



Take Action: Blinded Veterans Day March 28, 2020

The Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) encourages BVA National Officers, BVA District Directors, Regional Group Officers, and Chapter Leaders to contact their local, county, and state elected public officials with the following Blinded Veterans Day resolution. The organization requests that local officials issue the Proclamation below on or about March 28, 2020 to recognize both the congressionally established Blinded Veterans Day and BVA's 75th anniversary.

BVA also recommends that VA Medical Center Directors and Blind Rehabilitation Service staff (VIST Coordinators, Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialists, Visual Impairment Service Outpatient Rehabilitation programs, and Blind Center Directors, Low Vision Optometrists or Ophthalmologists assist the BVA by supporting and plan local events to raise awareness about both the national Blinded Veterans Day and the Blinded Veterans Association.

Official 2020 Blinded Veterans Day & BVA Proclamation

Whereas, on March 28, the Blinded Veterans Association members will strive to promote national recognition for Public Law 111–156 enacted by the 111th session of Congress designating annually March 28 as the National Blinded Veterans Day, and for such efforts in improving the VA vision rehabilitation services, benefits, research, and caregiver support for our nation's blinded veterans during 75 years of service, and;

Expressing special congratulations and recognition for the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) on its 75th anniversary of representing blinded veterans and their families since March 28, 1945, when 100 World War II blinded service members at Avon "Old Farms" Army Convalescent Hospital in Connecticut, at 8:45 a.m., they formed the Blinded Veterans Association, and;

Whereas, these individual blinded veterans were a cross-section of American WWII heroes and pioneers in establishing rehabilitation services for the war blinded, who not only shaped the rich history, philosophy, knowledge, and skills of education and rehabilitation of the blind, and who also gave us insight into current and future challenges, who shared their personal lives and

showed us strategies to ensure that services for all blinded veterans remain unique, and specialized, and;

Whereas, General Omar Bradley, the Veterans Affairs Administrator, appointed BVA as the first official representative for blinded veterans for the filing of claims and appeals to VA, making it only the eighth veterans service organization to receive such authorization and the only Veterans Service Organization since then to receive its own day of recognition, and;

Whereas, the Blinded Veterans Association was originally incorporated in New York State as a nonprofit association, then moved to Washington, DC in 1947, and;

Whereas, the 58th Congress approved the Congressional Charter for recognizing BVA in August 26, 1958, and;

Whereas, from its early beginnings, BVA encouraged the blinded veterans it served “to take their rightful place in the community with their fellow men and work with them toward the creation of a peaceful world,” and have continued to advocate for the war blinded to regain independence, confidence, and self-esteem through rehabilitation training, and;

Whereas, we request that all Americans recognize March 28 of each year as Blinded Veterans Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that I/we, “_____,” support(s) the goals and ideals of Blinded Veterans Day; and;

(1) express (es) appreciation for the efforts and the goals of the Blinded Veterans Association in improving the rehabilitation services, education, research, and benefits for blinded veterans of the United States;

(2) call(s) upon the people of the United States to all recognize and observe “Blinded Veterans Day” with appropriate programs and public activities.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, That I, _____, recognizes and honor Blinded Veterans Day with Blinded Veterans Association to observe a day in its honor with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities for service dedicated to the restoration of independence to such blinded veterans.

Provided below are some public service announcement (PSA) links to BVA radio and television releases that each BVA officer can use in contacting local media to encourage the dissemination of additional information about BVA to the public. Please include the BVA national website, www.bva.org, or contact information for regional groups or chapters.

Follow up on these efforts:

BVA requests that any proclamations, news stories, or local public events be collected and copied to BVA National Headquarters to Communications assistant at kfitgerald@bva.org and copy BVA executive director jbogart@bva.org. These five below are just a few radio PSA's for those interested. The links provided navigate to two radio spots newly released in December.

<http://www.napsnet.com/radio/mp3/ck0431.mp3>

<http://www.napsnet.com/radio/mp3/ck0435.mp3>

<http://www.napsnet.com/tv/mov/006177.mov>

<http://www.napsnet.com/tv/mov/ck0432.mov>

<http://www.napsnet.com/tv/mov/ck0436.mov>

<http://www.napsnet.com/tv/mov/006035.mov>

<http://www.napsnet.com/tv/mov/005533.mov>

Respectfully,

Thomas Zampieri Ph.D.
National President BVA
Chairman Government Relations Committee