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June 1, 2020

Ms. Linda S. Gibson, Commander
Department of North Carolina
Disabled American Veterans
P.O. Box 90968
Raleigh, NC 27675

Dear Commander Gibson:

The situation in the Department of North Carolina has deteriorated to the point where intervention by the National Organization is unavoidable. The hostilities which continue to exist between the leadership of the Department, its members, local chapters and the Department Executive Committee (DEC) is of great concern. It is also alarming that decisions of the Department are being controlled and determined unilaterally by individuals, and without the proper and final consideration of the DEC, as required by the Department's Bylaws. Concerns regarding the appropriate expenditure and/or allocation of Department and Service Foundation funds have also been called into question.

Therefore, I have determined that the suspension of the Department's charter is in the best interests of the Organization. The duration of the suspension will be as required by the circumstances and as permitted by the Bylaws.

As National Commander, it is my obligation to protect the interests and all assets of the Disabled American Veterans, and all of its subordinate entities. In that regard, in order to oversee and/or carry on the business and affairs of the Department, I am placing the Department under trusteeship during the period of the suspension, in accordance with the provision of *Article 6, Section 6.4, Para. 2 of the National Bylaws*. The Trustees I have appointed are James A. Proconier, William B. Tate, III, and Lisa M. Cornejo. A copy of their appointment letter is enclosed.

I am directing the Trustees to take all necessary action to protect and safeguard the Department's assets. This includes taking immediate possession and control of all real and personal property, meeting minutes, bank accounts, funds and investments of the Department and its incorporated entities (Service Foundation). The Trustees are also authorized to reorganize and restructure the Department in such manner as will enable the Department to achieve and remain in full compliance with National and Department Bylaws, as well as the Regulations of the National Executive Committee. Additionally, employees of the Department will report directly to the Trustees.

Commander Gibson, I am ordering you, the officers and the membership of the Department of North Carolina, to fully cooperate with the Trustees in every respect and not to interfere with the discharge of their duties herein. This includes immediately turning over to the

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Trustees all Department property in your or their immediate or constructive control or possession, or any such property which may otherwise come into your or their possession or control during the period of this suspension and trusteeship, to include all Department bank accounts, real estate and all other personal property.

Should you receive any Department mail, you are directed to promptly turn over such mail to the Trustees. All mail should be surrendered in unopened condition.

Upon conclusion of the suspension, and any Department restructuring and/or reorganizing deemed necessary, and at such time as the Trustees of the Department of North Carolina are satisfied that Department affairs and business activities are in full compliance with the requirements of the National and Department Constitution and Bylaws, as well as the National Executive Committee Regulations, I will review the situation to determine if lifting the suspension of the charter of the Department of North Carolina is warranted, or whether further action will be necessary. Keep in mind, any violations of the National or Department Bylaws, as well as the National Executive Committee Regulations discovered or committed during this suspension may warrant disciplinary action in accordance with *Article 16 of the National Bylaws*. Furthermore, failure to comply and cooperate with the activities of the Trustees may also result in disciplinary action.

Sincerely,



STEPHEN WHITEHEAD
National Commander

SW:kgb
Enclosures

c: James A. Procnier, Trustee
Department of North Carolina

William B. Tate, III, Trustee
Department of North Carolina

Lisa M. Cornejo, Department Adjutant and Trustee
Department of North Carolina

Thomas Walls
NEC 9th District

Levon Cherry, Sr. Vice Commander
Department of North Carolina

Walter McNeil, Treasurer
Department of North Carolina