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**Department of Veterans Affairs
The Honorable Jesse Brown**

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I. Agency Sponsored Programs -- Highlights

*** Voluntary Service Program.**

VA's Voluntary Service Program in the Veterans Health Administration, coordinates the efforts of dedicated individuals representing over 50 veterans, service, and civic organizations and approximately 350 local organizations. The program has been in existence for 47 years and is the largest centralized volunteer program in the federal government.

Approximately 94,000 individuals participate in 171 VA medical centers; over 350 VA outpatient, community, and outreach clinics; 128 VA nursing homes; 35 VA domiciliaries; and other VA extended care programs. VA volunteers serve in supportive roles ranging from traditional health care aides to contemporary, non-traditional assignments which contribute to the improvement of health care delivery to the nation's veterans.

in FY92, volunteers provided approximately \$14.3 million hours of service to VA health care programs often for supplemental services extending and expanding patient care services.

II. Employee Voluntary Programs -- Highlights

* In partnership with the Disabled American Veterans, VA sponsors the annual **Winter Sports Clinic** which promotes rehabilitation by helping physically disabled veterans develop winter sports skills through a variety of adaptive workshops. About 500 volunteers help coordinate this event.

* For the past 12 years, VA has worked with the Paralyzed Veterans of America in sponsoring the **National Wheelchair Games**. Like the Winter Sports Clinic, the games aim to improve the quality of life for disabled veterans and foster better health through sports competition.

* The VA **National Veterans Creative Arts Festival** celebrates the winners of national competitions in voice, instrumental, or original music composition categories. The competition serves as recognition of progress made through

creative arts and recreational therapy and raises the visibility of creative achievements of veterans following disease, disability, or life crisis.

For more information on these and other similar programs, see attached appendices.

III. Total Amount Spent on Service Initiatives.

In FY92, volunteers provided approximately 14.3 million hours of service with a monetary value estimated to be about \$166.5 million to VA health care programs often for supplemental services extending and expanding patient care activities.

IV. Ideas for Program Development

* **Expand the voluntary health care delivery system.** In conjunction with the President's Health Care Reform initiative, VA's education and training effort could be implemented nationwide in coordination with affiliated educational institutions. VA annually contributes to the training of nearly 100,000 individuals, 76,000 of whom are volunteers, in more than 40 different health professions. These individuals range from high school students performing community service as part of their graduation requirements to health care professionals completing residency requirements in certain specialty areas. VA believes that these efforts could provide a framework for National Service's expansion. VA's Voluntary Service Program and Office of Academic Affairs could provide the program with specialized knowledge.

* **Create a Civilian Community Corp.** As servicemen and women leave the military, they are in a unique position to assume leadership roles in the communities to which they will return. One of the stated objectives of the Civilian Community Corps, established under the National Defense Authorization Act for FY93, is to determine whether former members of the armed forces can contribute meaningfully to the development of community and national service. VA would like to see the CCC Demonstration program implemented and expanded.

VETERANS AFFAIRS - The Honorable Jesse Brown
Agency Sponsored Year-Round Programs

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AGENCY MISSION: Operates programs to benefit veterans and members of their families. Benefits include compensation payment or death related to military service; pensions; education and rehabilitation; home loan guarantee; burial; and a medical care program incorporating nursing homes, clinics and medical centers.

Name of Program and Contact Person	Program Description	Program Time Line	FY 1993 Service Funding Level	Number of Participants	Age of Participants	Stipend Amount	Post Service Benefit Amount	Cooperative Programs with Private or Public External Entities
Montgomery GI Bill ACTIVE	Education Benefits for certain Veterans and Service persons Available for servicemen and women on active duty after June 1985 Participants contribute \$1200 to the program	Ongoing Program available for up to 36 months	Administration: \$19,188 for 421 employees Benefits to veterans: \$548.7 million	148,315 veterans received benefits in 1993		Full-time: \$400 per month, maximum amount available \$14,400 Part-time: \$325 per month, maximum amount available \$11,700	Monthly payments to help defray cost of education/training. May be used up to 10 years	Sponsored by DOD and administered by VA
Montgomery GI Bill SELECTED RESERVE	Education benefits available for members of Selected Reserve and National Guard if they enlist, re-enlist, or extend their time in the service for 6 years	Ongoing Program available for up to 36 months	Administration: \$11,606 for 255 employees Benefits to veterans: \$110.4 million	64,864 veterans received benefits in 1993		36 months at \$190/month, maximum amount available \$6,840		Sponsored by DOD and administered by VA
Jobs Corps	Students are trained at VA Medical Centers for health related careers						Successful graduates may be placed in Health Care support VA positions	Dept. of Labor

VETERANS AFFAIRS - The Honorable Jesse Brown
Voluntary Programs Which Enforce the Department's Mission

