



May 8, 2020

For Immediate Release

BVA NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCES CANCELLATION OF ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Due to the risks inherent in the current COVID-19 crisis, the National Board of Directors of the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) has announced the cancellation of the organization's milestone 75th National Convention, which had been scheduled for August 17-21, 2020 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill Hotel in Washington, DC.

“The Board has arrived at this most difficult determination with the health and safety of our members, their caregivers, and other convention participants foremost in our thoughts,” said National President Dr. Thomas Zampieri. “We also had to consider the travel restrictions that have been placed on Blind Rehabilitation Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) who always meet simultaneously at our hotel and who often attend our organization's educational sessions, social events, and exhibit hall activities.”

BVA's decision follows similar determinations made by other Veterans Service Organizations and Military Service Organizations hosting events throughout the country.

“We express our sincere appreciation to Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill Director of Sales and Marketing Ray Messina and Senior Sales Manager Kate Sullivan for their understanding and concern for our members,” said Dr. Zampieri. “Plans are underway to build on this challenging experience, strengthening the BVA-Hyatt partnership starting with a scheduling of the August 2022 convention at the Hyatt.

Dr. Zampieri also indicated that BVA's existing convention and education committees are now in the planning stages to develop web-based educational seminars, classes, and workshops that would serve both its general membership as well as the Blinded Veterans Association Auxiliary, which also holds its annual meetings and caregiver sessions in conjunction with the general BVA gathering in August.

Additional information about the upcoming BVA summer activities online will be uploaded to the BVA website, www.bva.org, as it becomes available.