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July 9, 2011

Dear Veterans' Leaders, Colleagues,

With the Fourth of July passed (235 years now) and the Baseball All-Star Game in view, summer is well advanced and I hope that it has been a good one for you.

This will be a somewhat lengthy communication, leading up to the meeting of the Coalition at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, on Saturday, July 23, at 10 am, Building 496, 3d Street. Other details of the meeting will be forthcoming from our Secretary, Robert Griffith. You may also contact Robert or myself for any additional details or clarifications—contact information appears on this letterhead.

First, though, I want to take note of the great service of Colonels David Couvillon and Barrett Byrd, each USMC, Ret, seeking to honor two native sons of distinctive service to the United States as Marine Corps Commandants: General John A LeJeune (1920-1929) and General Robert H Barrow (1979-1983). Most states have never produced a Commandant; Louisiana has produced two!

Colonel Couvillon and Colonel Byrd worked tirelessly—along with several other former servicemen and supporting citizens—seeking the passage of House Bill 200. We did not achieve all of the objectives of the Bill and will soldier on. **Most notably, Colonel Barrett is running for the Louisiana Senate to represent part of the area where I reside. HOOAH!**

Many American leaders, in diverse fields of interest, have become increasingly aware that all does not look bright for America. There is a new national grassroots movement birthed from that concern (“Tea Party”). All are belatedly discovering something that military leaders and veterans have known since 1950, Korea, and more lately Vietnam, Desert Storm, and the Global War on Terrorism: *American security is inseparably linked to all other facets of our Nation's life: economic (including infrastructure), social, medical, educational, scientific, cultural, and—yes—religious beliefs.*

Our Nation's highest level military colleges have stressed that fact since at least 1975 when I graduated. So why are so many American civilian leaders just now becoming somewhat aware of the fact? Mainly, I believe, because we stopped the fundamental

requirement of American citizenship several years ago—the requirement for military service.

The result is that virtually all of the Washington (DC) establishment—including the Congress, the White House, and the Department of Defense has never served the Nation in the fundamental matters over which they now exercise absolute control. And for the most part they do not appoint, employ, seek guidance from nor socialize with those Americans who have served their Nation in the Armed Forces.

Thus, we are noting more and more articles and appearances wherein measures potentially crippling to our national defense—if not survival—are cast about in a rather cavalier fashion.

I want to note that I mean measures which essentially break national promises and contracts with men and women serving today, or those who have honorably served through to retirement, when I say *measures potentially crippling to our national defense*.

This issue also involves *the full faith and credit of the United States* so loftily voiced by leaders in Washington, with apparent fear and trembling, to wit: most young men and women engaged in bloody contact on foreign soil, cast their very lives on the *full faith and credit of the United States*—too frequently ending as neglected sacrifices because their *full faith in the US* was not always matched by their government and its leaders.

Let me be clear that I do not accuse the government or fellow citizens of total bad faith, at all levels—*except for the detestable shunning of the Vietnam veterans*.

But, failure to fundamentally alter *planning, preparedness, and allocation of resources* to prevent the same unpreparedness in future combat confrontations is deadly neglect—and meets the street definition of insanity: *doing the same thing the same way and expecting different results is insanity*.

America's venerable veterans service organizations have confronted these problems of fatal neglect and ignorance year-end and year-out for a century. Several of the largest adopt annual resolutions at state (department-region) and national level. Many of these resolutions deal with all aspects of American life affecting veterans; others concentrate on Veterans Administration (VA) matters.

The mission and the purpose of the Louisiana Veterans Coalition according to the Bylaws, are:

To stimulate love of our country and the flag;

***To defend the honor, integrity and
supremacy of our National Government
and the Constitution of the United States;***

***To protect the rights and interests of LVC
Members in matters of state legislation.***

Accordingly, the Coalition meeting for July will be centered on *an examination and discussion of veterans concerns, state and nationally.*

Members belonging to veterans' service organizations (VFW, DAV, AL, PVA, MC League, AF Association, etc.), representatives of veterans groups, and concerned supporters and administrators are invited to bring copies of their Official Resolutions and present them to the Coalition meeting.

