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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES



5535 HEMPSTEAD WAY
SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151-4094
(703) 750-1342
Fax (703) 354-4380

"The Servicemember's Voice in Government"
Established 1968



SOCIETY OF MILITARY WIDOWS
(Affiliated 1984)

July 25, 1996

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing a copy of our July/August *Uniformed Services Journal* along with a copy of the letter we have sent to all members of Congress and other decision and opinion makers in the White House, Department of Defense, Veterans Administration, other government agencies and the public at large. As you see, we are continuing our campaign to urge every member of Congress to Reaffirm America's Commitment to its Military/Veterans.

Once again, we emphasize that our first concern is a strong national defense explaining the close inter-relationship between a strong national defense, the all volunteer force and keeping the promises of quality-of-life issues to them. See the National Security/Defense Model on page 5.

Both President Clinton and presidential candidate, former Senator Bob Dole, support Medicare reimbursement to military treatment facilities. And, Senator Phil Gramm has been successful in getting an amendment to the Defense Authorization bill passed which requires the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) to submit a joint proposal for a Medicare reimbursement demonstration project to Congress and the President by September 6. Once the proposal is submitted, Congress can then vote to direct the project to begin. We must ensure that this proposal is submitted on time and is phased in within a short time frame to get on with full implementation, since it has already been proved that subvention will save critical Medicare funds! We are continuing to work hard to garner support for this important issue as well as for the option to allow military beneficiaries to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP).

This Election Year '96 is extremely important to our nation, especially to ensure our continued strong defense in the face of terrorism and other attacks on our nation's vital interests. The promises made to those now serving and those who have already served must be kept to bolster this strong national defense.

The military/veteran community by its active involvement in Election Year '96 can make a major difference in accomplishing this critical mission. Some one-third of America's eligible voters are military/veteran related and make up around 30-40 percent of the eligible voters in most states and congressional districts. We have asked them to become active and involved in identifying and voting for candidates who support our concept of Reaffirming America's Commitment to its Military/Veterans.

We hope you will help us encourage everyone to become active and vote not only for the security of our nation today, but for the generations to come.

Sincerely,

J.C. Pennington
J.C. PENNINGTON
Major General, USA, Retired
President

Enclosures

Letter to Congress
Jul/Aug 1996 Uniformed Services Journal

P.S. we need your Reaffirmation
Support on our "Reaffirmation
of America's Commitment to
its Military/Veterans" and
Completion of our Promise at
the White House, June 3rd
Meeting to make Medicare
subvention to Military/Veterans
Medical Facilities happen
we also need a Guest Editorial
in our Support of House
and Senate - For
the 1996 Issue of our
Journal

To Dorskind
for reply?
✓ yes
— no

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July 24, 1996

The Honorable
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator :

Dear Representative :

The National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) and the Society of Military Widows' (SMW) national staff, our members and legislative political action teams throughout the country have been contacting members of Congress by letters, phone calls and in person asking for you to honor **America's Commitment to its Military/Veterans** in this critical election year '96. We thank all of you who have responded by reaffirming this commitment. **An additional copy of the Reaffirmation Commitment Statement is included with this letter** for your convenience in case you have not yet returned your copy or a letter of intent or explanation. **This statement is not a contract or a pledge but simply shows support for a strong national defense and keeping the promises made to those who provide and have provided it. A LIST OF CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORTERS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN OUR NEXT UNIFORMED SERVICES JOURNAL IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.**

We are also enclosing a copy of our July/August *Uniformed Services Journal*. Please take a moment to read about some of the issues military/veteran voters are particularly concerned with this election year.

We would like to thank the many members of Congress who have voted to fund modernization and critical quality-of-life improvements for our nation's military forces -- for those now serving and those who have already served, their families and survivors.

