

*Louisiana Veterans Coalition  
Camp Beauregard, Louisiana  
MINUTES*

*1000 hrs, Saturday, 22 October 2011*

*Purpose: To stimulate love of country and the flag; To defend the honor, integrity and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States; and to protect the rights and interest of Louisiana Veterans Coalition members in matters of state legislation.*

- 1. Scheduled meeting called to order by COL Louis T. Dechert, Chairman, Korean War Veterans Association*
- 2. Invocation given by ISG Robt C Griffith – Public Relations Officer, 173<sup>RD</sup> Airborne Brigade Association*
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance lead by LTC Lessie A Griffith – Vice Chairman Coalition Representative for Military Officers Association of America*
- 4. COL Dechert facilitated an introduction of Members and Guest and signing of attendance roster (see Appendix A)*
- 5. Minutes of Louisiana Veterans Coalition Meeting of 23 July 2011 were read by ISG Robt. C Griffith, Secretary, and approved without objection.*
- 7. Financial Report dated 30 June 2011 was presented by treasurer Robt. Griffith and approved without objection. ( see Appendix B ).*
- 8. Member communications –Commander Marion Polk, AMVETS; LTC Charles Guidry, Louisiana Council of Chapters, MOAA & Col Barrett Byrd, USMC Member at Large – Email Regrets.*
- 9. Guest Speaker – Chairman Dechert introduced a visiting speaker from New Orleans, Mr Fred Fuentes, National Service Officer for the Military Order of the Purple Heart.*

*Mr Fuentes spoke extensively on transition issues of returning Veterans to include increasing incidents of Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. Additionally, Fuentes stressed the limited availability of services and focused on the greater New Orleans area with the critical shortage of medical facilities resulting from hurricane damage. Also, the overview theme centered on importance of coordination with AMVETS and other service agencies. Current issues dealing with homeless veterans were discussed.*

**10. Old business – Chairman Dechert**

**Following the lead of Chairman Dechert's letter of 9 Jul 2011:  
Open discussion and examination of Veterans concerns as related to government failure to fundamentally alter planning, preparedness and allocation of resources to prevent unpreparedness in future combat confrontations as well as to anticipate related or resulting impacts on military personnel and veterans.**

**Chairman Dechert introduced fact sheet on America's Wars: U.S. Casualties and Veterans, with extended comments on the FY 2013 Independent Budget Critical Issues Report. (see Attached hereon)**

**Following open discussion, a draft Resolution talking paper was offered and is open for comments and additional issues from member organizations of the Louisiana Veterans Coalition. Following receipt of comments, incorporation of additional issues and resolution of additional member input the Coalition will complete, coordinate, obtain member approval and distribute the Resolution. (see Attached hereon) – Comments may be addressed to: [dechert@bellsouth.net](mailto:dechert@bellsouth.net)**

**Time is of the essence since the Congress is currently addressing all federal spending as well as defense and veterans strategies affected by announced reductions in the armed forces.**

**11. New Business – (see comments above under item #10)**

**A. Election of Officers of the Louisiana Veterans Coalition for the 2012-2013 slate, to wit: Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer.**

**Secretary Robt. Griffith announced that two (2) nominations for Vice Chairman had been received from member organizations, yet both were invalid in-as-much-as person nominated (LTC Lessie Griffith) already serves as Vice Chairman.**

**Chairman Dechert called for nominations from the floor – None.**

**Secretary Griffith subsequently stated status of slate as unchanged until such time as either the Chairman appoints fill of said positions and/or nominations are received, announced & confirmed at a stated Coalition meeting. (BY-LAWS, Article V, Section 3)**

**B. Announcement of Resolutions – Chairman Dechert**

**( see comment at item#10)**

**C. Presentation of Certificates – Deferred**

**D. Newsletter and Coordination – Chairman Dechert**

**Comments/ entries may be addressed to [dechert@bellsouth.net](mailto:dechert@bellsouth.net)**

**E. Courtesy Newsletter/ Website: [http://www.ckva.org/i\\_lvc.htm](http://www.ckva.org/i_lvc.htm)**

***11. Open Floor Discussion –***

- A. SGM Paul Cador (Fort Polk Retirement Council) – Identified the need for a full time Veterans Representative for each Parish. The question of a potential for a Resolution addressed to the Louisiana State Department of Veterans Affairs was raised and tabled for study and consideration.***
- B. COL Grant (Reserve Officers Association) announced the upcoming meeting of said Association on 3 December 2011.***
- C. ISG Griffith (Public Relations Officer) conveyed the following communications received:***
- (1) Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs is looking for donations of military uniforms for display (POC: [mike.mcnaughton@vetaffairs.la.gov](mailto:mike.mcnaughton@vetaffairs.la.gov))***
  - (2) The American Legion Legislative Committee Chairman, Archie Boyette, announced the Fall Conference of the Louisiana Departments will be 30 Oct 2011. (comments are encouraged)***
  - (3) Fort Polk will host activities for Retiree Appreciation Day on 29 October 2011.***
  - (3) Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs continues to Schedule Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal Awards Events. For more information, please contact LDVA toll free at 877-GEAUX-VA or visit [www.vetaffairs.la.gov](http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov) .***

