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**Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management
Bureau of Veterans' Services
117 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0117**

February 9, 2026

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

The following is the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services' Annual Report on the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund for SFY 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025):

During SFY2025, the Bureau received \$211,962.38 from the taxation of table games at Maine casinos to fund "transportation for medical needs of veterans" and "veteran service officers at the veteran hospital." The Bureau distributed \$144,000 to:

- Disabled American Veterans (\$15,000) to fund transportation;
- American Legion (\$64,500.00); and
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (\$64,500.00) to fund two Veterans Service Officers (VSO) positions.

The remainder of the fund cascaded, per M.R.S.A. 37-B §514(3). Due to the standard end-of-fiscal-year closeout, these disbursements were not processed until the start of SFY2026.

The remaining \$67,962.39 went to:

- Maine Veterans Cemetery System Care Fund (\$46,214.41)
- Memorial Cemetery Flag Fund (\$8,155.49); and
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (\$13,592.48) to "coordinate an annual event to benefit homeless veterans."

During SFY2025, American Legion and VFW Veteran Services Officers assisted 2,182 veterans with VA Powers of Attorney, claims review and filing, VA appeals and hearings, and other general veteran challenges and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Richmond".

David Richmond, Director
Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services