



NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS 1st QUARTER MEETING MOAA

Greensboro, NC

March 18, 2017

HARLEY ELLINGER 2D VP

LEGISLATIVE REPORT





POLITICALLY NEUTRAL

PARK YOUR SHIELD, MACE, PIKE, AND

SWORD

AT THE

DOOR



STATUS OF CONGRESS

NATIONAL DEFENSE ACT - 2017
PASSED AND SIGNED INTO
LAW
ON DECEMBER 23, 2016

RESULTS

ALMOST ALL OF
THE GOALS
OF
MOAA
WERE MET

MOAA 2016 GOALS

- 1. Pay raise is 2.1% for active duty.
- 2. Stopped TRICARE fee increases.
- 3. Force levels increased. (slightly)
- 4. Stopped housing allowance cuts.
- 5. Stopped erosion of commissary benefits.
- 6. DID NOT:- eliminate the Widow's Tax



TM

MOAA GOALS - 2017

- 1. Remove the sequester.
- 2. End disabled/survivor financial offsets and penalties.
- 3. Ensure TRICARE reform sustains access to top-quality care.
- 4. Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee hikes & program changes.
- 5. End military pay caps and restore pay comparability – civilian comm.

MOAA GOALS - 2017

- 6. Guard against erosion of earned compensation – commissary.
- 7. Sustain wounded warrior program.
- 8. Credit Guard and Reserve call-ups – retirement purposes.
- 9. Improve and sustain spouse and family support.
- 10. Assure timely access to VA care, and eliminate claims backlog.



SUMMER 2017 LEGISLATIVE VISITS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- Dist. #1 Rep. G.K. Butterfield
- Dist. #2 Rep. George Holding
- Dist. #3 Rep. Walter Jones (COL USA (RET) Iggi Husar)
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- Dist. #4 Rep. David Price (COL USA (RET) Michael Flynn)

SUMMER 2017 LEGISLATIVE VISITS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- Dist. #5 Rep. Virginia Fox (CAPT USCG (RET) Fred Schmitt)
- Dist. #6 Rep. Mark Walker (LTC USANG (RET) Chris Canipe)
- Dist. #7 Rep. David Rouzer
- Dist. #8 Rep. Richard Hudson (COL USA (RET) Juan Chavez)

SUMMER 2017 LEGISLATIVE VISITS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- Dist. #9 Rep. Robert Pittenger (CDR USNR (RET) Carol Aljets)
- Dist. #10 Rep. Patrick McHenry
- Dist. #11 Rep. Mark Meadows
- Dist. #12 Rep. Alma Adams

SUMMER 2017 LEGISLATIVE VISITS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- Dist. #13 Rep. Ted Budd



VETERANS' BILLS - 115TH CONGRESS

- H.R. 27:- SEC OF VA to retain **FOREVER** any disciplinary action against any VA employee in their records.
- H.R. 92:- Increase to age 26 for children to be covered under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of VA.
- H.R. 103:-Require VA to provide Chiropractic Care at 75 centers in 2107 & all centers by 2019.
- H.R. 299:-Extend Agent Orange exposure coverage to blue water Vietnam veterans.

VETERANS' BILLS – 115TH CONGRESS

- H.R. 303:- Retired pay restoration to military retirees with less than 50% disability.
- H.R. 333:- Would expand concurrent receipt for military retirees with less than 50% disability. Include all chapter 61 retirees.
- H.R. 369:- Extend funding for Veterans Choice Act allowing millions of veterans to seek VA funded health care in private sector.
- S. 57:- Requires VA sec. to revoke bonuses paid to employees involved in electronic wait list manipulations.



NEW VA SECRETARY – DR. DAVID SHULKIN

GOALS

- 1. Fire bad employees.
- 2. Extend veteran choice program (31% of VA eligible veterans use)
- 3. Sample the 31% for quality care provided.
- 4. Increase VA infrastructure.
- 5. Provide world class service.
- 6. Better VA – DOD partnership.
- 7. Better electronic medical records.
- 8. Stop veteran suicide.

