

conflict veterans; the law merely required that a veteran's service-connected disability be "compensable in degree".

It is our feeling that the veterans who suffers a disability as a result of service during the Vietnam era should receive the same consideration as that given his counterparts who served during World War II or the Korean conflict.

To set straight this inconsistency, we respectfully ask that this committee give thoughtful consideration to our request for removal of the 30-percent requirement imposed by present law.

The DAV also strongly recommends approval of pending legislation to authorize additional training or education for disabled veterans who are no longer eligible for such training, in order to restore employability lost due to technological changes.

Present law provides that when a veteran has received vocational rehabilitation training and employability is restored, eligibility for further training terminates. However, if his service-connected disability increases in severity so that he cannot perform the occupation for which he was previously trained, he may be afforded additional training.

We think it reasonable that this retraining provision should also be made available to the veteran who loses employability because of technological changes, industrial automation, or for other legitimate reasons. It will give to the disabled veteran an opportunity to reestablish himself and to enjoy again the right to live and work in dignity.

The DAV has an abiding interest in the Veterans Employment Service, an agency operating within the United States Department of Labor. We are urgently concerned about the appropriations required for staffing this Federal agency to assure that the disabled veteran receives effective job counseling, proper job placement and referral to occupational training opportunities provided by the GI bill of rights.

Similarly, our organization has a continuing concern with keeping intact the benefits provided wartime veterans under the Veterans Preference Act of 1944, as amended.

Because employment preference represents one of the most significant and useful benefits now available to the service connected disabled, the DAV has, through the years, vigorously opposed attempts to circumvent or eliminate the employment priorities authorized under the 1944 act. Invariably, the DAV and other veterans' organizations have joined successfully in a common effort to turn back these attempts.

Mr. Chairman, time does not permit a detailed account of our current legislative program. However, I should like, with your indulgence, to set forth a few objectives which will draw our attention during the first session of the 91st Congress—objectives which we think stand worthy of your support. The order in which they are presented has no relationship to their order of importance and urgency. In brief, the proposals call for—

Creation of an independent court of veterans appeals;

Monthly allowances for widows who are receiving service-connected death benefits and who are in need of regular aid and attendance;