***12. Closing Remarks were made by Chairman Dechert and the meeting was ended at 1215hrs.***

***NEXT MEETING > February 2012***

*Louisiana Veterans Coalition  
Camp Beauregard  
Pineville, Louisiana*

*Meeting Minutes  
Appendix: A*

*22 October 2011*

*A scheduled meeting of the Louisiana Veterans Coalition was held at Camp Beauregard on 23 July 2011.*

*The following were in attendance:*

- COL Louis T Dechert > Chairman, Louisiana Veterans Coalition (LVC)  
>Korean War Veterans Association  
[dechert@bellsouth.net](mailto:dechert@bellsouth.net) : 318-641-8293 / 202-997-9538 (cell)*
- LTC Lessie A Griffith >Vice Chairman, Louisiana Veterans Coalition  
>Military Officers Asso of America  
[griffithgrp@hotmail.com](mailto:griffithgrp@hotmail.com) : 337-462-0143 / % 337-208-8742 (cell)*
- ISG Robt. C Griffith > Secretary/Treasurer: Public Relations Officer  
[griffithgrp@hotmail.com](mailto:griffithgrp@hotmail.com) : 337-208-8742 (cell) > 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Bde*
- COL F.W. "Ted" Grant > Immediate Past President  
[Elvieaug02@aol.com](mailto:Elvieaug02@aol.com) : 225-316-3915 (cell)> Retired Officer Asso.*
- Lt Col Charles T "Chuck" Tosten, Jr – Order of Daedalians  
[skyrider@suddenlink.net](mailto:skyrider@suddenlink.net) / 318-442-1016*
- SGM Paul Cador – Fort Polk Retiree Council  
[Cador2@suddenlink.net](mailto:Cador2@suddenlink.net) : 337-348-1772 (cell)*
- Mr Fred Fuentes – National Service Officer,  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
1250 Poydras St, Suite 606, New Orleans 70113  
[fred.fuentes@va.gov](mailto:fred.fuentes@va.gov) : 504-619-4397 : 707-673-7150 (cell)*

*Meeting Minutes  
Appendix: B*

*Louisiana Veterans Coalition*

*Treasurer Report as of 30 September 2011*

*Report prepared for scheduled meeting – 22 October 2011*

*Barksdale Federal Credit Union  
Saving Account:*

<i>1. Balance as of 30 Jun 2011::</i>	<i>\$734.60</i>
<i>2. Income:(Note 1)</i>	<i>00.00</i>
<i>3. Dividend &amp; Interest Income:</i>	<i>.92</i>
<i>4. Expenditures (Note 2):</i>	<i>00.00</i>
<i>5. Balance as of 30 September 2011:</i>	<i>\$735.52</i>

*Note 1: No entry*

*Note 2: No entry*

*Robt C Griffith  
Treasurer  
1786 Glendale Road  
DeRidder, Louisiana 70634  
337-462-0143 / 337-208-8742  
[griffithgrp@hotmail.com](mailto:griffithgrp@hotmail.com)*

### Prisoners of War / Missing In Action

	World War I	World War II	Korean War	Cold War	Southeast Asia
<b>Total POW/MIA</b>	7,323	194,879	12,654	124	2596
<b>POWs Returned</b>	3,973	116,129	4,439	0	691
<b>Still Missing and Unaccounted For</b>	3,350	78,750	8,215	124	1,905

Statistics from the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office

For the most recent information on this issue visit the Web site at: [www.pacom.mil/jtffa.htm](http://www.pacom.mil/jtffa.htm)

## America's Wars: U.S. Casualties and Veterans

The table below has information about the total number of service members, battle deaths, and nonmortal woundings in wars from 1775 to 2011; such as the American Revolution, the Civil War, World War I and II, Vietnam, and more.

