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*Air Force Association  
American Ex-Prisoners  
of War  
American Legion  
AMVETS  
Association of the United  
States Army  
Disabled American  
Veterans  
Fleet Reserve  
Association  
Korean War Veterans  
Association  
Legion of Valor of the  
U.S., Inc.  
Marine Corps League  
Military Order of the  
Purple Heart  
Military Officers  
Association of America  
Military Order of the  
World Wars  
National Association for  
Uniformed Services  
Navy Seabee Veterans of  
America  
Non-Commissioned  
Officers Association  
Paralyzed Veterans of  
America  
Reserve Officers  
Association  
Roanoke Valley Veterans  
Council  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Vietnam Veterans of  
America  
Virginia National Guard  
Association  
Women Marines  
Association*

Adopted  
July 13, 2011

Amended  
December 20, 2011

## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

### 2012 POSITION PAPER Veterans Identification

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To provide a simple, ready means of identification for Virginia's veterans.
2. **BACKGROUND:**
  - Veterans who have served in the active military, naval, or air service and who have been released under conditions other than dishonorable receive a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, known as a Department of Defense (DD) Form 214, or DD-214.
  - Retired service personnel, including those who are medically retired, receive a United States Uniformed Services Identification (ID) Card (DD Form 2 (Retired)).
  - Veterans who receive medical care through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) receive a VA ID card. However, only 15% of Virginia's veterans qualify for VA medical care.
3. **DISCUSSION:**
  - Veterans who wish to prove veterans status, but who lack a retiree or VA ID card, must show a DD-214 or other discharge papers. However, these documents cannot be conveniently carried on a daily basis.
  - Creating a Virginia Veterans ID Card would:
    - Give veterans a quick, convenient way to prove veterans status;
    - Help veterans qualify for commercial discounts (restaurants and other stores) or other cost saving features (such as free access to Virginia's parks or reduced fishing license fees);
    - Potentially help law enforcement officials assist veterans in crisis situations, such as when a veteran may be suffering from post-traumatic stress and other emotional battle scars; and
    - Honor their service to Virginia and the Nation.
  - To obtain the Virginia Veterans ID Card, veterans would need to show their DD-214 as evidence of their service and their discharge. Retired service members could present either a DD-214 or retiree ID card.
  - DMV already has the statutory authority to create a separate Virginia Veterans ID Card and has agreed to do so. The target roll out is Memorial Day 2012.
4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and General Assembly support the creation of a Virginia Veterans ID Card.