The Coalition may desire to consider the results with a view to what role—IF ANY—the LVC might consider.

Anyone desiring time for their concerns on the Agenda should contact Secretary Robert Griffith.

I am requesting that Colonel Couvillon and/or Colonel Byrd present a report regarding HB 200.

I am also attaching a copy of the current LVC By-laws. They have not been examined for some time now; many of the newer members may not have seen them—that was my case. Members are invited to propose edits and/or amendments for consideration.

Please share this call for the meeting with all veterans groups who might have an interest. We encourage visitors and new members.

Cordially,

Louis T Dechert



Chairman, Louisiana Veterans Coalition, 2011-2012

Chairman, Combined KOREAN-US Veterans Association, CKVA (Prov)

National President and Chairman of the Board, KWVA/USA, 2004-2008

Founder and Co-Chairman, US Federation of Korea Veterans Organizations, USFKVO

[Successful Sponsors of Medal of Honor Resolution for Father Emil Kapaun, Chaplain, 8th Cavalry Regiment, Died in Captivity, Korea, 1951]

Chairman, US-Korea Allies Council, UKAC, 2005-2011

Attachments as

**BY-LAWS OF THE
LOUISIANA VETERANS COALITION
Amended - 28 July 2007**

Article I

NAME

SECTION 1. The name of this organization shall be Louisiana Veterans Coalition, hereinafter referred to as the LVC.

Article II

PURPOSE

SECTION 1. The purpose of the LVC shall be:
To stimulate love of our country and the flag;
To defend the honor, integrity and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
To protect the rights and interests of LVC Members in matters of state legislation.

Article III

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. The membership of the LVC shall be composed of veterans' organizations or veterans' councils, located within the state of Louisiana.

SECTION 2. A veterans' organization or council may become a Member of the LVC by making an application for membership. The organization's application is approved by three-fourths vote of the eligible voting members present.

SECTION 3. Being a Member of the LVC does not authorize the LVC to participate in the organizational or managerial affairs of the Member Organization or Council.

Article IV

STATUS

SECTION 1. The LVC shall be a nonprofit organization, operated exclusively for the purpose specified in Article II above.

SECTION 2. LVC Officers and Appointed Officials shall not receive any stated compensation for their services.

SECTION 3. No LVC Member, Officer or Agent shall be liable for the acts or failure to act on the part of any other LVC Member, Officer or Agent. Nor shall any LVC Member, Officer or Agent be liable for its or their acts or failure to act under these by-laws, excepting only acts or failure to act arising out of willful misfeasance or malfeasance.

SECTION 4. The LVC shall use its funds only to accomplish the purposes specified in Article II.

Article V
OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The LVC officers shall be a chairman, two vice chairmen, a treasurer, a secretary and a public relations officer, each of whom shall be a member of an LVC veterans' organization or a veterans' council.

SECTION 2. The chairman, one vice chairman and secretary shall be elected to a two year term starting on odd numbered years. The other vice chairman, treasurer and public relations officer shall be elected to a two year term starting on even numbered years.

SECTION 3. The elective officers shall be elected at the third triannual meeting. Election shall be by ballot. Each elected officer shall take office at the first regular or special meeting in the calendar year following their election and shall serve a term of two years and until a successor is duly elected and installed.

SECTION 4. A person who has served a full term as chairman shall be eligible to serve one additional full term as chairman.

SECTION 5. A vacancy in the office of the chairman shall be filled automatically by a vice chairman. Vacancies in other elective offices shall be filled by a special election.

SECTION 6. The LVC chairman shall preside at all meetings of the LVC as an ex-officio member without voting rights except in the case of a tie. He/she shall also be an ex-officio member on all committees. The chairman shall not serve on the nominating committee. Further, the chairman shall perform such other duties as are necessarily incident to the office of the chairman.

