The role of the concerned, friendly advisor was recommended to The American Legion as the best means of serving the Vietnam Period veteran and of interesting him in the organization's activities. The recommendation was one of several made by six Vietnam Period veterans who formed a special advisory committee to the Legion which recently opened its ranks to this new generation of war veterans.

* * *

Payments of nearly $1-million in claims during 1966 set a new record for The American Legion Life Insurance Plan. Claims of $976,474 last year brought the total to $4,051,937 paid out since the Legion's official insurance program was adopted in 1958.

* * *

Pittsburgh's top police officer and FBI officer were principal speakers at the recent Police Seminar held at Ft. Black Post 538 of The American Legion. Approximately 350 persons participated in the seminar.

* * *

Lincoln Post 3 of Lincoln, Neb., with 6,714 members, maintained its position as the world's largest American Legion Post. It is one of 29 king-sized Legion posts with a membership of 2,000 or more for the period ending Dec. 31, 1966.

* * *

The awarding of The American Legion's Reserve Officer Training Corps Medals for military and scholastic excellence to high school and college students increased four-fold last year over the previous year.

* * *

Frank W. Naylor of Kansas City, Kas., can claim the distinction of being the first Vietnam Period veteran to hold a position of leadership at The American Legion's national level. He was selected by his fellow committee members as chairman of the recent Vietnam Veterans Advisory Committee. The committee was appointed to advise the Legion in planning programs and activities of interest to the new veteran.

* * *

American Legionnaires through age 29 can have $11,500 in term insurance coverage for a $24 a year premium. The increased scale of benefits--aimed at the younger Vietnam Period veteran age group--is a recent improvement to The American Legion Insurance Plan.

-alns-

++ FOR COMMUNITY PEACE SUPPORT YOUR POLICE ++

Is your post behind this positive program?
SIX VIETNAM VETERANS ADVISE LEGION
ON HOW BEST TO SERVE THE NEW VETERAN

INDIANAPOLIS-(ALNS)—The role of the concerned, friendly advisor was recommended to The American Legion as the best means of serving the Vietnam Period veteran and of interest¬
ing him in the organization's activities.

The recommendation was one of several made by six Vietnam Period veterans who served as a special advisory committee to the Legion which recently opened its ranks to this new generation of war veterans.

The Vietnam Veterans Committee was appointed by National Commander John E. Davis of Bismarck, N. D., to assist the Legion in planning programs and activities by presenting the viewpoint of the new war veteran.

The special committee made its report at a recent meeting here of the Legion's Na¬
tional Membership and Post Activities Committee. Earl D. Franklin of Sterling, Colo., National Membership chairman, presided.

Frank W. Naylor of Kansas City, Kas., who was selected by his fellow Vietnam Committee members as chairman, further recommended that this advisory contact with the young service¬
man start upon his entry into service and continue until his discharge and readjustment to civilian life.

In presenting the committee's report, Naylor emphasized that the Legion's concern should be shown through personal letters to the young serviceman and by contacts with his family by local Legionnaires.

Naylor emphasized that the young serviceman lacked full and adequate information on veterans' rights, including educational benefits. He suggested that the Legion step in and fill this void through informational releases to such service publications as "Stars and (More)
He also suggested the preparation and distribution of special information kits on the same subject.

The former Navy officer also pointed out that the local Legion Post service officer could render valuable assistance to the serviceman's family.

In the area of programs, the Vietnam Veterans Committee called for an expansion of the Legion's Americanism program with this comment:

"The committee felt that the Americanism program is of major concern to most returning veterans and that this program should be greatly expanded during the present conflict through the development of newspaper, radio and TV support, the fielding of top-notch speaking teams in local communities to again drive home the 'Show Your Flag' theme to bring patriotism back into the community in cooperation with other civic organizations."

Naylor declared that the other side of the question of patriotism ... the role of the beatnicks, flag-burners and draft card burners ... gets too much attention and presents a distorted viewpoint of the thinking of most young Americans.

While emphasizing the need to plan activities that are attractive to the Vietnam veteran, the committee stressed that it felt these activities should not be events, etc., limited to this younger group of veterans.

The committee stressed what it believed to be the Vietnam veterans' desire to be assimilated into the Legion and to be made to feel an important contributing part of it. Expanding committees to include this new veteran group was one of the suggestions made toward accomplishing this result.

Besides the chairman, other members of the special committee included: Lance Bourquin, Helena, Mont.; James E. Fowler, Palisade, Colo.; Kenneth T. Krom, Cheshire, Conn.; James W. Laske, Osseo, Mich.; and Paul Pickard, Ponca City, Okla.

The six, all new Legionnaires, represented different Legion departments. They also represented a cross section of the armed forces by past service. All have demonstrated leadership ability. Most have served tours in Vietnam. Several of the group are in school or other training programs.

The six men are the first Vietnam Period veterans to serve in any capacity at the national level of this 2.5-million-member veterans organization. Being selected by the committee as its chairman gives Naylor claim to the distinction of being the first Vietnam Period veteran to serve in a leadership capacity at the Legion national level.

Naylor, 27, who served in Vietnam as a Navy lieutenant, is a former governor of The American Legion Boys State in Kansas and a former delegate to Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. He is now employed by Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. in Kansas City, Kas.

Besides Membership Chairman Franklin, those working with the Vietnam Veterans Committee included Kenneth L. Young, of Topeka, Kas., adjutant of the Kansas American Legion Department, and William E. Galbraith of Beemer, Neb., former Legion National Vice Commander.
WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--The awarding of The American Legion's Reserve Officer Training Corps Medals for military and scholastic excellence to high school and college students increased four-fold last year over the previous year.

Creation of new and attractive medals, officially approved by the Department of Defense and covered by the official regulations of each of the services, gave impetus to this awards program carried on under the direction of the Legion's National Security Commission.

Legion improvement action on its medals program began after passage of the Legion-backed ROTC Vitalization Act of 1964. Student participation in the various ROTC programs since that act's passage has reached new heights.

The revitalized ROTC Medal program is geared to the local Legion post, and the local post is expected to serve as the contact point for the Professors of Military/Naval Science or Aerospace Studies. Where no contact has been made by those officials, posts should contact the high school or college and make officials there fully aware of this program.

School award ceremonies usually begin in April and continue through June. For this reason, it is essential that early contact be made to determine what medals will be awarded and how the local post will participate in such ceremonies. Medals also need to be purchased from The American Legion National Emblem Sales, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206.

ROTC represents the greatest source of officers for the military services. Young men participating in ROTC help their country by preparing themselves for leadership roles. Through the Legion's ROTC Medal program, posts can provide an incentive to youths to continue their ROTC interest and participation.

-ALNS-

INDIANAPOLIS--(ALNS)--Lt. Col. Virgil I. (Gus) Grissom, who with his fellow astronauts, Lt. Col. Edward H. White, 2d, and Lt. Comdr. Roger B. Chaffee, died Jan. 27 when they were trapped in their burning Apollo space craft at Cape Kennedy, Fla., was a member of Cecil C. Martin Post 250 of The American Legion located at his hometown, Mitchell, Ind.