NEW VA SECRETARY – DR. DAVID SHULKIN

GOALS

- 9. Better appeal process: – reduce time and improve quality.
- 10. Internal improvements:- training, acquisition, discipline, management, quality of care.



AGENT ORANGE ASSOCIATED DISEASES

- 1. Amyloidosis
- 2. Chronic B-cell Leukemia
- 3. Chloracne – (skin acne)
- 4. Diabetes – type 2
- 5. Hodgkins Disease
- 6. Ischemic heart dis. (reduced blood supply to heart)
- 7. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- 8. Parkinson's disease (?)

AGENT ORANGE ASSOCIATED DISEASES

- 9. Peripheral Neuropathy, early onset
- 10. Porphyria Cutanea Tarda – (liver disease)
- 11. Prostate cancer
- 12. Cancer of lung, larynx, bronchus, trachea
- 13. Sarcoma – soft tissue (fat, CT, muscle, blood vessels)
- 14. Birth defects
- 15. Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS) (?)

AGENT ORANGE – VA ADDITIONS

CURRENTLY 17 CONDITIONS IDENTIFIED

- 1. High blood pressure
- 2. Bladder cancer
- 3. Hypothyroidism
- 4. Parkinson's disease (Dementia) (confirmed)
- NOTE: 3.4 million military served in SE Asia from 1964 to 1975.



VA/CAMP LEJEUNE, NC WATER DISABILITY CONDITIONS COVERED

- 1. Kidney cancer
- 2. Liver cancer
- 3. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma
- 4. Adult leukemia
- 5. Multiple myeloma
- 6. Parkinson's disease
- 7. Aplastic anemia
- 8. Bladder cancer

August 1, 1953

to

December 31, 1987





NORTH CAROLINA

STATE ISSUES

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR
OF
4TH BRANCH & NC
VETERANS COUNCIL
COL (RET) JERI GRAHAM

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2017 – 2018 SESSION

- HB #2:- Provides Certain Property Tax Relief.
- HB #11:- Handicap Parking Privilege Certification.
- HB #57:- Enact Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.
- HB #66:- Veterans Plates/Vehicle Weight Restrictions.
- HB #103:- Equal Tax Treatment of Government Retirees.
- HB #118:- Army Special Forces Registration Plate.
- HB #120:- NG Can Purchase From Correction Enterprises.

SENATE

2017 – 2018 SESSION

- S #8:- Occupation License Burdens On Military Families.
- S #12:- Veterans Memorial Fund
- S #57:- Purchase Pistol Permit with Retired Veteran ID.
- S #62:- VA Commission Strategic Plan.
- S #63:- MAC Strategic Plan
- S #64:- Veterans History Awareness Month.

SENTATE

2017-2018 SESSION

- S #106:- National Guard Reemployment Rights/Arbitration.
- S #125:- Children Of Wartime Veterans Modifications.
- S #129:- Track Outcomes Of Veterans Programs.
- S #130:- Provide Funding For NC Military Business Center.
- S #153:- Military State Income Tax Relief.

NORTH CAROLINA VA ISSUES

1. Actual delays of delivery of medical care far worse than records have showed.
2. 90% of veterans eligible for private care because of long waits for medical appointments were not receiving the proper guidance.
3. 1/3 of new patients had wait times of longer than 30 days.
4. In $\frac{3}{4}$ of est. 20,600 medical appointments, the VA staff entered incorrect information making it appear that wait times were less than 30 days.

