

of an adequate system of national cemeteries. I agree 100 percent, too, with your program for increased compensation for disability and and for realistic raises in widows' monthly rate of dependency and increases in indemnity compensation per each child. I have legislation in to that effect to support your goal.

We hear about priorities and appropriations these days, Mr. National Commander. We hear that every day on the floor of the House and in the Nation's press. I think second to defense priorities the next should be for the veterans and for the agency administering the affairs; namely, the Veterans' Administration.

I support the Legion's recommendations for added funds for this agency to carry out its dependable work on behalf of the Nation's veterans. I support these portions of your program as well as all the rest of the American Legion's program 100 percent. Your program is sound; it is realistic; and it is equitable.

Its objectives will not only benefit the Nation's veterans, Mr. National Commander, but, as I see it, and I like to think it is designed to help make this a better America.

I am happy to see and to know that our New York State department commander is here, and I see the Queens County's, my county's delegation here. I would like to let the national commander and this whole national conclave know that the Queens Legionnaires are just about the greatest bunch of dedicated fellows I have ever known.

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. National Commander, for your presentation. I wish you and your fine staff and your excellent staff and your excellent program every success.

I have said it before at this meeting, Mr. Chairman, and I repeat here now, thank God for the American Legion. [Applause.]

Mr. DORN. Thank you, Sy.

Now I want to present to you, Mr. Commander, one of our most faithful members who has authored some very fine legislation supported by the Legion and which has become law, Jim Hanley of New York.

Mr. HANLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Commander Galbraith, our colleague from Nebraska, I, too, want to echo the sentiment expressed here this morning.

Speaking as a past post commander and a lifelong member of the American Legion, I, personally, am proud of you as our national commander.

Certainly, the legislative objectives which you have outlined today are really the minimum which this Nation owes those who have served and have been disabled in our Military Establishment.

I heartily endorse the objectives that you have expressed here today. Certainly with respect to the widows and dependents, all we are providing them is the minimum, so far as their ability to meet the standards of living is concerned, which this Nation owes them in respect to the service provided by their husbands and fathers.

With respect to the cemetery aspect, I, too, concur with what you have said. To me, the Department of the Army ruling with respect to the restriction of burials in Arlington Cemetery was appalling. We had a space problem. We recognize that we did have. It was my thought that this program should proceed until the very last space was used, regardless of the rank of the decedent.