Colonel Grissom was one of three outstanding Legionnaires and astronauts honored by the Legion at its 1962 Washington Conference for "consummate skill and great personal bravery in America's scientific endeavors to conquer the frontiers of space." Col. John H. Glenn, Jr. and Capt. Alan B. Shepard, Jr. were the other astronauts honored.

-ALNS-
INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—Lincoln Post 3 of Lincoln, Neb., with 6,714 members, maintained its position as the world’s largest American Legion Post.

Lincoln Post’s continued hold on the top spot was disclosed this week with the release of the list of 29 king-sized posts of 2,000 or more 1966 members enrolled for the period ending Dec. 31, 1966 as reported to National Headquarters by the various Department Adjutants.

The Posts are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POST</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>MEMBERSHIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
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<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>6714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post 1</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>6482</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Lowe-McFarlane Post 14</td>
<td>Shreveport</td>
<td>4763</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
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<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>4710</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Alonso Cudworth Post 23</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>4586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Omaha Post 1</td>
<td>Omaha</td>
<td>3999</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>East Liberty Post 5</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>3543</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Adam Plewaki Post 799</td>
<td>Buffalo</td>
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<td>9.</td>
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<td>Huntsville</td>
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<td>10.</td>
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<td>Cedar Rapids</td>
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<td>11.</td>
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<td>12.</td>
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<td>Okinawa, R. I.</td>
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<td>14.</td>
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<td>15.</td>
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<td>Miami</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Nashville Post 5</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>Sioux Falls Post 15</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>Carson-Wilson Post 1</td>
<td>Tulsa</td>
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<td>19.</td>
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<td>20.</td>
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<td>21.</td>
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<td>Los Angeles Police Post 381</td>
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<td>26.</td>
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<td>28.</td>
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<td>29.</td>
<td>Spokane Post 9</td>
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PITTSBURGH, PA.--(ALNS)--Pittsburgh's top police officer and FBI officer were principal speakers at the recent Police Seminar held at Ft. Black Post 538 of The American Legion.

Neighborhood Community Council and Post 538 and the latter's Auxiliary cooperated in staging the event aimed at providing emphasis for the Legion's law and order program. Approximately 350 persons participated in the seminar.

Pittsburgh Police Superintendent James Slusser outlined his department's functions as well as the role of citizens in respect to community security.

Special Agent Ian D. MacLennan, who heads the FBI's Pittsburgh Office, described his agency's role in fighting crime at the national and community levels.

Superintendent Slusser's three top assistants joined him on the program by adding an explanation of the work of each of the divisions under their supervision. Ten patrolmen who walk a beat in the community area were introduced by their inspector.

A demonstration of two police dogs in action against firearms was a real crowd pleaser.

Many seminar participants saw for the first time such items of police equipment as a lie detector and a breathalizer. Other items displayed included weapons taken from youthful offenders and narcotics and equipment used by addicts. Those items were among many shown in 11 interior exhibits. An outside exhibit featured special police vehicles.

Pittsburgh Fire Chief Harry Keller was on hand as an observer.

--alns--

FOR COMMUNITY PEACE SUPPORT YOUR POLICE

ALNS CORRECTIONS FOR 1-27-67

In last week's American Legion News Story on the sites, dates and times for The American Legion's 1967 National High School Oratorical Contest, three corrections should be made.

The year should be corrected to 1967 from 1966. Maryland should be added as a competing department under Regional 3 and Florida under Regional 5. Naturally, we regret this inconvenience to you.

--alns--
CHICAGO, ILL. — (ALNS) — Payments of nearly $1-million in claims during 1966 set a new record for The American Legion Life Insurance.

Claims of $976,474 last year brought the total to $4,051,937 paid out since the Legion's official insurance program was adopted in 1958.

AN ATTRACTIVE BUY

American Legionnaires through age 29 can have $11,500 in term insurance coverage for a $24 yearly premium. The increased scale of benefits — aimed at the younger Vietnam Period veteran age group — is a recent improvement to The American Legion Life Insurance Plan.

For an annual premium of $12, the same age group can purchase a half unit providing $5,750 coverage through age 29. (In Ohio these benefits are different.)

Legion membership workers should point out this "buy" to Vietnam Period veterans. It is an excellent fringe benefit available to them upon enrollment. For further details write to The American Legion Life Insurance Plan, P. O. Box 5609, Chicago, Ill. 60680.

Payments in 1966 went to the beneficiaries of insured former American Legionnaires in 50 departments of The American Legion, according to William S. Todd of Kingsport, Tenn., chairman of The American Legion Life Insurance and Trust Committee.

New York with $112,463 led all departments in total claims paid, Todd pointed out. Illinois was second with $82,660.

The Legion Insurance Plan has paid a total of 3,500 claims since it was instituted nine years ago.

Claims are processed at the office of The American Legion Life Insurance Plan, P. O. Box 5609, Chicago, Ill. 60680. Information on and application forms for this low-cost insurance plan may be obtained by writing there.

(More)
A breakdown by departments of the nearly $1-million in claims paid out last year follows:

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<th>State</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
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</table>

WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--Veterans Administrator William J. Driver has extended his thanks to two men who helped make it possible for nearly 9,000 VA hospitalized veterans in the Los Angeles area to view football's recent Super Bowl Game over closed circuit TV.

They are Robert M. McCurdy of Pasadena, Calif., chairman of The American Legion National Rehabilitation Commission, and Peter Rozelle of New York, commissioner of the National Football League. McCurdy pointed out to Rozelle that the Los Angeles area TV blackout would deprive the hospitalized veterans, many back from Vietnam, of seeing the game. Rozelle promptly made arrangements to have the game piped into the VA hospitals over closed circuit TV.

NEW YORK--(ALNS)--Jack E. Specter recently was tendered a testimonial dinner at the Overseas Press Club here. The occasion marked Specter's 30 years of service as Liaison officer in the United States for Paris Post 1 of The American Legion, Paris, France.

The approximately 150 in attendance saw Specter presented with an inscribed plaque to mark his service.
American Legion National Commander John E. Davis of Bismarck, N. D., in a telegram to the White House, has congratulated President Johnson for his "landmark message" to Congress concerning the expansion of benefits for servicemen and veterans.

***

The Senate, moving swiftly early this week, approved President Johnson's program of expanded wartime benefits to Vietnam Era veterans. Passed by voice vote and sent to the House was a $9.7-million increase next year in such benefits as veterans' hospital care, increased compensation to wounded veterans and their families and aid for car purchases by seriously disabled former servicemen.

***

President Johnson has recommended to Congress a 5.4 per cent increase in pensions for 1.4-million veterans, their widows and dependents. He also asked for safeguards to assure that no veteran would suffer a pension reduction because of an increase in federal retirement benefits such as Social Security.

***

The American Legion has asked the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to reject the proposed consular treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union. In testimony before the committee, it was emphasized that the establishment of Soviet consulates and staffs in the United States would be tantamount to granting a "license to spy."

***

American Legion National Commander John E. Davis of Bismarck, N. D., told the Vermont State Legislature in Montpelier that America has two battles to win, and victory in one is meaningless without victory in the other. Besides winning the struggle for freedom in Vietnam, America must curb its rising crime rates and restore respect for the forces of law and order at home, the Legion chief declared.