VA WAIT TIMES

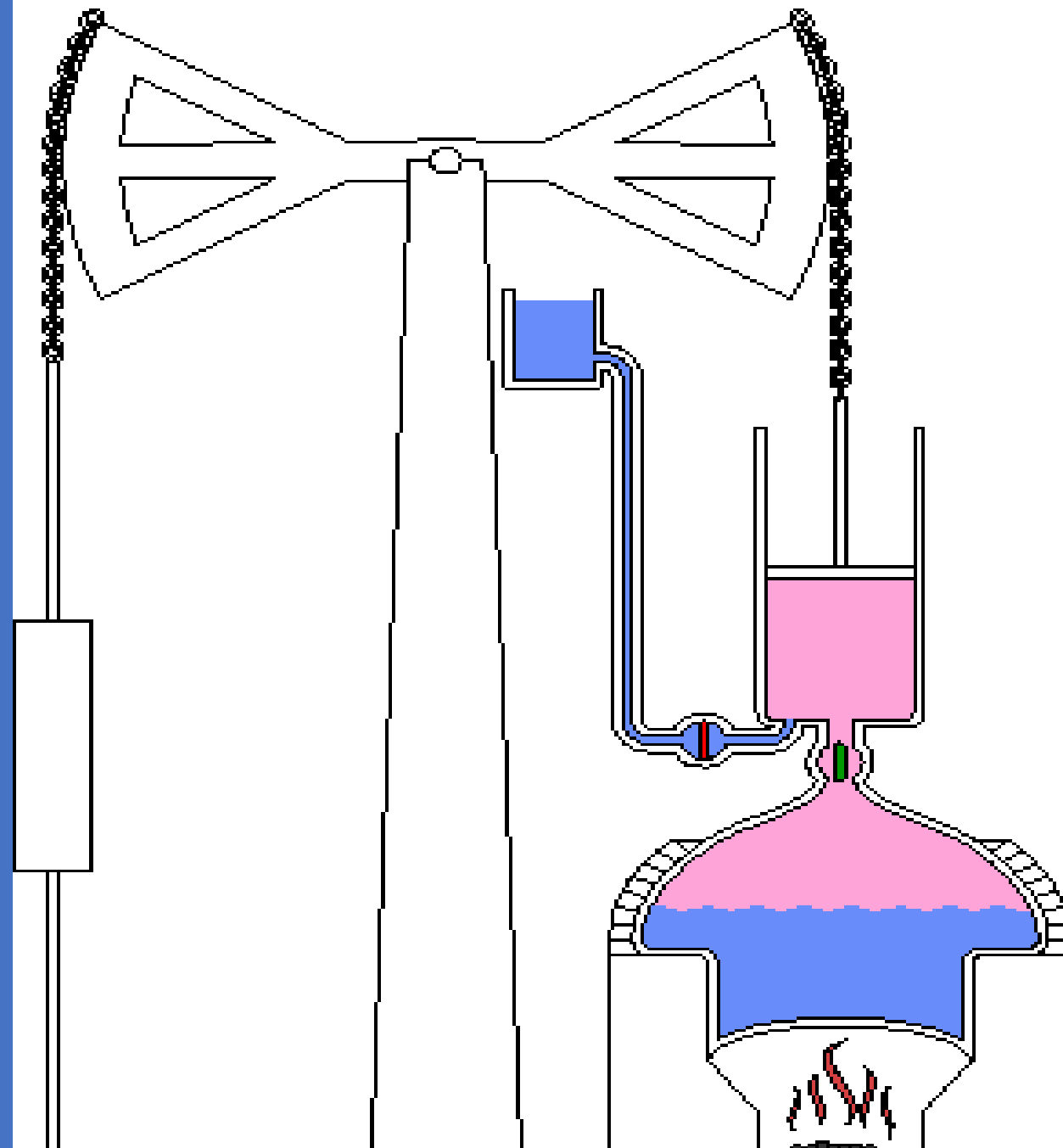
9 HOSPITALS IN NC & 3 HOSPITALS IN VIRGINIA

1. Actual delays in treatment far worse than reported.
2. 90% of veterans eligible to see private doctors were not getting the proper guidance needed to enter the Choice Program.
3. 1/3 of new patient appointments had wait times exceeding 30 days.
4. Inspector General 10 month audit showed widespread inaccuracies that masked the true wait times for medical care.
5. Management must make employees follow the rules.

VA ISSUES

DISCUSSION

WHAT CAN WE DO!



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

“GET INVOLVED”

- NATIONAL:- www.moaa.org (request MOAA legislative Updates)
- STATE:- www.4thbranch.org (request legislative updates)
www.moaa-nc.org (view legislative presentations)

RESPOND TO LEG. REQUESTS

NATIONAL AND STATE

“STORM THE HILL”

- WASHINGTON, DC - Wednesday, April 5, 2017
- RALEIGH, NC - Wednesday, April 26, 2017

