

I think we, as interested veterans, should be concerned with what effect that might have. I do appreciate your statement.

I have just one question. On page 8, section 6, subsection (b) where you ask for exemption of 72-year-old pensioners from making the annual report, that refers to both male and female, does it not?

Mr. FERRINO. Yes.

Mr. DENNEY. You didn't spell it out but I assume that is right.

Mr. FERRINO. Yes.

Mr. DENNEY. Thank you so much. Again let me compliment you on a fine statement.

Mr. DORN. Thank you, Mr. Denney.

We have another fine young Member with us today, Mr. Zwach.

Mr. ZWACH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be very brief.

I would like to say to the commander and his delegation that, first of all, it has been my privilege to serve on similar committees in the Minnesota Legislature for many years and I am very enthusiastic about service at the national level.

Now, let me also add that you gave a very clear, lucid presentation and it will provide many hours of homework for me.

Thank you.

Mr. DORN. Thank you, Mr. Zwach.

Mr. Halpern.

Mr. HALPERN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regrettably, I arrived a little late. We had a conflict in the committee meetings this morning. I am glad, though, that I had the opportunity to hear the tail end of your testimony and I am glad to have the opportunity to say how impressed I am by your leadership and by the great work being done by AMVETS.

I know how much our committee welcomes your presentation. I can tell you how much I value your recommendations. I can assure you that every word contained in your program will be absorbed by me. Regrettably, I didn't hear it all. However, I am very familiar with the programs of AMVETS, having served on this committee now for 10 years.

I am sure I won't find in this statement a word that I can disagree with.

After a quick look at your statement, Mr. National Commander, I am delighted about the high priority you give to the national cemetery system under the Veterans' Administration. This has been a long-sought goal of mine and it is certainly a subject of strong personal interest. It is, as you realize, a prime priority for this committee.

I want to compliment you and your organization again. You seek no undue benefits. You are reasonable, you are responsible, you are enlightened and you are intelligent.

My hat is off to you and your organization. Thank you.

Mr. FERRINO. Thank you.

Mr. DORN. Mr. Saylor, of Pennsylvania.

Mr. SAYLOR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Commander, I want to welcome you to the committee and commend you on your statement. I have but one question.

On page 4 you state you feel the Veterans' Administration is adequately equipped to administer this new national cemetery program within the continental limits of the United States.