NEW LEGION SPEECH MAILED

Copies of Suggested Address No. 173 for American Legion speakers on the Legion's 48th anniversary, March 15-17, 1967, were shipped this week to the various departments. Those desiring copies of this address, prepared by the Legion's National Public Relations Division, should contact their respective department adjutants.

-alns-

++ FOR COMMUNITY PEACE SUPPORT YOUR POLICE ++

Mr. Legionnaire, are you behind this program?
WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—The Senate, moving swiftly early this week, approved President Johnson’s program of expanded wartime benefits to Vietnam Era veterans.

Passed by a voice vote and sent to the House of Representatives was a $9.7-million increase next year in such benefits as veterans’ hospital care, increased compensation to wounded veterans and their families and aid for car purchases by seriously disabled former servicemen. Benefits under the bill would total $79.9-million over the next five years.

President Johnson requested the expanded benefits in a special message to Congress only eight days before the Senate’s action on Feb. 7.

The American Legion commends and applauds the President for his “landmark message” to Congress concerning the expansion of benefits for servicemen and veterans.

The text of the National Commander’s telegram follows:

"The American Legion commends and applauds your landmark message, to the Congress of the United States, dealing with servicemen and veterans. We endorse your eloquent expression of the principles that war veterans have earned a special place in our society. We are encouraged by your determination to grant our veterans full recognition for their service in Vietnam and in other troubled areas of the world.

Although we await details on some of the specific proposals, I wish to express the appreciation of The American Legion for the program you have recommended to the Congress. There are, of course, additional needs that require attention. We note that you have directed the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study aimed, in part, at insuring that the government is meeting fully its responsibilities to all those to whom we owe so much. We look forward to early action by the Administrator leading ultimately to a veterans’ program as sound and as generous as this nation can provide."
The President then asked, in effect, that all servicemen who serve on or after Aug. 5, 1964, be considered war veterans and made entitled to benefits "comparable to those granted their comrades of World War I, II and Korea."

The bill would cover those who have served at least 90 days since Aug. 5, 1964, when North Vietnamese torpedo boats fired on United States warships in the Gulf of Tonkin. The attack led to retaliatory air strikes by the United States.

Provisions of the Senate-passed bill are a part of The American Legion's legislative goals for this session of Congress. These legislative objectives are mandated by Convention resolution.

Speedy action by the Senate was helped by groundwork done last year. The Senate had approved such legislation then, but the bill died in the House in the rush of adjournment.

These additional benefits would be provided by the bill:

1. Disability compensation at wartime rates, which are 20 per cent higher than those for peacetime, to an estimated 33,000 Vietnam veterans.

2. Pensions for non-service connected disability and death would be extended to veterans and their families.

3. A $250 burial allowance would be given for the Vietnam Era veterans.

4. Federal payment of a veteran's drug costs, nursing home care and hospital treatment in either veteran or private facilities. A veteran developing a mental disorder two years after discharge also would get federal hospital treatment.

5. Grants of up to $1,600 would be given to seriously disabled veterans toward the purchase of a specially equipped automobile.

Still in committee were bills to increase G. I. Life Insurance to a minimum of $12,000 depending on a serviceman's pay. There is a Legion Convention resolution seeking improvements in this insurance program.

Sen. Joseph M. Montoya of New Mexico, said the measure is essential. "It would ill behove a nation which pioneered in providing for its veterans to turn its back on them now," the Senator declared.
WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—The American Legion has asked the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to reject the proposed consular treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Warren H. MacDonald, Legion research director, in testimony before the committee, said that this is not the time to be entering on courses of interaction "that give the appearance that we are in peaceful partnership with the Soviet Union."

The Legion research director also emphasized that the establishment of Soviet consulates and staffs in the United States would be tantamount to granting a "license to spy."

He told the committee that the Legion's position against the proposed treaty was established by resolutions adopted at the annual national conventions in 1964-65-66.

"The treaty raises a variety of issues," MacDonald emphasized. "We think the most important of these are:

1) Is it consistent with over-all U.S. foreign policy to enter into an agreement of this nature with a communist power that is -- at the same time -- providing massive military assistance to a third party with which the United States is engaged in combat? 2) Is it in the interest of the U. S. to permit the reestablishment of consulates in major American cities by a government which has as its primary objective the subversion of the government and people of the United States? 3) Is the treaty itself sound in all respects? 4) Will all of the predictable or possible consequences of ratification be of benefit to the United States?

"We are convinced that all four of these questions should be answered in the negative. Thus, we oppose the treaty on principle and because we believe certain of its provisions specifically, those contained in Article 19, section 2 -- would, if given effect, be both an unwise precedent and an unnecessary threat to the internal security of the United States," MacDonald emphasized.

"In the more than two and one-half years this treaty has been before the Senate, most opponents of ratification have emphasized the dangers of the 'diplomatic immunity' clause in Article 19, section 2, while the proponents have emphasized the gains to be derived from the 'notification and access' clauses in Article 12, sections 2 and 3. It is our feeling, that even if the Soviets were to comply fully with the 'notification and access' provisions, this otherwise desirable objective would not be worth the risks inherent in Article 19.

"The American Legion believes there are many reasons why the Senate should not advise and consent to the ratification of this Consular Convention with the Soviet Union. We have dealt largely, above, with what we considered to be a technical defect in the treaty; namely, that Article 19 would provide the communist 'consular' agents in America with a license to spy," MacDonald pointed out.

"Going beyond the terms of the treaty itself, however, we are satisfied that its ratification would in no way produce a meaningful improvement in U. S. - U.S.S.R. relations or a true abatement of tensions between us; it would not serve to increase normal trade between the two countries, assuming (but not agreeing) this to be a desirable objective at this time.

MORE
Legion testimony before Senate - Page 2

"On the other hand, ratification would tend to increase unduly the Soviets' prestige among the uncommitted nations; it would tend to enhance their capacity for the spread of communism; it would add greatly to the complications and costs of combating Soviet-directed intelligence activities here; and, it could place in jeopardy our policy of non-recognition of the Soviets' forceful takeover of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union has failed to settle its debts with the U.S. and to make proper arrangements regarding the property rights of American citizens who are former nationals of the U.S.S.R.

"However valid the foregoing reasons for non-ratification of this treaty, there is -- in the final analysis - one overriding, all-important reason that must not be ignored. The American Legion insists that this is not the time to be entering upon courses of interaction which give the appearance that we are in peaceful partnership with the Soviet Union!

"That country's leaders have made perfectly clear that they are in the Vietnam conflict to stay. When Soviet President Podgorny commenced his state visit to Italy, less than ten days ago, he declared bluntly that: 'The Soviet Union is giving and will continue to give ... North Vietnam ever-growing aid until the full triumph of the just cause for which the Vietnamese people are struggling.' The U.S. News & World Report distributed last week documents the massive nature and value of the vital war supplies now flowing, in ever-increasing amounts, from the Soviet bloc countries to North Vietnam.

