

NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS COALITION

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN Washington, D.C.

Veterans Will Benefit From Election Changes



J. Thomas Burch, Jr., Chairman

The immense changes caused by the recent election is incredible. The need for political change was understood by many, but few thought that such great transformation would occur. Of the almost two hundred candidates endorsed by the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition, all but nine we elected. That was simply staggering, and the Coalition is proud to have been a part of it.

Sweeping changes in the way government conducts business has been needed for a long time. One example involves the needless and wasteful spending of tax dollars. For as long as anyone can remember, the VA has struggled to meet the needs of America's veterans. The single often-stated reason has been a lack of money. Year after year, the VA has simply been unable to afford its commitment to its veterans. Other agencies received tax dollars in almost unlimited amounts, and wasted so much of it, that appropriate

services were understaffed and underfinanced. Today, for the first time in my memory, the voters have elected leaders who understand financial responsibility. The wasteful, for special interest only, tax spenders have heard the voters' voice and are out. They have been replaced by those who know that government can only spend what they have, and that when priority of dollars are made, it should be given to those who deserve the most. In this case, as in almost every case, veterans deserve the highest priority.

VA Medical Centers are understaffed and under-funded. Many clinics and pharmacies run out of medication. The waiting period for medical treatment is often dangerously too long. In fairness to the Secretary of the VA, they have fought a valiant battle on behalf of veterans, but they were doomed to loose with a President and Congress who saw more political gain in other wasteful uses of the tax dollars. This is now beginning to change.

The voters have spoken and we have a new congress. It is now our duty to let the new Representatives and Senators fully aware of how important full veteran program funding is. As a unified group, the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition has come this far. Now everyone of you has to pick up the phone or pen and let Congress know what we expect of them. Together, 1995 will be the best year ever for all veterans and their families.