

service in the Armed Forces of the United States during a time of war or national emergency.

As you so well know, these costs are but a continuation of the cost of our fight to preserve our freedoms. As I have consistently and constantly stated during my term of office:

Freedom is not free. Its price is continuing vigilance, wisdom, courage, and dedicated effort.

I have unbounded faith in the only source of freedom—the resources and people of this great country.

Mr. Chairman, members of this committee, let me again express my thanks for the opportunity to speak on part of our rehabilitation legislative program for veterans and their survivors, and for providing this forum to express our gratitude to you as well as to the Congress and to the President of the United States for your awareness of, and attention to, the special problems of our veteran population, those who died in the service of our country, and the survivors who have lost their loved ones.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. [Applause.]

(The document referred to follows:)

RESOLUTIONS THAT REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE ACTION

POLICY

Increase mileage allowance for VA beneficiaries

1966 Convention Resolution No. 93 (Minn.) urges that the VA pay a mileage rate consistent with the reasonable expenses incurred by a beneficiary while traveling pursuant to a VA authorization. (HR-15256 introduced by Congressman Teague (Tex.)).

VA hospital be named for Louis A. Johnson

1966 Convention Resolution No. 186 (W. Va.) urges that the Veterans Hospital now located in Clarksburg, W. Va. be named and become known as "The Louis A. Johnson Memorial Hospital." (S-213 introduced by Senator Randolph (W. Va.)).

Oppose hospitalization of nonveterans in VA hospitals

1966 Convention Resolution No. 236 (Pa.) urges that The American Legion oppose any administrative or legislative proposal that would authorize the VA to conduct a hospital program within its facilities for nonveterans.

Curb activities of the Bureau of the Budget

1966 Convention Resolution No. 325 (Idaho) seeks legislation to curtail the power of the Bureau of the Budget over the operations of the VA; and, to provide that the Congress of the United States and the Administrator of Veterans Affairs shall set the policies for the operation of the VA and the administration of benefits for veterans, their survivors, and their dependents.

Oppose reduction and closing of VA services and facilities

1. 1966 Convention Resolution No. 414 (Ohio) urges that the Congress of the United States exert its authority to provide sufficient funds for the VA, so that the Administrator of Veterans Affairs may maintain adequate facilities and offices to prevent the centralization of the administration and adjudication of the active elements of the various programs assigned to the Department of Veterans Benefits.

2. 1966 Convention Resolution No. 489 (Wyo.) seeks legislation to provide that any future plans to close VA facilities be submitted to Congress at least six months prior to the proposed closing date.

Cabinet rank for Administrator of Veterans' Affairs

1966 Convention Resolution No. 660 (Nebr.) seeks legislation to raise the office of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to that of Cabinet rank. (HR-7689 introduced by Congressman Dorn (S.C.)).