"Russian-made and perhaps Russian-manned missiles and guns are killing American flyers almost daily. Lately, there have been reports of Russian mines planted in the ship channel into Saigon. The Soviets have a radar and communications vessel in the Tonkin Gulf, monitoring our carrier activities there and providing timely warning to the gun and missile crews, and the Mig pilots of North Vietnam.

"Both our free-world allies and our communist enemies interpret our double-standard policy toward the Soviet Union as a sign of weakness, if not confusion. Britain, France, and West Germany have told us bluntly that if the U.S. sees fit to increase trade with the Soviet bloc, they can see no reason not to trade with Red China, and Cuba, in addition to the rest of the communist world. And they are following through with large deals, involving materials and technical know-how, which have distorted the term 'strategic' beyond repair. And, this trend seemingly was sanctioned by our Government when it recently removed 400 'non-strategic' items from what had been a 'strategic' list, unilaterally maintained by the U.S." MacDonald said.

"What is worse, our fighting forces in Vietnam do not understand why our official policy is to increase trade with the Soviets and their satellites. Our men there know full well -- often from bitter personal experience -- that the Soviets are backing to the hilt the enemy they face daily.

"It is true that the morale among our troops in Vietnam is outstanding. But many of the men there with whom we have had contact, both personally and through correspondence, are puzzled and disturbed by what they consider to be an illogical and dangerous East-West policy on the part of their government. They are being asked by that government to bear the brunt of its policies in the 'hot war' with communism; they need to know that its 'cold war' policies are equally realistic and that both have the same objective," the Legion spokesman stated.
For release 2-10-67

*** FOR COMMUNITY PEACE SUPPORT YOUR POLICE ***

(The fillers below are provided to American Legion editors for use in support of the Legion's law and order program. Local Post public relations officers also might find it possible to get the fillers into the hands of the editors of their community newspapers for similar use.)

***

The American Legion believes that government by law and an orderly society are foundation stones supporting America's greatness. Every citizen shares in the duty of their preservation. Will you do your part?

The American Legion believes that law and order are basic to a free, progressive society. Each citizen shares the vital duty of their preservation.

The American Legion believes that America's greatness was achieved through a stability founded upon intelligent recognition of the need for law and order. No society can progress without these elements. Will you do your part to see that they are preserved in our society?

The American Legion believes that law and order have helped to produce the atmosphere in which America has achieved greatness. Let us help to keep her that way.

The American Legion believes that government by law within an orderly society have provided the fertile soil for our progress as a nation and as individuals. Laws are as strong and as effective as the individual citizen's desire and will to keep them that way. Do your part.

The American Legion believes that law and order are precious ingredients of America's greatness, but they are endangered from within and from without. Will you share their defense by forthright citizenship?

The American Legion believes that a government of law and an orderly society are your birthright. Don't let them be sold short by personal shortcomings or by apathy.

The American Legion believes that America, under a government of law within an orderly society, has made more progress than any nation in history. Will you shoulder your share of responsibility to assure that progress continues tomorrow?

The American Legion urges you to keep the American way by supporting law and order.

The American Legion urges you to build the American way by upholding law and order.

Ours is a government of law and order. The American Legion urges all citizens to keep it that way by supporting the forces of law and order.

-alns-
INDIANAPOLIS--(ALNS)--Four new 16 mm films have recently been added to The American Legion's motion picture library for showing at the post level. Orders should be directed to: Film Library, The American Legion, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206.

Because of the limited number of prints available, at least one or two alternate showing dates in addition to a specific showing date should be listed with your order.

The new films are:

"The Contest" (1967) (30 minutes) (Black and White) A behind the scene look into the makings of an outstanding drum and bugle corps and the reasons for having an American Legion corps in your community. The film features the Cavaliers, the 1966 National Champion Junior Drum and Bugle Corps, sponsored by the First National Bank of Chicago Post 985. (Service fee: $2.50)

"Kansas Boys State" (1966) (28 minutes) (Color) Produced by the audio visual unit at the University of Kansas, this excellent Americanism movie shows "the learn by doing" government activities of The American Legion's Kansas Boys State held each year at Lawrence, Kans. (Service fee: $2.50)

"The Neglected" (1967) (30 minutes) (Black and white) This Child Welfare motion picture shows the problems of rehabilitating the lowest level of economic casualties in the American scene. "The Neglected" shows how immoral, immature, abusive, and emotionally unstable human beings can be helped to achieve acceptable standards of parenthood. (Service fee: $2.50)

"Song of the Lark" (1967) (13½ minutes) (Color) Another excellent child welfare addition, this film presents a status report on cystic fibrosis. A story of hope for those affected, the film handles in a general way the diagnosis, treatment and research as each relates to the cystic fibrosis child. (Service fee: $1.75)

 Individual copies of The American Legion's 1967 film catalog are available from The American Legion, Film Library, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206.
MONTPELIER, VT.-(ALNS)--America has two battles to win, one at home and one in South Vietnam, and victory in one is meaningless without victory in the other, American Legion National Commander John E. Davis of Bismarck, N. D., told the Vermont State Legislature this week.

Commander Davis, himself a former member of the North Dakota State Senate and twice governor of that state, recently toured the Far East and South Vietnam, expressed the opinion that the victory to be won there is one of securing United States and free world objectives of preventing a communist takeover of South Vietnam and permitting the South Vietnamese the right of self-determination.

"We probably will not see a military victory in the historic sense of the ultimate confrontation of opposing forces on the field of battle, culminated by the total collapse of the enemy. This is not really what we seek. We are there in response to a commitment to defend freedom against aggression and to convince the communist aggressor that he cannot afford his so-called wars of liberation. We fight there in the defense of the principles of freedom and democracy, and for the preservation of those principles for the Vietnamese and for ourselves," the Legion chief asserted.

"While our fighting men uphold the symbols of decency on the battle front, it is the duty of every citizen to uphold those symbols on the home front. It makes little sense to send men 10,000 miles from home to defend our freedom while we at home permit the fruits of victory to be dissipated through lethargy and indifference," he continued.

"Our fight here," Commander Davis emphasized, "is to curb our spiraling crime rates and to rekindle a respect for the forces of law and order and our established institutions of government here at home. We are a government of laws and not of men. We cannot select which laws to obey and which to ignore, nor can we permit others to do so, and still hope to survive as an orderly society."

Commander Davis said The American Legion now is involved in a nationwide project to focus attention on this problem and is inviting all concerned citizens to join in the effort to reverse the trend toward lawlessness and to revive the proper atmosphere of respect for those men and women charged with protecting the public through enforcement of the law.
WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--President Johnson has recommended to Congress a 5.4 per cent increase in pensions for 1.4-million veterans, their widows and dependents.

He also asked the enactment of safeguards to assure that no veteran would have his pension reduced because of an increase in federal retirement benefits such as Social Security.

Seeking improvements in the pension system is one of the current legislative objectives of The American Legion. The resolution mandating these Legion aims is more generous and seeks a higher percentage of increase in rates, plus a raising of the income limitations.

President Johnson also announced that he was directing the Administrator of Veterans Affairs "in consultation with leading veterans groups, to conduct a comprehensive study of the pension, compensation and benefits system for veterans, their families and their survivors."

