

LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS OF VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1969

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m., in room 334, Cannon House Office Building, Hon. William Jennings Bryan Dorn (acting chairman) presiding.

Mr. DORN. The committee will come to order.

We want to welcome our visitors here, all of you, to the committee this morning.

Our first witness this morning is the national commander of AMVETS from the great State of Massachusetts, Commander Joseph V. Ferrino. We are honored and flattered and very fortunate to have such a charming colleague and a member of the committee, Mrs. Heckler, to introduce the commander. I understand why and regret that Mrs. Heckler cannot stay with us throughout the hearing. I want the ladies and gentlemen present to understand that committee members have other committee assignments that require our presence.

STATEMENT OF HON. MARGARET M. HECKLER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS, INTRODUCING JOSEPH V. FERRINO, NATIONAL COMMANDER OF AMVETS

Mrs. HECKLER. Mr. Chairman and my colleagues on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, it gives me a great deal of pleasure today to present Mr. Joseph V. Ferrino of Winthrop, Mass., the national commander of AMVETS, for his presentation before this committee. This is a personal privilege for me because I have been familiar with the Ferrino family for many years and have participated in a salute to the commander's brother, Dr. Peter Ferrino, given to him by the East Boston Civic Association 4 years ago and again in 1966 when he received the same award by this association.

As a member of this committee I have made one clear-cut observation during the brief 2 years that I have had the privilege of serving on it, and that is a feeling and a gratitude for the very effective selective processes of the national veterans' organizations in choosing their leaders. Those who become the leaders certainly demonstrate the familiar adage, "the cream rises to the top," and in Commander