Senator Loeffler

Senator Perdue

Representative Carter

Representative Cunningham

As a follow up to the SEVERELY DISABLED VETERANS …. ILP Stats Communication sent yesterday I ask you to consider the following.  Perhaps this will help you get a grasp on this dire situation that not only Ga Veterans, but those nationwide face and suffer every day.

At one point not so many years ago the Atlanta Regional Office which encompasses the entire state was considered the “TIP OF THE SPEAR” of the Independent Living Program for SEVERELY DISABLED VETERANS.  This was inclusive of not only quantity but quality of benefits afforded our SEVERELY DISABLED VETERANS.  Jack Kingston and the Atlanta Regional Director and Staff well deserved that moniker.

In a very short time Georgia has fallen from the “TIP OF THE SPEAR” all the way down to the Heel of the Spear.  Why is this?  In addition to the disastrous rewrite of the M28R, the old adage “All politics is local” enters into the equation here.

Following is an extract from the ILP annual results previously provided.  Bear in mind that SEVERELY DISABLED VETERANS are approximately 2% of the total Veteran Population.

STATE                      # of Veterans                            # of ILP FY 19

**GA                         706,000                                         4**

CT                             187,000                                              5

NM                           157,000                                            14

TN                             470,000                                            17

FL                            1,569,000                                           20

NY\*                           790,000                                            22     \*2 Regional Offices

AL                              370,000                                            24

MI                              597,000                                           24

AZ                              520,000                                           36

TX\*                           1,596000                                          71    \*2 Regional Offices

**NJ                            362,000                                      87**

This snapshot reveals significant disparity in how SEVERELY DISABLED VETERANS are/are not afforded this VA benefit (ILP) depending on their Regional Office.  What it doesn’t show is the quality of the benefit since the 2014 M28 rewrite.

Why is it that some Region Commands apparently put emphasis on ILP, while others seem to care less (GA -4   NJ -87 with ½ Vet population)?

One might wonder why the Central Office isn’t taking action to remedy this disparity to provide SEVERELY DISABLED VETERANS this life altering and often life extending benefit NATIONWIDE.

Undoubtedly there are multiple reasons for this travesty, and I believe travesty to be accurate, have been discussed over the years, yet still with no resolve.

Please know I will be more than happy to provide any additional historical information you may need to address this year after year never ending disservice to our 16,000 GA SEVERELY DISABLED VETERANS and the untold multitudes nationwide.

It’s long past time to step up and support not just Veterans, but those “most SEVERELY DISABLED VETERANS” especially.  The laws are already on the books.