend that benefits now available under the Veterans' Preference Act continue undisturbed.

INSURANCE

Recommendations in this category include:

(1) Increase to \$30,000 the amount of servicemen's group life insurance which may be held by members of the Armed Forces.

(2) Include in national service life insurance policies a provision for payment of double indemnity for death resulting from service incurred disability.

(3) Permit for 1 year the granting of group life insurance to compensated service-connected veterans in a maximum amount of