



National Disabled Veterans Business Council, Inc.

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Monday, July 17, 2017

Dear Mr. President,

My name is Joe Franklin and I serve the NDVBC as their Board Vice President. I have served on several Veteran charitable and Veteran service organizations Boards for more than 20 years.

Over this time, I've been part of agencies that have created several empowerment programs that benefit our Veteran community, even though the VA would never give these organizations access to the market or even market our Veteran initiatives through their system, all the time giving direct referrals to other local organizations that operate entitlement programs that clog the VA hospital system.

When a thorough inventory is done, you'll find very few Veteran advocates among our ranks, which is very unfortunate.

The local VA Hospital claims that they could not work with the NDVBC because we were not nationally recognized, so the NDVBC spent nearly a year being vetted by the VA Central Office in DC, of which the NDVBC is now on the National Registry.

To date; the NDVBC's national recognition has not resolved any of these existing issues.

The West Palm Beach VA hospital claims they are not allowed to work with/promote NGO.(non government organizations) although it has been clearly documented that this is false. The WPB VA regularly refers and promotes local NGO's that are not even nationally recognized.

Several attempts have been made to reach out to the VA headquarters at multiple levels, to include the Secretary and all have failed.

The NDVBC has great appreciation for the support the President has vocalized towards our Veteran community and hope that a story can bring this issue to a resolution from the Trump administration.

Sincerely,

Joe Franklin
Board Vice President