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Delegate Marty Gearheart
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Delegate Gary Howell

The West Virginia Legislative Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs met each month during the 2014-2015 interim period beginning in May 2014 and ending in January 2015 to discuss and study topics relating to issues facing veterans, their families, and ways to enhance benefits available to them as per the requests found in House Concurrent Resolution 22. At its meetings, the committee received testimony from the following individuals:

BGEN David Buckalew, West Virginia National Guard

BGEN Buckalew presented information to the committee on several occasions regarding the West Virginia National Guard, including budgeting issues and base updates.

Secretary Rick Thompson, West Virginia Department of Veterans' Assistance

Secretary Thompson appeared before the committee at several meetings to present information and updates to ongoing projects and programs within the Department of Veterans' Assistance. Additionally, Secretary Thompson spoke about issues regarding the veterans nursing home in Clarksburg, West Virginia and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance at Veterans Assistance field offices.

Mr. Patrick Crane, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

Mr. Crane appeared before the committee to present information regarding an update on an awarded grant for veteran education and outreach.

Mr. Kevin Crickard, Director, West Virginia Veterans' Nursing Home
Ms. Beth Brown, Director, Louis A. Johnson Medical Center

Mr. Crickard lead the committee on a tour of the West Virginia Veterans' Nursing Home during the West Virginia Legislature's visit to Clarksburg, West Virginia. Ms. Brown followed with a tour of the Louis A. Johnson Medical Center.

Mr. Bob Knittle, Director, West Virginia Board of Medicine

Director Knittle presented information to the committee regarding medical licencing requirements for Federal and state licensed physicians working in Federal Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

Dr. Gina Maiocco, Clinical Associate Professor of Nursing at WVU

Dr. Maiocco presented information to the committee regarding her study focusing on West Virginia University student women veterans.

Ms. Anne Montague, Director, Thanks Plain and Simple
Ms. Bertha "Buddie" Curnette

Ms. Montague presented information to the committee regarding Thanks Plain and Simple's Rosie the Riveter Program and their veteran outreach programs. Ms. Curnette appeared before the committee to provide details of her account of being a Rosie the Riveter during the second World War.

The committee took action on and recommended the introduction of the following legislation to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance:

HCR/SCR *** - Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to continue studying the needs, challenges, and issues facing West Virginia military veterans, West Virginia citizens serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, the West Virginia National Guard and other military affairs of the state of West Virginia.