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Subject: 2007 Reflections and 2008 Projections: Veterans of Modern Warfare, Inc.
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Veterans of Modern Warfare, Inc.

January 1, 2008

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Dear Juliana,

It's been a great year for Veterans of Modern Warfare!

New Years gives the perfect opportunity for us to reflect upon our accomplishments and look forward to our goals and plans for 2008.

2007: Recoup of VMW Accomplishments and Milestones

After the VMW Executive Committee met in Kansas City one year ago, the focus of organizational efforts for renewed organizational development and advocacy began to shape.

April 2007:

- VMW Executive Committee files 501(c) paperwork with the IRS.
- VMW launches new website: www.modernveterans.com
- VMW lobbies Capital Hill on destigmatization of PTSD, issues related to TBI, post-deployment health issues, and seeking new Congressional hearings on Gulf War Illnesses treatment and research.

June 2007:

- VMW testifies at requested House Veterans Affairs Health Subcommittee on Gulf War Exposures and ALS, with major national and international media coverage and renewed House interest and activity on funding these efforts within DoD.

July 2007:

- VMW initiates new electronic newsletter.

August 2007:

- VMW is an invited presenter at the United Spinal annual convention service officers training in Orlando, Florida.
- VMW is an invited presenter at the United Auto Workers national veterans conference in Black Lake, Michigan.

September 2007:

- VMW information provided to National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs at annual national conference, Annapolis, Maryland.
- VMW testifies before Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing on Treatment and Research on Gulf War Illnesses, with major national and international media coverage and renewed Senate interest activity on funding these efforts within DoD.

October 2007:

- VMW Receives IRS notification that IRS 501 (c) (19) status has been approved, awarding Veterans of Modern Warfare, Inc. the status of a tax-exempt veterans membership organization.
- VMW receives VVA Board approval and support for organizational development and member support.
- VMW continues Congressional lobbying efforts on issues related to the National Defense Authorization Act and appropriation bills, including destigmatization of PTSD, creation of appropriate registries for Iraq/Afghanistan veterans with TBI, eye injuries, and renewal of Troops to Teachers program within the No Children Left Behind reauthorization.

November/December 2007:

- VMW Press Release praising GI Bill programs aiding education for returning veterans.
- VMW Lobbying efforts for support of HR 3973 - Veterans Guaranteed Bonus Act
- VMW lobbying efforts for support of HR 3997, the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2007.

Membership and Dues

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Many of you have committed to the growth and development of Veterans of Modern Warfare and its growing position as the premier voice of today's veteran. With your partnership, support and volunteer time, effort and sacrifice, we are indeed becoming a force in Washington, DC. VMW's larger chapters have become regular fixtures at events in their communities and are establishing relationships with their State Legislators. And we have lobbied on their behalf in Washington, D.C.

We believe that if each VMW and AVMW member commits to recruiting just one member for the next two months, VMW will be eligible to apply for its charter before our first national convention. *Please, take the challenge!* This is a vital organizational goal that can only be met with the help of each chapter and individual member's combined efforts.

## **Dues**

We have received a significant amount of feedback regarding the VMW dues directive as listed on our national application. Thus, the VMW national board has elected to suspend dues until our national convention in July 2008. At that time, we will give the issue to the VMW membership delegates and make an organizational decision that best reflects the needs and views of our modern veterans.

## **Chapter Leadership:**

Please provide us with an updated officer roster as well as any information you would like to have posted on the national web site. Our intention is to maintain up-to-date contact information for all chapters and forming chapters. Feel free to list your meeting date, places and times. Please e-mail any updates to [info@modernveterans.com](mailto:info@modernveterans.com).

## **2008: Upcoming Events**

We are currently submitting grant applications that will allow us many more opportunities to serve our veterans and be an even greater presence on the Hill.

As you may know, our national board has been dedicating not just their time and efforts, but largely financing the web site, the e-letters and our toll-free phone service. At times our personal service to our members and chapters is delayed and we have greatly appreciated your understanding that we are doing our very best to serve each area of VMW to the best of our abilities. We look forward to hiring a staff person in the near future to assist our organizational needs and growth. Please continue to send applications to the D.C. PO Box. Please do not collect VMW dues.

Please note that donations are tax-deductible.

### **January**

VMW is participating in the veteran service organization forum at the convention of Student Veterans in Chicago, January 11 &12.

### **February**

VMW is presenting to the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs at their national conference in Annapolis, Maryland.

### **July**

VMW is proud and honored to be holding its first national convention in conjunction with the 30th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans of America in Greenville, South Carolina. More information with soon be provided to our members.

We have many projects developing for VMW and we will keep you abreast of situations and our lobbying efforts via the front page of our web site. Please check in occasionally!

Finally, we ask that you forward our newsletter to veterans and supporters of veterans issues in your life. Currently, our greatest means of communication with our members is via our VMW Newsletters. Please help us make them available far and wide! Thank you for ensuring that no Modern Veteran is left behind.

We wish you and your families a healthy and prosperous 2008.

Most Sincerely,

Veterans of Modern Warfare National Board

[Please forward to your fellow veterans and supporters!](#)