He asked for the Administrator's proposals by January, 1968, "to assure that our tax dollars are being utilized most wisely and that our government is meeting fully its responsibilities to all those to whom it owes so much."

These proposals were made in a landmark message to Congress covering benefits for servicemen and veterans. The message, containing a number of policy statements, which records the Administration's conviction that the government owes a special obligation to its war veterans.

In other recommendations aimed at the Vietnam Era veteran, the President proposed higher monthly allowances for veterans attending college under the G.I. Bill.

Additional allowances for veterans who must complete their high school training before going to college also were recommended by President Johnson in his message to Congress.

-ALNS-

INDIANAPOLIS--(ALNS)--An exchange of speakers at the state conventions of The American Legion and law enforcement officials has been jointly recommended by the Legion's National Organization and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The official publication of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, "The Police Chief," suggests that American Legion department officials be invited to address the state conventions of law enforcement officials to explain the Legion's program in support of law and order.

Legion National Commander John E. Davis, in turn, recommends that department commanders invite leading state law enforcement officials to address their conventions to explain ways in which Legionnaires can support the efforts of police officers.

The recommendations for the joint effort was made to Commander Davis by Col. Thomas D. Burbank of the Louisiana State Highway Patrol, during the former's recent visit there.

-ALNS-
AMERICAN LEGION NEWS BRIEFS
FOR WEEK ENDING 2-17-67

Full focus will be turned on the Army's recent order drastically limiting burials in Arlington National Cemetery when American Legion leaders gather for the Legion's Seventh Annual Washington Conference Feb. 28-March 3. The Legion met the announcement by restating its "long standing policy against burials on a basis of rank and prestige."

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The Army has announced plans to provide additional burial space at five national cemeteries. They are: Beverly (N.J.), Ft. Rosecrans and Golden Gate (both Calif.), Camp Nelson (Ky.) and Ft. Harrison (Va.).

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American Legion National Adjutant E. A. Blackmore became ill early this week after going to Des Moines, Iowa, to attend a dinner in honor of Iowa Legion Department Adjutant R. J. Laird. Blackie entered Iowa Methodist Hospital in Des Moines for examinations and observation. While the diagnosis is as yet incomplete, his doctors report there is no cause for alarm.

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Vietnam Post 155 of Wichita, Kas., is The American Legion's first post to be organized and chartered with a membership comprised exclusively of Vietnam Era veterans.

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William G. McKinley, veteran Legion National Executive Committeeman from New Jersey, scored the Army's recent order drastically limiting burials at Arlington National Cemetery as highly discriminatory and inconsistent with national policy. He made his remarks at the New Jersey Department's 23rd annual breakfast for New Jersey's Congressional delegation in Washington, D. C.

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American Legion National Commander John E. Davis has asked members of the United States Senate to support legislation that would establish a standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs similar to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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Dr. R. J. Laird was honored for his more than 40 years of service as adjutant of the Iowa American Legion Department at a testimonial dinner in Des Moines this week. More than 700 Legionnaires from Iowa and other parts of the nation joined in honoring the man who gave up a career in veterinary medicine to become his department's chief administrative officer.

** * **

David Aronberg of Ashland, Ky., who served as American Legion National Vice Commander in 1964-65, died of cancer in a Cincinnati, Ohio, hospital Feb. 11.
WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--Full focus will be turned on the Army's recent order drastically limiting burials in Arlington National Cemetery when American Legion leaders gather here for the Legion's Seventh Annual Washington Conference Feb. 28-March 3.

The Legion met the announcement by restating its "long standing policy against burials on a basis of rank and prestige."

William F. Hauck, Legion Washington Office executive director, said the Legion has long advocated expansion of national cemeteries to prevent overcrowding, and that it believes more annexation of land for Arlington could solve the problem there.

Hauck emphasized that "we will work with Congress on this." Hauck added that "the Army's announcement came as a shock to veterans organizations. We work closely with those people, and we never heard about any such plans."

The Army cited the dwindling number of gravesites as the cause for its new criteria for burials in Arlington. The new criteria excludes the average veteran.

The Army's order will receive further attention at a meeting of the executive sections of the Legion's Graves Registration and Memorial Committee and the Internal Affairs Commission at the conference. Legion leaders from throughout the United States will attend the conference.

Burials after Feb. 17, under the Army's new criteria for Arlington, would be limited to Congressional Medal of Honor winners, active duty and retired members of the Armed Forces and honorably discharged veterans who also served in high positions in the federal government.

Wives and minor children of those covered in the new category also would be eligible.

The change does not affect previous commitments to eligible survivors of those already buried in Arlington. The revised criteria for Arlington does not apply to the other 67 active national cemeteries, the Army emphasized.

(More)
Previous to the new order any member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States or any U. S. citizen who served in the armed forces of any government allied with the U. S. during a war, whose last active duty terminated honorably, was eligible for Arlington burial. Also eligible were wives, husbands and minor children of the foregoing.

The Army pointed out that the revised criteria will prevent a two-year interruption in Arlington burials which would begin early next year if the current rate of interment were to continue.

The Army added that it is providing additional burial spaces at these national cemeteries: Beverly (N.J.), Ft. Rosecrans and Golden Gate (both Calif.), Camp Nelson (Ky.) and Ft. Harrison (Va.).

Arlington's annual rate of interment has increased from 4,578 in 1962 to over 7,000. Only 6,437 gravesites remained at Arlington on Feb. 10. The Army said that under the revised criteria about 2,000 gravesites will be required for the next three years.

The Army also said it was in the process of implementing a long planned expansion of Arlington on the grounds of the South Post at Ft. Myer. This expansion will ultimately provide 60,000 more gravesites, the Army indicated. The first of these will not become available until Dec. 1969.

Revised burial criteria and expansion at Arlington will permit uninterrupted operation at Arlington during the period required for expansion and for many years to come, the Army stated.

Uncommitted gravesites at Beverly and Ft. Rosecrans national cemeteries were exhausted last year and those facilities became inactive. Golden Gate, Camp Nelson and Ft. Harrison are expected to become inactive this year.

Closure of Beverly and Ft. Rosecrans made it impossible to provide gravesites for Armed Forces members killed during the Vietnam War. If the conflict continues, the same problem could arise at Golden Gate, Camp Nelson and Ft. Harrison.

Small parcels of land will be acquired by the Army for gravesite development at these five cemeteries. Land contiguous to these cemeteries is preferred for expansion, but if that is impossible to obtain, nearby sites will be selected for operation as annexes to these national cemeteries.

Newly acquired land will be converted to burial use as quickly as possible, but periods from eight to 12 months may be required for the conversion.

In his announcement on Arlington, Hauck added: "We have noted with approval the announcement that certain cemeteries are to be expanded. This is a step in the right direction, but at the same time it does not satisfy our recommendations that the Congress of the United States provide for an orderly expansion of the national cemetery system to the end that the right of burial in a national cemetery may be available to those veterans eligible for such burial and who so desire."
WASHINGTON—(AENS)—Advance registrations indicate that The American Legion's 44th annual National Rehabilitation Conference to be held here Feb. 28-March 3 will be one of the best attended in recent years.

Participants will include: Legion National Rehabilitation Commission members, Department service officers and rehabilitation committee members, county and post service officers, Legion Auxiliary members and other national, department and post officers.

