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

February 24, 2025

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 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024):

During SFY2024, the Bureau received \$171,745.69 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." This amount was distributed to Disabled American Veterans (\$15,000) to fund transportation, the American Legion (\$64,500.00), and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (\$64,500.00) to fund two Veterans Service Officers (VSO) positions for a total of \$144,000 with \$27,745.69 remaining. The remainder of the fund was cascaded per M.R.S.A. 37-B §514(3). Of these remaining funds, \$18,867.07 went to the Maine Veterans Cemetery System Care Fund, \$3,329.48 went to the Memorial Cemetery Flag Fund, and \$5,549.14 went to the Veterans of Foreign Wars to "coordinate an annual event to benefit homeless veterans." Due to the standard end-of-fiscal year closeout, these disbursements were not processed until the start of SFY2025.

During SFY2024, American Legion and VFW Veteran Services Officers assisted 1725 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 black ink, appearing to read 'David Richmond'.

David Richmond, Director
Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services