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Name of Program and Contact Person	Program Description	Program Time Line	FY 1993 Service Funding Level	Number of Participants	Age of Participants	Stipend Amount	Post Service Benefit Amount	Cooperative Programs with Private or Public External Entities
Voluntay Service Programs	Voluntary Services Program within the Veterans Health Administration coordinates the efforts of dedicated individuals representing over 50 veterans, service, and civic organizations at approximately 350 local organizations.		\$14 million (473 FTE) salaries & administration	94,000 \$14.3 million hours of service Value of volunteers: \$166.5 million				
National Wheelchair Games CONTACTS: VA Central Office: Larry Long (202) 535-7279 PVA: Phil Rabin (202) 416-7681	The National Wheelchair Games provide a competitive sports event for military service veterans who use wheelchairs for mobility due to spinal cord injuries, certain neurological problems or amputations. The event aims to improve the quality of life for disabled veterans and to foster better health through sports competition. The VA has been sponsoring this event for 12 years.	August 16-20, 1993		1000-1200 volunteer Over 500 participants				Sponsors: Dept. of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America Hosted by VA Medical Center San Antonio, TX
Voluntary Service Program	Voluntary Service Program within the Veterans Health Administration coordinated the efforts of dedicated individuals representing over 50 veterans, service, and civic organizations and approximately 350 local organizations.	\$14 million (473 FTE) salaries and administration	94,000 \$14.3 million hours of service Value of volunteers: \$166.5 million					

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Winter Sports Clinic CONTACTS: VA Clinic Director: Mr. Sandy Trombetta (303) 242-0731, ext. 0396 DAV Director of Voluntary Services: Bruce Nitsche (202) 554-3501	The DAV National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic is an annual event which promotes rehabilitation by instructing physically challenged veterans to develop winter sports skills through a variety of adaptive workshops. Takes place in Crested Butte, Colorado Participation is open to male and female military service veterans with spinal cord injuries, certain neurological problems, amputations, visual impairments and other disabilities. A special call was issued to newly-disabled veterans injured in the Persian Gulf, and disabled veterans from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were also invited. Over 50 certified handicapped ski instructors and several members of the U.S. Disabled Olympic Ski Team participate as instructors.	March 28-April 2, 1993		500 volunteers help organize the event Over 200 attend				National Sponsors: Dept. of Veterans Affairs and Disabled American Veterans. Hosted by Grand Junction VA Medical Center.
National Veterans Creative Arts Festival CONTACT: Larry Long (202) 535-7279	A celebration and grand finale show presenting winners of national competitions in voice, instrumental or original music composition, dance, drama and art. The Department sponsors the annual competition and festival for hospitalized and outpatient veterans through their 172 medical centers, nationwide. VA Medical Centers incorporate the creative arts into their recreation therapy programs. This competition serves as recognition of progress made through that therapy and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of veterans following disease, disability or life crisis.	September 12, 1993		100 volunteers help organize About 70-90 winners from over 1,000 submissions				Sponsors: Dept. of Veterans Affairs and Music Performance Trust Fund Hosted by VA Medical Center, St. Cloud, MN

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Golden Age Games CONTACT: VA Central Office: Larry Long (202) 535-7279	An annual, national, multi-event sports competition for veterans, age 55 and older, who are currently receiving inpatient or outpatient care from the Department. The National Veterans Golden Age Games encourages older VA patients to make physical activity a central part of their lives. The games support VA's recreational therapy program in that endeavor. It is a national showcase for the preventive and therapeutic medical value of sports and fitness in the lives of all older Americans.	July 17-22, 1993		800-1000 volunteers 300 participants	Over 55 years old			Hosted by VA Medical Center, Johnson City, Tennessee

VETERANS AFFAIRS - The Honorable Jesse Brown Employee Voluntary Activities

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Name of Program and Contact Person	Program Description	Program Time Line	FY 1993 Service Funding Level	Number of Participants	Age of Participants	Stipend Amount	Post Service Benefit Amount	Cooperative Programs with Private or Public External Entities
Take Pride in America VA CONTACT: Carol Blanks Committee Chair (202) 535-8123	Volunteers increase employee awareness of the national TPIA Program by identifying projects for conserving and preserving natural, historical and cultural programs and by supporting the Annual TPIA Awards Ceremony.	3 hours per week per volunteer		35 employees		Employees receive administrative leave time.		Dept. of Interior and an interagency coordinating committee with representatives from all federal departments and agencies in D.C. Public and private organizations are also involved nationally.
Operation Care & Share	Volunteers encourage other VA employees to donate food, clothing and personal care items. The volunteers donate these items to their local food banks, etc.	Most work is done right before, during and after the holiday season.		Approximately 450 employees nationwide				Community partners include local food banks, homeless advocates, etc.
Partnerships-In-Education VA CONTACT: Shirley Mathis (202) 535-8119	Employees from VA's Central Office and the Washington, D.C. VA mentors and tutors for students at Eastern High School.	2-3 hours per week per employee		Approximately 42 employees				Eastern High School