



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **President Applauded for Averting Veterans Funding Crisis**

WASHINGTON—The Disabled American Veterans applauded President Bush for asking Congress to add \$3.7 billion in emergency funds to the Department of Veterans Affairs budget.

As passed by Congress, the Consolidated Appropriations Act contained \$3.7 billion in “contingency” funding for the VA but the president would have to designate it as emergency spending in order for VA to receive the additional money.

In a letter to the White House, the DAV told President Bush this “much-needed funding is crucial to meeting the needs of this nation’s sick and disabled veterans.”

“For most of the past decade, the VA health care system has been operating in a highly challenging financial environment. Because of funding shortfalls, a series of supplemental appropriations have been enacted to cover health care and other critical needs for our deserving veterans,” said DAV Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman. “But this Congress has responded to our concerns and for the first time acted to fund veterans health care and other programs in line with DAV’s recommendations.”

The DAV thanked the President for his “willingness to provide this increase in funding for veterans programs and services as voted by a bipartisan majority in both the House and Senate and supported by the entire veterans community.”

“With so many brave Americans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, these funds will enable the VA to provide them, and millions of veterans from previous generations, timely access to top-quality health care and other earned benefits and services,” the DAV said.

The 1.3 million-member Disabled American Veterans, a non-profit organization founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932, represents this nation’s disabled veterans. It is dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for our nation’s disabled veterans and their families. For more information, visit the organization’s Web site, [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org).

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