Stressing the importance of this conference, John J. Corcoran, National Rehabilitation Division director pointed out that many new and challenging problems continue to confront the Legion in the field of rehabilitation.

Vietnam veterans are returning to civilian life at the rate of 50,000 per month. Many are disabled and need special care and attention. All will need assistance of some kind in readjusting to civilian life.

This, along with the needs of veterans of prior wars, make it imperative that the Legion take a new and long look at the entire field of benefits available to veterans and their dependents.

During the conference major panel discussions will cover VA medical and hospital practices and policies, compensation, pension, loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation and education, VA insurance, the VA's Board of Appeals, Department of Defense review of discharges and correction of military records. The effect of Medicare and Social Security programs on veterans benefits also will be major topics of discussion.

Highlights of the conference will include the presentation of The American Legion Rehabilitation legislative program for 1967 to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs by Legion National Commander John E. Davis, and an address by William J. Driver, Administrator of Veterans Affairs. Others who will address the conference during this busy week include: Robert C. Fable, VA General Counsel; Philip J. Budd, VA data management director; and Edward J. Gorman, VA Administrative Services Manager.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.--(ALNS)--Jack Stockman has resigned as adjutant of the California American Legion Department to become deputy director of the State Department of Veterans Affairs in the new administration of Gov. Ronald Reagan.

The director with whom Stockman will work is James E. Johnson of Santa Ana. No word has been received on Stockman's successor as department adjutant.
WICHITA, KAS.--(ALNS)--Vietnam Post 155 of this city, is The American Legion's first post to be organized and chartered with a membership comprised exclusively of Vietnam Era veterans.

Election of officers and other organizational business were scheduled for the post's first meeting at the Broadview Hotel here this week.

John Hurley, Legion assistant claims director at the Veterans Administration Hospital here, sparkplugged the post's organization. Kansas Legion Department Adjutant Kenneth L. Young recently presented the post's charter to National Commander John E. Davis.

A state-wide initiation ceremony for Vietnam Era veterans will be held at the Broadview Hotel Friday evening, March 3, with Commander Davis officiating. A dance will be held following the ceremony.

-ALNS-

DES MOINES, IOWA--(ALNS)--American Legion National Adjutant E. A. Blackmore became ill early this week after coming here for a dinner honoring Iowa Legion Department Adjutant R. J. Laird.

Blackie entered Iowa Methodist Hospital here for examinations and observation. Latest medical reports indicate that he may remain here as long as two weeks.

Until examinations are completed, it will be impossible to estimate when he will be back at his desk. While the diagnosis is as yet incomplete, doctors in attendance have given assurance that there is no cause for alarm. Further information will be provided when it becomes available.

-ALNS-
WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--New Jersey American Legion Department held its 23rd annual breakfast for its state's delegation to Congress here this week.

William G. McKinley, Legion National Executive Committeeman from New Jersey, who presided at the event, scored the Army's recent order drastically limiting burials in Arlington National Cemetery as highly discriminatory.

Burials after Feb. 17, under the Army's revised criteria for Arlington, are limited to Congressional Medal of Honor winners, active duty and retired members of the Armed Forces and other honorably discharged veterans who have held high positions in the federal government. Also eligible are the wives and minor children of those included in the new criteria.

McKinley declared that the Army's action is inconsistent with established national policy and a radical departure from the respect shown the nation's veterans in the past.

The veteran NEC-man also urged the delegation to act favorably on legislation to elevate the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to cabinet status. He added that such action would help to reduce the adverse effect of the Bureau of the Budget on VA programs.

McKinley also urged the New Jersey Congressional delegation to support the transfer of jurisdiction of the national cemeteries system from the House Committee on Internal Affairs to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. He declared that the cemeteries system would receive more sympathetic and understanding consideration in the latter committee. Bureau of the Budget influence also would be reduced, McKinley pointed out.

Autographed copies of "The American Legion Story," a new history by Raymond Moley, Jr., were presented to the state's two Senators and 15 Congressmen.

ASHLAND, KY.--(ALNS)--David Aronberg, 73, of this city, who served as National Vice Commander of The American Legion in 1964-65, died of cancer in a Cincinnati, Ohio, hospital on Feb. 11. Services were held here Feb. 14, with burial in Ashland Cemetery.

Mr. Aronberg is survived by his wife, who resides at 2700 Bruce Dr., Ashland, and a son and daughter.

-alns-
HASTINGS, NEB.--(ALNS)--"The United States must continue to apply the pressures in the Vietnam struggle if we want to speed the day when we will achieve our objectives there, and at the same time minimize American losses," American Legion National Commander John E. Davis told Nebraska Legionnaires here recently.

Commander Davis, who served two terms as governor of North Dakota and who recently visited South Vietnam, said he was convinced that we are going to have to keep up the bombing pressures on the north, and suggested that steps be taken to deny the enemy the sanctuary of Cambodian territory and the use of the port of Haiphong for military traffic.

"The means of accomplishing these objectives should be determined by our military leadership on the scene," the Commander emphasized.

"There is no question in my mind," the Legion chief said, "but that there is a direct relationship between the using of our military power to the best possible advantage and the reduction of American and allied combat casualty lists."

The Commander also reviewed some of the legislative-rehabilitation objectives the Legion will seek during the current session of Congress, including: Wartime benefits for Vietnam era veterans similar to those granted to veterans of previous periods of armed conflict, and improvements in existing benefit programs. "The fighting in Vietnam has given new meaning to our total rehabilitation program as a new generation of American fighting men becomes eligible for these benefits," Commander Davis said. He said the Legion was gratified with the presidential budget message of Jan. 31, giving specific emphasis to the veterans affairs program.

Commander Davis pointed out too that he has provided Legion testimony to the advisory panel of the House Armed Services Committee studying the Selective Service Act. "We stated our opposition to the lottery system, to granting military credit for service in the Peace Corps or Job Corps, and to the drafting of women. We are in accord with action of the Secretary of Defense to lower standards of acceptability and to institute a program of academic training and rehabilitation to qualify men who have not met existing standards," he said.

-alns-
DES MOINES, IOWA—(ALNS)—Dr. R. J. (Skin) Laird was honored for his more than 40 years of service as adjutant of The American Legion Department of Iowa at a testimonial dinner here this week.

More than 700 Legionnaires from Iowa and other parts of the nation attended the dinner at which Mr. and Mrs. Laird were guests of honor. He will retire next June 30.

Legion National Commander John E. Davis spoke at the dinner.

A number of gifts were presented the veteran adjutant and former legion National Executive Committeeman from Iowa. These included several sizeable checks and a color television set.

The dinner was the concluding event of the Iowa Department's 47th annual Commanders, Adjutants and Service Officers Conference. Legion Past National Commanders present were: Ray Murphy, James F. O'Neill, Daniel F. Foley and Don Johnson.

* * *

The Iowa Legionnaire currently is featuring a series, written generally in a light vein, by Iowa's Past National Commander Ray Murphy on Dr. Laird who gave up the practice of veterinary medicine to become the department's chief administrator.