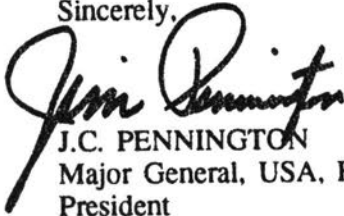
For example, correcting the \$473 million funding shortfall for military medical care in the FY97 Defense Authorization Bill will prevent some 130,000 over age 65 Medicare-eligible military beneficiaries from otherwise being denied care in military hospitals. (See page 12.) Other funding such as a three percent raise for the active duty force and full cost of living adjustments (COLAs) for retired military pay are crucial to keeping the commitment made to those who serve and have served. (See pages 12 and 13.)

In my message on pages 2-5, I remember our nation's 220th birthday by recalling the words of President George Washington, "To be Prepared for War is One of the Most Effective Means of Preserving Peace." These words are particularly meaningful today in our still dangerous and unstable world. The key to our strong national security presently is an adequate force structure, equipment and training, and, most importantly, the high quality volunteer force which has provided America's defense over the past 20 plus years. We believe that "Reaffirming America's Commitment to its Military/Veterans" who have defended our nation for over 220 years is an excellent way of publicizing the need for Congress and the White House to provide for a strong national defense and to keep the promises made to America's military/veterans in exchange for their 20 to 35 years of service to our nation in peace and war!

a list of the Congressional members reaffirming the commitment to America's military/veterans in our September/October USJ so that our members and supporters can make educated decisions when voting in the fall election. We appreciate the support that you have given to the military/veteran community previously and hope that we can continue to count on it now and in the future.

If you have any questions, please give me or my staff a call at (703) 750-1342. We urgently need your statement of support by completing the enclosed form or sending us a letter of explanation or comment so we can list it in the September/October issue of the *Uniformed Services Journal*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.C. Pennington", written over the typed name.

J.C. PENNINGTON

Major General, USA, Retired
President

Enclosures

1. Reaffirmation Commitment Statement
2. Jul/Aug 1996 Uniformed Services Journal
3. Bob Dole Reaffirmation Concept



Election 96



NAUS Call To Action

Reaffirm America's Commitment To Its Military/Veterans

☐ **I support Reaffirming America's Commitment to its Military/Veterans.** America's military/veterans made a commitment to serve this country with the understanding that their country would not forget them. Those who serve and have served their fellow Americans on the battlefield and in our communities through public service all deserve the benefits they have been promised.

- I support Reaffirming America's Commitment to its Military/Veterans to insure a strong national defense and to protect the high quality volunteer force.
- I support keeping the promises made including adequate pay and compensation, cost-of-living protected retired pay, and adequate medical care.
- I support keeping the promised and earned quality of life support for the Total Force of the United States: active, retired, reserve, National Guard and other veterans, their families and survivors.
- I support honoring the commitments made to America's veterans and military retirees.

☐ **I cannot support this concept because:**

☐ **I propose the following alternatives:**

Member of Congress

State of _____

Please Mail to: National Association for Uniformed Services
5535 Hempstead Way
Springfield, VA 22151

or FAX 703-354-4380
or PHONE 703-750-1342, X3010

Listed on the back of this form are bills that we believe will accomplish much of what is needed to
Reaffirm America's Commitment to its Military/Veterans

Keeping Faith With Our Military

by Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole

I welcome this opportunity to express my support and appreciation to all of you in the military and veteran community.

As you may know, I served during World War II in the 10th Mountain Division in the mountains of Italy. I understand what it means to leave family and home to serve in harm's way. I am proud to have served my country and fought for freedom along with you.

In my view, one of the highest callings is service to one's country. From Okinawa to Omaha Beach ... from the Chosen Reservoir to the jungles of Vietnam ... through the deserts of the Persian Gulf and the 45 years of the Cold War ... you have risked your lives to preserve America's freedom and the freedom of peoples throughout the world.

