



GULF, IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

2022 Annual Report

On July 27, 2022, marked the official day that the Gulf Iraq Afghanistan Veterans Association Inc. was established. This organization was started as there was no other organization that solely was dedicated to service members of all of Gulf Wars. It was very important that this group of service members have a social outlet to belong that honors them for their service and dedication to our country.

A great deal of time was dedicated to writing the charter and bylaws. An equal amount of time was spent developing the logo. It was important to have bylaws and a logo that was worthy of those who served in those conflicts.

Over the course of the next several months all incorporation paperwork was filed with both the State of Florida, and the Federal Government seeking 501c (19) non-profit status. An EIN number was assigned, a budget drafted and submitted to the IRS. A website was designed and launched along with a social media account on Facebook. On 29 November 2022 the IRS officially granted this organization its 501c (19) non-profit status. All fees for incorporation, website design were paid out of my personal account and I am not seeking reimbursement.

In November 2022 the Gulf Iraq Afghanistan Veterans Association hosted a guitar raffle. The guitar was signed by the rock group Great White, and the proceeds of that raffle was donated to the Korean War Veterans Association. A total of \$1,985 was raised and subsequently donated to Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 106.

Also, in October a presentation was given to the Port St. Lucie City Council seeking room in one of their veterans' parks for a memorial that this organization has decided to undertake. Once the money has been secured and erected the monument will be dedicated to those service members who have returned home and passed away from injuries that they sustained in combat.

The total cost of the monument will be approximately \$80k. While fundraising efforts have begun the organization is working closely with a grant writer seeking a national endowment. Fundraising for the monument began in January 2023, and to date we have raised \$5,500. Soon we will put out a call to artist seeking a design for said monument. This step is necessary to be considered for the federal grant.

During the next calendar year an all-out blitz will be conducted seeking to boost our membership. Social media campaigns, veterans' newsletters combined with word of mouth all will contribute to the increase of organizations numbers. To gain maximum number of members this first year it was decided to waive membership fees into the organization for calendar year 2023, after December 31, 2023, annual membership will be \$25.

Over the course of the next year, it is this organizations hope that we boost our membership while raising funds not only for the monument, but also for this organization. In the coming year as membership increase, we will need to seek a location to gather and hold our meetings.

As of Dec 31, 2022, the organization has a balance of \$1.30 in our checking account. I fully anticipate that in the coming year we will have a positive cash flow. With increased membership and other fund-raising efforts contributing to the positive bottom line. Although the organization has a zero balance in its operating account, we do have \$5,500 in our savings that is earmarked for the monument.

In closing, I want to stress that the future of this organization depends on the number of members that we recruit. No organization can last that has a minimum number of members. I am very optimistic that we will gain membership in the coming year, and as word travels not only by networking but also via social media we most certainly will gain more members. It is my hope that we have a chapter in every state, and with hard work and determination my hope will become a reality.

With deepest gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Pickett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "P".

David Pickett
President