<b>American Revolution (1775-1783)</b>	
Total servicemembers	217,000
Battle deaths	4,435
Nonmortal woundings	6,188
<b>War of 1812 (1812-1815)</b>	
Total servicemembers	286,730
Battle deaths	2,280
Nonmortal woundings	4,505
<b>Indian Wars (approx. 1817-1898)</b>	
Total servicemembers	106,000
Battle deaths	1,000
<b>Mexican War (1846-1848)</b>	
Total servicemembers	78,718
Battle deaths	1,733
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	11,550
Nonmortal woundings	4,152
<b>Civil War (1861-1865)</b>	
Total servicemembers (Union)	2,213,363
Battle deaths (Union)	140,414

Other deaths in service (nontheater) (Union)	224,097
Nonmortal woundings (Union)	281,881
Total servicemembers (Conf.)	1,050,000
Battle deaths (Conf.)	74,524
Other deaths in service (nontheater) (Conf.)	59,297
Nonmortal woundings (Conf.)	unknown
<b>Spanish-American War (1898–1902)</b>	
Total servicemembers	306,760
Battle deaths	385
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	2,061
Nonmortal woundings	1,662
<b>World War I (1917–1918)</b>	
Total servicemembers	4,734,991
Battle deaths	53,402
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	63,114
Nonmortal woundings	204,002
Living veterans	fewer than 25
<b>World War II (1940–1945)</b>	
Total servicemembers	16,112,566
Battle deaths	291,557
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	113,842
Nonmortal woundings	671,846
Living veterans	3,242,000
<b>Korean War (1950–1953)</b>	
Total servicemembers	5,720,000
Serving in-theater	1,789,000
Battle deaths	33,741
Other deaths in service (theater)	2,833
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	17,672
Nonmortal woundings	103,284
Living veterans	3,086,400

<b>Vietnam War (1964–1975)</b>	
Total servicemembers	8,744,000
Serving in-theater	3,403,000
Battle deaths	47,424
Other deaths in service (theater)	10,785
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	32,000
Nonmortal woundings	153,303
Living veterans	7,286,500
<b>Gulf War (1990–1991)</b>	
Total servicemembers	2,225,000
Serving in-theater	665,476
Battle deaths	147
Other deaths in service (theater)	382
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	1,565
Nonmortal woundings	467
Living veterans	1,852,000
<b>America's Wars Total (1775–1991)</b>	
Military service during war	41,891,368
Battle deaths	651,030
Other deaths in service (theater)	308,800
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	230,279
Nonmortal woundings	1,431,290
Living war veterans	17,456,000
Living veterans	23,442,000
<b>Global War on Terror</b>	
Total Servicemembers (Worldwide) (as of Dec 31, 2010)	1,429,367
Deployed to Iraq (Operation New Dawn) (as of Dec. 31, 2010)	85,600
Deployed to Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom)(as of Dec. 31, 2010)	103,700
Battle Deaths (as of May 12, 2011)	4,724
Other Deaths (In Theater) (as of May 12, 2011)	1,294
Non-mortal Woundings (as of May 12, 2011)	43,399

1. Veterans Administration estimate as of Nov. 2008.

2. Estimated figure. Does not include 26,000–31,000 who died in Union prisons.

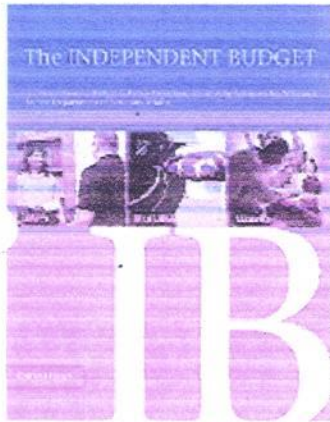
3. Years of U.S. involvement in war.
  4. Approximately 1,065,000 veterans had service in multiple conflicts. They are counted under each conflict, but only once in the total.
  5. For the most current GWOT statistics, visit: [href="http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf"](http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf), and [href="http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/MILITARY/history/hst1012.pdf"](http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/MILITARY/history/hst1012.pdf)
- Source: Department of Defense and Veterans Administration.

