

April 1, 2009

Senator Daniel Kahikina
Chairman, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
United States Senate
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kahikina;

It is with great pride and my own satisfaction that I would like to bring to your attention a matter that concerns us with respect to the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA). We reviewed recent testimony at a Senate Hearing, at which the BVA was unjustly and inaccurately vilified by the Private Bar and US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (USCAVC). As National Service Director, of The National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO); President, of the New Jersey Association of Veterans Service Officers (NJAVSO) and Director, of the Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau (OCVSB) I see the claims handled by this court system on a daily basis and the Board should be commended for a job “well done”.

We are all aware of the “back log” of Veterans Claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), but are you also aware of the “success stories” from the BVA. Everyone is always so quick to convey the negative about others, but as far as I can see, this board that is made up of four (4) Decision Teams; each team having two (2) Chief Members and a total of forty-eight (48) Veteran Law Judges among the total board, have over achieved and definitely over performed any of their counter parts. It is because of their willingness to travel all over the country to hear the Veterans claims in person, they are able to make good sound decisions to aid our Veterans. This group of professionals should be commended on their successes and thanked for their dedication to our Nation’s Veterans, in processing their claims in a timely manner.

Thank you for your time, devotion and effort you have given to the cause of our beloved Country's Veterans and their families. Should you have any need for further clarification on the above matter, because feel free to contact me at the above caption address or phone.

Very truly yours,

John P. Dorrity MSW, CVA
National Service Director, National Association of County Veteran Service Officers
President, New Jersey Association of Veterans Service Officers
Director, Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau

JPD/ljm

Cc: President, Barack Obama, The White House
Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Bob Filner, Chairman, House Veteran Affairs Committee
James P. Terry, Chairman, Board of Veterans Appeals