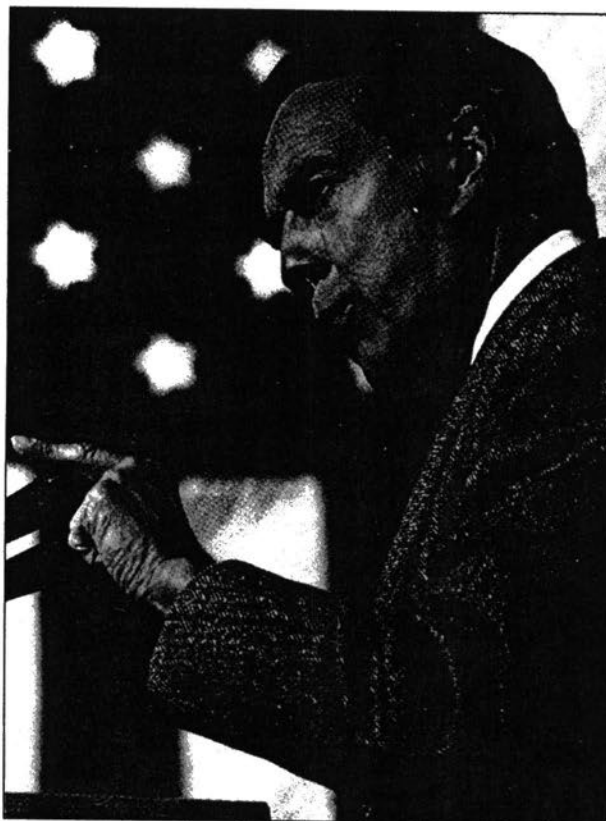
As military men and women — active, retired, reserve, veteran — you and your families still serve in the defense of freedom. In return for your commitment and hard work, our government pledged a commitment to compensate you for your service. I believe it is time to reaffirm America's commitment to its military, which has protected our nation's interests for more than 200 years.

Our founding fathers highlighted the importance of a strong national defense in the Preamble of the Constitution by calling on the government to "provide for the common defense." They charged Congress to "raise and support armies" and named the President the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

As this Congress takes up the important work of balancing the budget, we must remember our responsibilities to the military and that commitments made to the military personnel were

earned -- the result of honorable and faithful service.

No doubt about it, it is time to change the way our government works. We must be more efficient, more responsive, and less expensive. This Congress is making tough choices to



Senator Bob Dole

accomplish those goals but we will not do so at the expense of America's veterans. This nation must never forget its responsibilities to provide for the legitimate needs of those who answer our nation's call to duty.

One area of growing concern to the military community is medical care. I support Medicare reimbursement (subvention) to the Department of Defense (DoD) for treatment provided to Medicare eligible beneficiaries in military treatment facilities (MTFs). I intend to introduce legislation authorizing a demonstration-test of subvention, which I believe will show that it is both feasible and desirable.

Another area of concern is COLA equity. I have opposed inequitable treatment of military retirees' cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) since its inclusion in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1993. I am pleased that the Senate Budget and

Armed Services Committees have restored COLA equity and that the FY 1996 Defense Authorization Act passed by both houses included the COLA equity provision. To encourage House passage, I sent a letter to House Speaker Newt Gingrich urging that he personally support military retiree COLAs, and that he work to ensure that the language providing for COLA equity remained in the Defense Authorization Act of 1996.

In addition, I believe the defense budget has been cut too far, too fast. Under the President's budget, the United States would spend less of its GNP on defense than it spent prior to Pearl Harbor. However, the Republican Congress has refused to continue down the path toward a hollow military. The increased funding we provided in the 1996 Defense Budget will help modernize our

forces, maintain our technological edge, and ensure that America remains the world's leader. Central to this effort are the quality of life initiatives also contained in the FY 1996 Defense bills. **Our national defense depends on a quality, all-volunteer force.** No doubt, that force deserves adequate compensation, medical care and family support.