SECTION 7. The vice chairman shall perform such duties as the chairman may assign. In the event of the chairman's temporary disability or absence, a vice chairman shall perform the duties of the chairman.

SECTION 8. The treasurer shall collect donations and maintain a record of all sums received and expended by the LVC and shall make such disbursements as are authorized by the LVC. The treasurer shall deposit all sums received in a federally insured financial institution. Funds may be withdrawn only upon the signature of the treasurer or, in the event of the treasurer's disability or absence from the area, the

signature of the chairman. The treasurer shall prepare all required tax forms for the LVC. The funds, books and vouchers under the treasurer's control shall at all times be subject to inspection and verification by the LVC. The treasurer shall be responsible for a biennial audit of LVC funds and shall present results of the audit to the LVC.

SECTION 9. The secretary shall provide timely written notification of all regular and special meetings of the LVC and keep a record of all proceedings. The secretary should also maintain the membership records. Further, the secretary shall: Prepare such correspondence as required and maintain the LVC's correspondence files; prepare whatever administrative reports that may be required; safeguard all important records, documents and valuable equipment belonging to the LVC; and perform such other duties as are commensurate with the office.

SECTION 10. The public relations officer shall write all LVC news releases and media coverage. All news releases shall be coordinated with the chairman prior to their release. The public relations officer shall maintain records of all news releases and other news articles that mention or pertain to the LVC.

SECTION 11. The elected officers of the LVC shall not be authorized individually to adopt resolutions or to establish positions in the name of the LVC.

Article VI VOTING

SECTION 1. Except as otherwise provided in these by-laws, all questions coming before the LVC shall be decided by a majority vote.

SECTION 2. Voting rights shall be vested to designated representatives of each Member Organization or Council. Each Member shall have one voting delegate.

SECTION 3. Proxy voting shall not be permitted at the meetings of the LVC.

Article VII COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. The chairman may appoint, with the concurrence of the LVC, such standing and special committees as may be required. Such appointments, unless terminated sooner, shall expire upon the completion of the chairman's term of office.

SECTION 2. At the second triannual LVC meeting, the chairman shall appoint a nominating committee of five persons, each of whom shall be a Member of a Member Organization of Council, but not currently an elective officer of the LVC. The committee shall notify the secretary orally or in writing at least 30 days before the date of the third triannual meeting naming the candidates it proposes.

**Article VIII
MEETINGS**

SECTION 1. There shall be a regular meeting of the LVC three times each calendar year in Alexandria, Louisiana. Notice of the time, location and agenda shall be mailed to each appointed or elective LVC official and each Member organization or Council 20 days in advance of every meeting.

SECTION 2. The first regular triannual LVC meeting of each calendar year is for the receipt of annual reports, the approval of an annual budget for the current calendar year and the installation of officers.

SECTION 3. Special meetings of the LVC may be called by the LVC chairman. Notice of any special meeting shall be mailed to each appointed or elected official of the LVC and each Member Organization or Council at least 20 days in advance, with a statement of time, place and information as to the subject or subjects to be considered.

**Article IX
FINANCES**

SECTION 1. The LVC shall operate on a cash basis and shall not obligate or expend funds not on hand.

**Article X
AMENDMENTS**

SECTION 1. These by-laws may be amended, repealed or altered, in whole or in part, by a two-thirds vote at any duly organized meeting of the LVC. Any amendment proposed for consideration must be included in the meeting agenda.

**Article XI
DISSOLUTION**

SECTION 1. In the event of dissolution of the LVC, and after the discharge of all its liabilities, the remaining assets shall be distributed equally to the member Organizations or Councils.

Article XII
PARLIAMENTARY
AUTHORITY

SECTION 1. The rules contained in the current edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised” shall govern the LVC in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws and any special rules of order the LVC may adopt.

Article XIII

THE FLAG **SECTION 1.** The American flag shall be displayed and honored at all meetings of the LVC.