Joint Hearing: Legislative Presentation of Disabled American Veterans

Opening Remarks of U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.)

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 | 2:00 p.m.

As Prepared for Delivery:

I want to welcome the Disabled American Veterans here today for our first joint hearing this session and my first joint hearing as Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

The work you do is critical to supporting our nation's veterans and our committees are fortunate to have your help with the important work we are doing to improve the lives of our nation's veterans and their families.

Before I begin, I would like to extend a special welcome to those who traveled here from Kansas today. Can you all please stand or raise your hand?

Thank you to all of you for being here and for making the journey from our great state. You left families, loved ones, and personal lives to be here today—even with full knowledge of the shortage of quality BBQ here in our nation's capital—in order to support your fellow veterans. I am very appreciative to have you all here with us today.

I'll keep my remarks short so that we can jump right in to hear DAV's priorities. But I do want to thank you, Commander Whitehead, and your wife Kim, for being with us today. I want to also commend the work that your leadership team and all of DAV does for our nation's veterans and their families on a day to day basis.

We've had a lot of legislative changes and progress at the Department over the past few years, whether it be through passage of the MISSION Act, Blue Water Navy Act or the Appeals Modernization Act to name a few. And DAV has been and will continue to be a vital partner to ensure that VA executes these programs and policies correctly.

I look forward to your presentation and our discussion today and I look forward to continuing to work together to continue improving the benefits and services provided to our nation's veterans.

Chairman Takano, thanks for traveling over here from the House side. You are now recognized for your opening remarks.

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