Past Commander Murphy recalls his first meeting with "Skin" as an encounter with a young private in the Iowa National Guard "loosely arrayed in one of the larger cast-off uniforms bequeathed to guardsmen by veterans of the Spanish-American War." This was prior to World War I.

The reader gathers that this incident at least helped to produce the nick-name that clings to the veteran adjutant today.

Past Commander Murphy also recalls that he and "Skin" later served as commissioned officers in the Iowa National Guard along with another prominent Legionnaire, Past National Commander Hanford MacNider.

-alns-
WASHINGTON—(ALNS)--American Legion National Commander John E. Davis has asked members of the United States Senate to support legislation that would establish a standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The proposed committee, under provisions of S. 355, the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1967, would be comparable to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the House of Representatives.

The text of the Commander's letters to members of the Senate follows:

"As you know S. 355, the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1967, has been reported favorably by the Special Committee on Reorganization of the Congress and is now under consideration by the Senate. Among other things, this bill would establish a standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the Senate comparable to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the House of Representatives.

"For nearly half a century war veterans have advocated that such a committee be established. In 1946 this proposal was recommended by a joint committee on the organization of the Congress. It was recommended in 1951 by a Senate committee and again in 1959 by a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

"War veterans and their families constitute a substantial segment of the total population. Thousands more of the Vietnam era are returning to civilian life each month. The American Legion believes that a permanent Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs would better serve the needs of the millions of veterans of all wars and their dependents. Such a committee would devote full time to veterans' legislation and would, through its professional staff, be of great assistance to individual senators in evaluating the hundreds of proposals affecting veterans that are introduced each year and in answering constituents' inquiries on veterans' problems.

"On behalf of The American Legion I personally appeal to you to join the many other members of the Senate who support this proposal. An expression from you in this regard will be deeply appreciated."
American Legion National Commander John E. Davis has called for national support of President Johnson's "War on Crime" message to the U. S. Congress. He also pledged that The American Legion, with 2.5-million war veteran members, is in complete sympathy with the President's efforts to curb crime, and would support these efforts in every possible manner.

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The Third District, Department of Massachusetts, has won eight consecutive Dec. 31 American Legion National Commander Awards presented to the District Commander in each Department having the highest percentage of his District's membership enrolled by Dec. 31.

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If you are one of 2.4-million World War II veterans receiving dividends on your G. I. term insurance this year, The American Legion suggests that you consider a change to one of the seven types of permanent level premium insurance available to you. The average premium at present for a World War II veteran on $10,000 worth of term insurance is $9.90 monthly, but in 20 years the premium will jump to $39.70 monthly.

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All veterans rated 100 per cent disabled, service connected, are now extended commissary store and post exchange privileges under a new Department of Defense policy.

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A new program instituted last November by the VA to provide counseling services to servicemen in military hospitals prior to their discharge is rapidly being expanded to reach all returning Vietnam GIs.

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Most veteran benefits are tax-free and need not be reported on income tax returns, the VA has reminded former servicemen and women.

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Reproduction masters of various versions of The American Legion's official 50th Anniversary Emblem are available by writing to 50th Anniversary Committee, The American Legion, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206.

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American Legion National Adjutant E. A. (Blackie) Blackmore continues to make satisfactory recovery from illness which struck him on Feb. 13, while in Des Moines, Iowa, to attend a testimonial dinner to Iowa Department Adjutant, Dr. R. J. Laird. Blackie continues under treatment at Iowa Methodist Hospital in Des Moines.
WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--American Legion National Commander John E. Davis of Bismarck, N. D., has called for national support of President Johnson's "War on Crime" message to the Congress of the United States.

He also pledged that The American Legion, with 2.5-million war veteran members, is in complete sympathy with the President's efforts to curb crime, and would support these efforts in every possible manner. Commander Davis added:

"The recognition by the President of the cancerous plague of lawlessness and its accompanying hardships on all law abiding citizens certainly characterizes the President as one who is keenly alert to the situation and extremely disturbed at the crime problem facing our Nation. His request to the Congress to enact legislation to quell this upsurge of lawlessness is most noteworthy and must of necessity be enacted with speed if we are to meet the challenge facing us. Fear in the streets must be erased."

Commander Davis, who served two terms as governor of North Dakota, and who recently traveled to the Far East and to South Vietnam on behalf of The American Legion, warned that victory in the fighting in South Vietnam could prove hollow unless Americans on the home front stiffen their defenses against lawlessness and rising crime rates which could lead to anarchy unless quickly and effectively checked.

"While our fighting men are upholding the symbols of decency on the battle front, it becomes the duty of every good American citizen to do his very best to uphold those symbols on the home front. It just doesn't make sense to send men 10,000 miles away from home to fight in the defense of freedom and the principles of justice and democracy, then to stand idly by at home and permit the criminal element and the lawless mobs to destroy the very principles for which they fight," Commander Davis declared.

"The Legion is deeply disturbed with the trend toward lawlessness and has launched a nationwide program to help reverse this dangerous trend and to help revive a proper respect for the forces of law and order. We invite all concerned citizens to join with us in this project, and we know that our lawmakers share with us a genuine concern over this problem.

"The membership of The American Legion has been greatly disturbed by the increasing rate of crime throughout the United States. The Legion is already sympathetic to President Johnson's effort to curb this national disgrace and is taking (More)
action. And the Legion stands in full support of the well-defined 'Safe Streets and Crimes Control Act' and other salient points strongly recommended by the President.

"We have enlisted all of our 16,000 posts, at the community level, to assist and encourage our law officers, whenever and wherever possible. We have sloganized this campaign, 'For Community Peace - Support Your Police'.

"This insidious crime war, created by a depraved minority of our citizens against all levels of American society, must be won. And it will be won, if every citizen takes upon himself proper and legal action supporting our harrassed, besmirched and often thwarted, police guardians of The American Way of Life," Commander Davis concluded.

-alsn-

BOSTON, MASS.--(ALNS)--The Third District, Department of Massachusetts, which encompasses Hampden County, has won eight consecutive Dec. 31 National Commander Awards presented to the District Commander in each Department having the highest percentage of his District's membership enrolled by Dec. 31.

Since this award was first offered, Dec. 31, 1959, for the 1960 membership year, District Three has won every year the award has been made.

James H. Denver, Third District Adjutant, challenges any District throughout the United States to equal this record.

-alsn-

NEW YORK--(ALNS)-- The Frank M. Hawks Memorial Award for 1966 has been presented to the New York News and its editor, Richard W. Clarke, for their contributions to the development of aviation in America by Air Service Post 501 of The American Legion, this city. Post Commander Maxwell Kriendler made the presentation to Mr. Clarke.

-alsn-

+++ FOR COMMUNITY PEACE SUPPORT YOUR POLICE +++
Are you behind this positive program?
WASHINGTON—(ALNS)—The Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO, has expressed its appreciation to The American Legion for 1966 National Convention resolutions calling for a strong American Merchant Marine and protesting U. S. naval vessels being built outside the country.

In a message to the Legion's National Security Commission, Peter M. McGavin, department executive secretary-treasurer, said:

"We cannot stress too strongly our thanks to The American Legion for supporting our programs and assisting the Maritime Trades Department in effecting a strong U.S. Flag Merchant Marine, citizen-owned, citizen-manned and American-built, adequate to the needs of our country in peace and in defense emergencies.

