

2010 LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES

1. **Real Estate Tax Exemption for 100% Disabled Veterans.** The AMERICAN LEGION, DEPT. OF VIRGINIA requests that the General Assembly enact legislation to amend the Virginia Constitution to require local governments to grant real estate tax exemptions for 100% service-connected disabled veterans without regards to means testing. Identical legislation passed the 2009 General Assembly and must also pass the 2010 General Assembly.
2. **Support the Department of Veterans Services FY11-FY12 Budget.** The AMERICAN LEGION, DEPT. OF VIRGINIA requests that the Governor and General Assembly:
 - a. Continue level funding for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) at \$2 million per year (GF); and
 - b. Appropriate \$100,000 (GF) in FY11 to continue development of the Automated Claims Processing System for veterans disability claims; and
 - c. Provide the necessary resources to open and operate the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery: \$40,000 (GF) in FY10, \$285,000 (GF) and \$15,000 (NGF) in FY11 and ongoing, and five positions.
3. **Virginia War Memorial Operating Funds and FFE Funds.** The AMERICAN LEGION, DEPT. OF VIRGINIA requests that the Governor and General Assembly:
 - a. Appropriate \$910,000 (GF) in FY11 to purchase furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FFE) for the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center; and
 - b. Appropriate \$693,000 (GF) in FY11 and on-going to operate the Center.
4. **Burial Vaults for Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries.** The AMERICAN LEGION, DEPT. OF VIRGINIA requests that the Governor and General Assembly appropriate \$36,000 (GF) in FY11 so that burial vaults may be sold at cost at Virginia state veterans cemeteries.
5. **Military and Veteran Court Programs:** The AMERICAN LEGION, DEPT. OF VIRGINIA requests that:
 - a. The General Assembly enact legislation that would authorize localities to establish special court programs for veterans and military personnel; and
 - b. An educational program be established to educate judges, attorneys, first responders, and others on the unique challenges faced by combat veterans and the treatment options available to them; and
 - c. A study be conducted to identify further ways of helping combat veterans who come in contact with the legal and criminal justice systems.
6. **Military Family Relief Fund:** The AMERICAN LEGION, DEPT. OF VIRGINIA requests that an administrative or legislative solution be found so that grants from the Military Family Relief Fund are not treated as taxable income.