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 National Public Relations Director

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

A. Leo Anderson, 47, of Washington, D. C., a former Coast Guard Veteran, was elected National Commander of AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II and Korea), at the 22nd Annual National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

The newly elected Commander, a native of Massachusetts, is Director of Veterans Affairs for the District of Columbia and succeeds Ralph E. Hall of Fort Myers Beach, Florida, as Commander of the 200,000 member Veterans Organization.

His wife, Myke, a World War II woman Marine Corporal, is the Department of Maryland Commander. They have a daughter, Nancy, 17, and a son Phillip, 21, who is on active duty with the U. S. Navy, on the U. S. S. Kearsarge, in Viet Nam.

Other National officers elected are: Vice Commander for Membership, John "Jake" Gattler, Detroit, Michigan; Vice Commander for Programs, Fred Bogatay, Greensburg, Pennsylvania; Judge Advocate, Don Freda, Cleveland, Ohio; Finance Officer, Berge Avadonian, Waltham, Massachusetts; and Provost Marshal, William Schultz, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The AMVETS National Auxiliary elected officers are: Ellen Bogatay, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, President; June Ruddell, St. Louis, Missouri, Sr. Vice President; Grace Osbourne, Oakhill, Illinois, Jr. Vice President; Rita Potvin, Old Orchard Beach, Maine, Treasurer; Dorothy Le Roy, Chicago, Illinois, Chaplain; Edna Millane, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Historian; and Esther Mitchell, Cleveland, Ohio, Sgt. at Arms.

"The Sad Sacks", Fun and Honor Group of the organization, elected Harry Travis of Mansfield, Ohio as Saddest Sad Sack; Robert Dehier of Detroit, Michigan, Almost Saddest; Steve Seinetha, Toledo, Ohio, Almost not Quite Saddest; and Earl Love, St. Louis, Missouri, Hoosgow, Sad Sack; Harold Le Roy, Chicago, Illinois, Cut Up Sad Sack; Rollin Cronk, Sandusky, Ohio, Worm Sad Sack; and Paul Welsh, Columbus Ohio, Squire Sad Sack.

"The Sackettes" of the Auxiliary elected: Barbara Beyhiemer of St. Louis, Missouri as National Snappiest; Joyce Wilson, Boston, Massachusetts, as Snappier; Ann Corner, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Treasurer; Henrieta Mc Closky, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Stubbornest; Ann Miller, St. Louis, Missouri, Scribbler; and Olga Wesloh, St. Louis, Missouri, Scrappiest.

In other actions, the 2,000 delegates to the convention voted the following Silver Helmet Awards: "DEFENSE AWARD", to the Armed Forces of the United States, to be accepted by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, accompanied by Representative enlisted men from each service. The "AMERICANISM AWARD" was voted to Doctor Kenneth Wells, President of the Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Speaker of the House, The Honorable John W. Mc Cormack, of Massachusetts, will receive the highly coveted "CONGRESSIONAL AWARD".

William J. Driver, Administrator, Veterans Administration, was voted the "REHABILITATION AWARD".

Motion picture star, Martha Raye, was unanimously voted a "SPECIAL AWARD", Silver Helmet for "her outstanding contributions and service to the morale of the Armed Forces overseas".

The awards, highest the AMVETS can bestow, will be presented at the Annual Silver Helmets Awards Luncheon, in Washington, D. C., in April, 1967. The Annual Luncheon attracts hundreds of Military, Government and Embassy Officials, along with AMVETS from all over the country, and is one of the high lights of the year.

The Convention unanimously endorsed Anderson's Legislative Report, that "reaffirmed the support of the President of the United States in his policies and decisions in defense of freedom in the Far East".

Convention Speakers included Byron Nichols, Vice President Chrysler Corporation and General Manager of the Dodge Division, Governor James Rhodes, Mayor Maynard E. Sensenbrenner, Cyril Brickfield, Deputy Administrator, Veterans Administration, and motion picture star, Elizabeth Allen.

Vice President, Hubert Humphrey attended the convention in the role of Parade Marshal. Following the Parade, he was interviewed by Commander Hall on a number of timely topics. The interview, which lasted about an hour, was covered in detail by approximately sixty members of the Press, including National TV, Newspapers, Wire Services and Radio.

The Vice President also made a surprise appearance at the Commanders Banquet and drew heavy applause as he lashed out at those who belittle our country saying, "The American Flag today is the hope and salvation of millions of people throughout the world".

In the Traffic Safety Contests, co-sponsored by Dodge Motors, the following awards were made: 1966 Dodge Car to Roxanne Vaughn, 15, of Wrightwood, California, for her winning entry in the Letter to the Commander Contest on "What I have learned about traffic safety from the driving habits of my parents". 1966 Dodge Car to Post # 55 of Goleta, California for the "Best Community Service Program". 1966 Dodge Car to the Department of Massachusetts for the "Best Department Traffic Safety Program".

Parade winners were:

JUNIOR COLOR GUARD - (CLOSED) RAE-VENS	MICHIGAN - PONTIAC POST 12
SENIOR COLOR GUARD - (CLOSED) POLICE POST	ILLINOIS - CHICAGO POST 18
JUNIOR DRILL TEAM - (CLOSED) RAE-VENS ANDERSON TOLEDO	MICHIGAN - PONTIAC POST 12 INDIANA - ANDERSON POST 9 OHIO - TOLEDO POST 63-711-1961
SENIOR DRILL TEAM (OPEN) ERIE LORAIN	OHIO - POST 55 OHIO - POST 47
FLOAT LEST WE FORGET OHIO	OHIO - POST 66 OHIO - OHIO DEPARTMENT
OUTSTANDING DEPARTMENT	OHIO
OUTSTANDING MARCHING UNIT	TOLEDO JR. AMVETS OHIO POST 63-711-1961

The Convention Committee Members were, Fred Tonnemacher Mansfield, Ohio, Chairman; Wallace Sarto, Columbus, Ohio, Co-Chairman; Paul Kimes, Sandusky, Ohio, State Commander; and Paul C. Welsh, Columbus, Ohio, State Adjutant.

The 1967 National Convention will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, followed by Hollywood-By-The-Sea, Florida in 1968, and New Orleans, Louisiana in 1969.

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

August 19, 1966

TO: The Vice President
FROM: Ted 

At the television program following the Am Vets parade, Commander Hall will ask you the following questions. Herb Beckington has drafted answers to these questions. They are attached, along with backup material, under the numbered tabs.

1. President Johnson has said that the United States is an Asian and Pacific power. Will you elaborate further on this? What is our role to be in Asia and the Pacific?
2. What is the general situation at present in Vietnam? How is the military situation developing? What will happen in the elections?
3. What is the Administration's position on the proposal of Asian countries for an Asian peace conference on Vietnam?
4. What has been the effect of the war on Vietnam on our economy? Is it causing the inflation?
5. There are a great deal of inequities in the present draft. A number of proposals have been put forth regarding revision of the draft laws and concerning alternate possibilities of national service. What is your comment on these?

There may be a sixth question: Do you support the AmVets proposal for more national cemeteries? You will probably wish to respond to the effect that you have talked with AmVets leaders about this, that it is before the Congress, and that you hope the veterans' organizations will bring all information possible to members of the Congress.

This question-and-answer period will be covered by three network outlets in Columbus and by the local press, including AP and UPI.

(You may also be asked about "draft dodgers" in Canada. You might wish to answer: They are few in number and anyone who would leave his country specifically to avoid national service probably isn't worthy of that much concern.)



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