"A vote of thanks is certainly due your great organization, The American Legion."

-ALNS-

INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—As a tribute to the first President and the late artist who made and presented to The American Legion Museum a copy of the famous Gilbert Charles Stuart life-size oil portrait of George Washington, the gift portrait has been placed on display in the Legion's National Headquarters Library here.

Mrs. Alfred L. Aloisi, who made the beautiful copy of the Stuart original hanging in the New York Public Library, died on Feb. 2 at the Manhasset Medical Center on Long Island, N. Y. Mrs. Aloisi donated the portrait to the Legion in 1958 in the memory of her late husband, Alfred L. Aloisi, a founder and past vice commander of the Legion's Department of Italy. She had studied art in Italy and was a guest instructor at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

-ALNS-

LEGION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY EMBLEM READY

INDIANAPOLIS—(ALNS)—Reproduction masters of various versions of The American Legion's official 50th Anniversary Emblem are now available by writing to 50th Anniversary Committee, The American Legion, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206.

The master is reproduced on special paper to accurately reflect all elements and details of the designs for use in reproducing the 50th Anniversary Emblem in any medium such as letterpress, offset and even silk screen.

-ALNS-
NEW YORK--(ALNS)--American Legion posts and Auxiliary units and departments may want to consider submitting nominations for the 1966 Lane Bryant Annual Awards for outstanding volunteer service in the United States.

Lane Bryant has announced that any individual or organization engaged in voluntary and unpaid activities benefiting the community, state or nation is eligible for nomination.

April 15, 1967 is the deadline for nominations for work performed during the year 1966. One award will be presented to an individual and one to a group. Each winner will be presented $1,000 and a plaque.

Official nomination forms must be used for all nominations. A summary of the candidate's accomplishments not exceeding 400 words is required. Newspaper clippings, pamphlets and other supporting material may be included.

Brochures and nomination forms have been mailed by the Legion's National Americanism Commission to Legion and Auxiliary departments. Additional forms may be obtained by writing Lane Bryant Annual Awards, 465 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. 10017.


A single copy of the booklet may be purchased from GPO for 20 cents. Quantity prices also are available to organizations and individuals.

The booklet is a ready source of information on major benefits available to U. S. veterans. It explains eligibility requirements for veterans and dependents and describes the nature of the benefits.
WASHINGTON--(AINS)--A new program instituted last November by the Veterans Administration to provide counseling services to servicemen in military hospitals prior to their discharge is rapidly being expanded to reach all returning Vietnam GIs.

William J. Driver, Administrator of Veterans Affairs, said that within the first month of the intensified program, VA personnel contacted men in 55 military hospitals throughout the nation. This increased to 70 hospitals last December. This month 74 of the 95 military hospitals will have the service. The other 21 hospitals do not have veterans in the category for counseling.

The program is a part of the over-all emphasis being put on service to the Vietnam veteran as part of the program requested by President Johnson. It provides service to Vietnam veterans who will receive disability discharges from the military services. Installations include Army, Navy, and Air Force hospitals.

These veterans are counseled on available programs for rehabilitation or college studies and all other federal benefits. Necessary papers are completed in order that veterans will have no delay when leaving the hospital and entering their specialized training.

Contact representatives of the VA made 238 visits last December to the hospitals having eligible veterans. Personal interviews totaled 1,347 and 400 VA forms requesting training were filed.

Driver said that within the next three months over 2,000 additional applications for vocational rehabilitation are expected to be filed by hospitalized servicemen awaiting disability discharges.

-ains-

WASHINGTON--(AINS)--Most veteran benefits are tax-free and need not be reported on income tax returns; the Veterans Administration has reminded former servicemen and women.

However, interest earned on G.I. life insurance dividends left on deposit with the VA is not classed as a benefit, but as earned income and must be reported on tax returns. Proceeds of G.I. policies and the dividends are non-taxable and need not be reported.

Other VA benefits not taxable include education and training allowances, subsistence allowances for disabled veterans in vocational rehabilitation training, compensation and pension payments, grants for "wheelchair" homes, automobiles and all benefits to families of deceased veterans.

-ains-
WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--If you are one of 2.4-million World War II veterans receiving dividends on your G. I. term insurance this year, The American Legion suggests that you consider a change to one of the seven types of permanent level premium insurance available to you.

The average premium at present for a World War II veteran on $10,000 worth of term insurance is $9.90 monthly. In 20 years the premium will jump to $39.70 monthly. In retirement years it becomes prohibitive for most veterans to pay premiums on term insurance.

For comparison, the annual premium on $10,000 worth of term insurance is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Annual Premium</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>$307.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
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</tbody>
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Conversion from term insurance to a permanent plan has been a slow but continuing process since World War II. Each policyholder receives a notice from the VA about the modified life plan and other plans on which premiums do not increase with his term renewal notice. Yet the number converting is only a token of what needs to be done, the VA points out.

Many veterans who get older cannot afford the term insurance and let it lapse when they perhaps need it the most.

-WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--The Department of Defense has notified The American Legion of a change in the interpretation of military commissary and post exchange privileges for disabled veterans. The notice reads:

"The DOD has now approved a policy which will extend commissary store and exchange privileges to all veterans classified by the VA as one hundred per cent disabled, when the disability is service-connected. In the future, therefore, Veterans Administration letters to veterans regarding resale privileges will contain no reference as to how the one hundred per cent rating was determined.

"Also the Veterans Administration has been requested to counsel all veterans of the present DOD policy with respect to commissary and exchange privileges for disabled veterans."
JOHNSON CITY, N.Y.--(ALNS)--American Legion National Commander John E. Davis used the occasion of Washington's Birthday to give renewed emphasis to The American Legion's position that every mentally and physically qualified male citizen should be subject to service in the nation's armed forces should the need arise.

Commander Davis quoted from the message of the Father of our Country to the Continental Congress in 1783, when General Washington wrote:

"It should be laid down as a primary position and the basis of our system that every citizen who enjoys the protection of a free government owes not only a portion of his property, but even his personal service to the defense of it."

The Legion chief said this is basically the premise of The American Legion as expressed in written testimony on behalf of the Legion which he recently presented to Gen. Mark W. Clark, chairman of a special committee advising the House Armed Services Committee on military manpower and procurement policies.

Noting the Selective Service System has been under fire from various quarters, generating the present effort to re-evaluate the system, Davis said the Legion is: "Opposed to broadening the opportunities for evading service through more liberal deferments, exemptions, or recognition of any other service as a substitute for military service."

He mentioned specifically Legion opposition to granting credit for military service for service in the Job Corps or the Peace Corps, and said the Legion also opposed the lottery system for selection for military service, and a proposal to make women subject to the draft.

He said the Legion agreed with recent action of the Secretary of Defense in lowering standards of acceptability for the armed forces and instituting training and rehabilitation programs to qualify men heretofore found unacceptable.

"The present act," Commander Davis said, "is flexible enough to allow the President to do almost anything with the manpower of this nation by executive order without further changes in the law."