Read more: [America's Wars: U.S. Casualties and Veterans — Infoplease.com](http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0004615.html#ixzz1bSyroO93)  
<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0004615.html#ixzz1bSyroO93>

43,320,735 tot ser-IN WAR

LIVING VET TODAY 23,442,000  
 LIVING WAR VETS TODAY 17,456,000  
 BATTLE DEATHS 651,030  
 Non battl 539,079  
 WIA 1, 431,290

3.8 family x 43320735=16,466,187,793 hist tot  
 3.8 x 23442000=89,079,600 today



## **FY 2013 INDEPENDENT BUDGET CRITICAL ISSUES REPORT AVAILABLE (CTL+CLICK)**

A major national veterans coalition, the **INDEPENDENT BUDGET VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**, has annually prepared a veterans budget to present to the Congress, VA, and Administration for consideration in the annual federal budget formulation process. The Independent Budget (IB) has become a major tool supporting the VA in funding requests. Four national veterans

service organizations are the national lead in this process: **AMVETS, DAV, PVA, and VFW**. Other veterans organizations are then invited to consider and sign-on as endorsers. The US Federation of Korea Veterans Organizations (**USFKVO**), Korea Veterans of America (**KVA**) and the Combined KORUS Veterans Association (**CKVA**) are the only Korea veterans organizations to have done so each year since 2005. You may access and view or download the IB at [www.independentbudget.org/](http://www.independentbudget.org/) and are invited to do so. You may address comments as instructed in the IB or to [dechart@bellsouth.net](mailto:dechart@bellsouth.net) (this website).

## **R E S O L U T I O N**

**WHEREAS** the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA were birthed in freedom through the severe devastation of the REVOLUTIONARY WAR, and

**WHEREAS** the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA has provided for the common defense, commerce, and liberty, at home and broad for over 236 years, and

**WHEREAS** over **44 million** citizens have cumulatively served the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA in the battles, conflict, expeditions, and wars of the Nation, and

**WHEREAS** those wars have directly involved family and kin of those who served, cumulatively totaling over **15 billion** citizens, and

**WHEREAS** over **26 million** veterans of the Nation's battles and over **63 million** of their family and kin still live as loyal law abiding citizens of the Nation, and

**WHEREAS** over **2 million** citizens and over **5 million** of their family and kin, in all representing less than 0.9% of the citizenry of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have been bearing the burden the GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR—a virtual world war—for over a decade, and

**WHEREAS** the nations of western civilization have been attacked, worldwide, by ideologies of hatred dedicated to their destruction, without compromise, and

**WHEREAS** providing for the common defense, commerce and liberty remain Constitutional imperatives for all the citizens of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and

**WHEREAS** multiple evidence of severe economic threats, exhaustion, and breakdown are everywhere evident, and were indirect and intended results of the attacks of September 11, 2001

**WHEREAS** no safe and reliable projection of any diminution of the defined threats to the Nation may be rationally established, **BE IT THEREFORE**

**RESOLVED** that the LOUISIANA VETERANS' calls for a stop in reported personnel reductions in the armed forces—though not in the overhead Department of Defense, and, **BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED** that the LOUISIANA VETERANS' COALITION having considered existing and proposed Presidential, Congressional, and Legislative, most of them so controversial or vague as not to be actionable or not effective for at most of a decade, affirms that the defense of the Nation depends upon eternal vigilance as admonished by the Nation's founders: defense is not optional nor secondary—it is a primary constitutional responsibility, without which the other responsibilities are moot, and, **BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED** that the LOUISIANA VETERANS' COALITION having considered existing and proposed Presidential, Congressional, and Legislative, most of them so controversial or vague as not to be actionable or not effective for at most of a decade, affirms that the defense of the Nation depends upon eternal vigilance as admonished by the Nation's founders: Defense is not optional nor secondary—it is a primary constitutional responsibility, and, **BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED** that the LOUISIANA VETERANS' COALITION further calls for a return to the responsible management of all national resources as an essential imperative to maintaining the national defense and social, educational, economic and political well-being, constitutional responsibilities variously and specifically shared by federal, state, and local governments, and, **BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED** that the LOUISIANA VETERANS' COALITION supports the 2012 INDEPENDENT BUDGET CRITICAL ISSUES REPORT and INDEPENDENT BUDGET of the coalition of the INDEPENDENT BUDGET VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, as advisory guidance for the 2012 Budget of the US DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, and, **BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED** that the LOUISIANA VETERANS' COALITION encourages and approves of the reported examination of the national defense establishment, noting that examination must begin at the top level, including the organization, functions, and funding of the Department of Defense, rather than from the field levels up as is apparently the current approach, noting that national defense has apparently become more expensive as well as less effective in armed conflicts, as the size and power of the Department of Defense has supplanted historically allocated roles, missions, and operations of the uniformed services, and, **BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED** that the LOUISIANA VETERANS' COALITION opposes changes in the personnel pay, allotments, and entitlements of active, guard, reserves and retired uniformed personnel until such time as other measures resolved herein are addressed.

