

The quartermaster general, J. A. Cheatham, also from Missouri. [Applause.]

The judge advocate general, Theodore H. Little, from the State of Washington. [Applause.]

The surgeon general, Samuel K. Levy, M.D., from New York. [Applause.]

Our national chaplain, Rev. Robert M. Varner, of South Carolina. [Applause.]

The chief of staff, Daniel S. Brady, from New York. [Applause.]

The inspector general, John A. Tynan, from Massachusetts. [Applause.]

Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce some of our past national commanders, with your permission. We have a large group of them here, as you can see. We will start with the dean of the group as far as the years are concerned.

Paul C. Wolman, from Maryland. [Applause.]

He is not here at the moment. Next we have James E. Van Zandt, from Pennsylvania. [Applause.]

Ray H. Brannaman, from Colorado. [Applause.]

Clyde A. Lewis, from New York. [Applause.]

Charles C. Ralls, from Washington. [Applause.]

Frank C. Hilton of Pennsylvania. [Applause.]

Jimmy Cothran, from South Carolina. [Applause.]

Wayne Richards, from Kansas. [Applause.]

Merton Tice, from South Dakota. [Applause.]

Tim Murphy, from Massachusetts. [Applause.]

The great Richard Roudebush, from Indiana. [Applause.]

John Mahan, from Virginia. [Applause.]

Lou G. Feldmann, from Pennsylvania. [Applause.]

Ted Connell, from Texas. I know Ted is here. [Applause.]

Bob Hansen, from Minnesota. [Applause.]

Joe J. Lombardo, from New York. [Applause.]

Andy Borg, from Wisconsin. [Applause.]

And Les M. Fry, from Nevada. [Applause.]

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. If I might ask Congressman James Burke to stand up. Jim, we're glad to have you.

Will you now introduce the next speaker. [Applause.]

STATEMENT OF JAMES BURKE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. BURKE. Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, it is a great privilege and high honor for me to appear before this distinguished committee this morning. In fact, it is a triple honor, first, because I am a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; second, because I come from the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and third, because I'm sitting in the place of one of the great members of our body, the Honorable Philip J. Philbin, who is unable to be here because of the storm in Massachusetts. And it is quite a difficult job to try to fill his shoes.

It is a really happy experience to introduce a valued friend of mine, Commander in Chief Joseph A. Scerra of the Veterans of Foreign