In closing, let me say that those who are serving now, and those who may be considering serving in the future, are watching how we deal with our obligations to veterans. **If we do not keep faith with our veterans and retirees, it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to recruit and maintain the high quality personnel necessary for a strong national defense.**

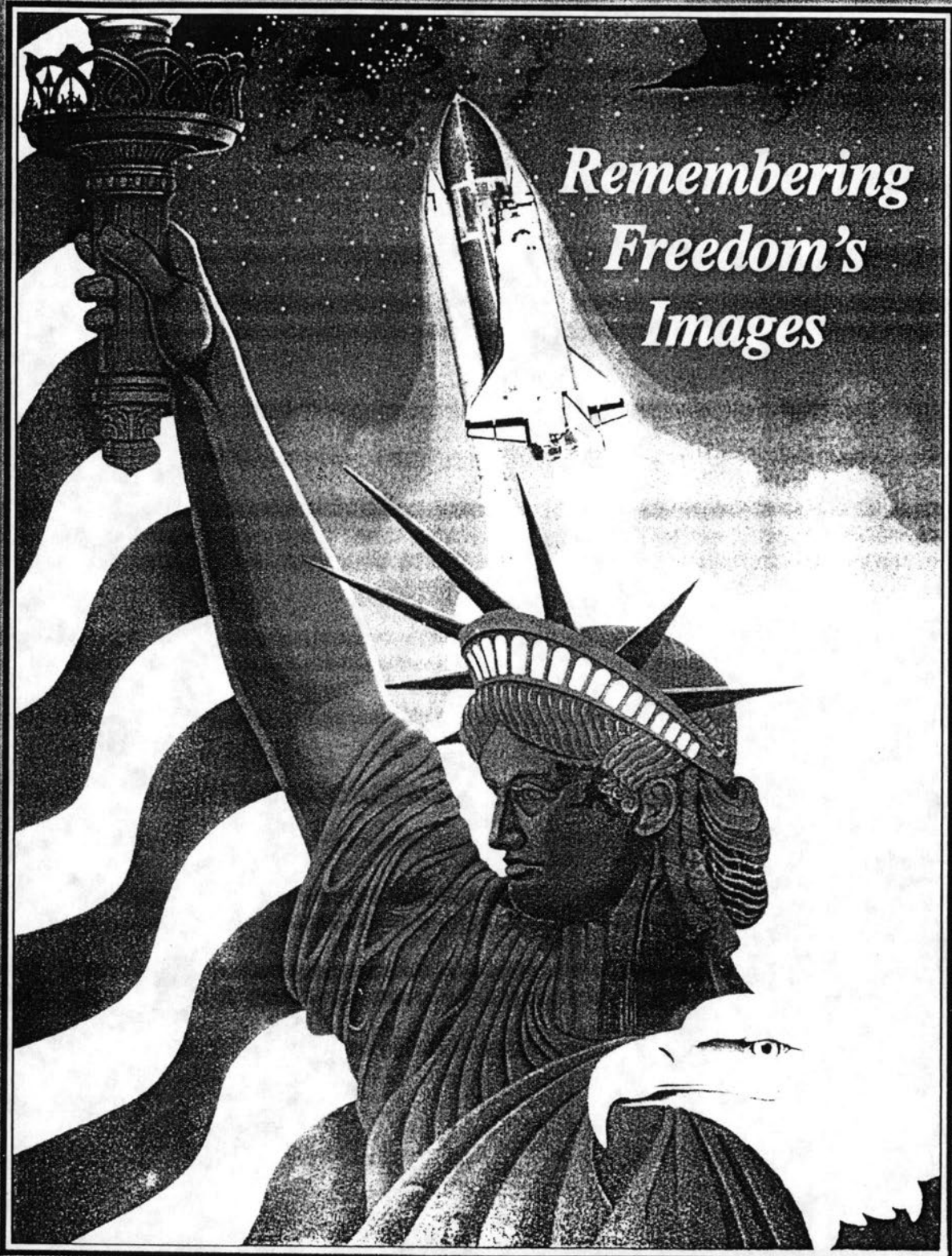
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Freedom's
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JOURNAL

July/August 1996

Vol. 20, No. 4

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PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION: *To support legislation which will uphold the security of the United States, sustain the morale of the Armed Forces, and provide fair and equitable consideration for all members of the uniformed services.*

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