



IRAQ *and* AFGHANISTAN
VETERANS *of* AMERICA



ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2008

IAVA'S MISSION

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, non-partisan education, community and advocacy organization. As the first and largest Iraq and Afghanistan veterans' group in America, IAVA has over 125,000 member veterans and civilian supporters nationwide. The mission of IAVA is to improve the lives of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families. IAVA strives to create a country which honors and supports the 1.8 million troops and veterans who are currently serving, or have served, in Iraq and Afghanistan. We achieve our mission by educating the public about veterans' issues, fostering a community for troops, veterans and their families, and advocating on behalf of the newest generation of American heroes.

EDUCATION

IAVA raises public consciousness about the issues facing our nation's veterans, and reaches millions of Americans as the premier source of information for policymakers, journalists, and veterans themselves. Innovative online strategies provide IAVA with a vast platform to raise awareness and shape public discourse, while local community engagement enables IAVA to bring the 99% of Americans who have not served in Iraq or Afghanistan face-to-face with these heroes.

COMMUNITY

Through online engagement and local outreach, IAVA is creating a robust and active network of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. IAVA provides valuable resources and services, and empowers veterans to connect with one another, fostering a strong and lasting community.

ADVOCACY

IAVA shapes national policy by producing comprehensive research reports, effectively advocating on Capitol Hill in support of IAVA's Legislative Agenda, and by building strong relationships with other veterans service organizations, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense, and the White House. IAVA also testifies regularly before Congress on the issues that matter most to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families.

IAVA's critical work is made possible by support from concerned citizens like you. Please visit IAVA.org for more information on how to take action and get involved. Thank you for your commitment to the newest generation of veterans and their families.

A Letter from IAVA's Executive Director

Friends,

2008 was a monumental year for IAVA. With the passage of the 21st Century GI Bill, tremendous growth of our dynamic membership, and the launch of the innovative Veteran Support outreach campaign with the Ad Council, IAVA is taking bold action to tackle the most urgent challenges facing the newest generation of veterans.

This year, IAVA achieved its greatest legislative victory to date. IAVA led the fight for a new GI Bill and won, ensuring an affordable education for the 1.8 million veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. We also saw historic increases in funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the expansion of mental health services, stronger legal protections for deployed National Guardsmen and Reservists, and for the first time since September 11, 2001, the VA budget was passed on time.

IAVA also made history in 2008 with the Veteran Support public service announcement (PSA) campaign to ease readjustment for returning veterans. The powerful TV, radio, billboard and online PSAs have been seen by millions of veterans and tens of millions of Americans. The innovative campaign website, CommunityOfVeterans.org, offers the first online social network exclusively for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The site also offers resources for mental health injuries, employment, housing and education. The momentum of this groundbreaking campaign has been growing steadily, and will continue to positively impact veterans and their families for years to come.

Despite solid victories in 2008, the years ahead present tremendous challenges. Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are coming home to the worst economy in decades, and while many civilians face unemployment and foreclosures, thousands of veterans confront these same issues, often after serving their second or third deployment. Further compounding an already difficult transition home, many veterans are returning with serious mental health injuries. A landmark RAND study published in April of 2008 revealed that one in five returning veterans suffers from a combat-related mental health wound such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or depression, and that thousands are facing these conditions in conjunction with a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). With a new President in office, and hundreds of thousands of troops returning home from Iraq or redeploying to Afghanistan, our country has reached a critical tipping point for this generation of veterans.

Together, we can make a difference. Now is the time when we can ensure that every veteran has a chance to achieve success in the amazing country they helped to defend. Your dedication and encouragement is transforming the way America supports its veterans, and that investment in IAVA changes the lives of millions. On behalf of our members, Board of Directors, and staff, I thank you.



Now let's get to work!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul". The signature is stylized and cursive.

PAUL RIECKHOFF

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA

CREATING THE 21ST CENTURY VETERANS' COMMUNITY

We Know Where You're Coming From: The Veteran Support Campaign

On Veterans Day 2008, IAVA and the Ad Council launched the groundbreaking Veteran Support campaign, the first multiyear public service advertising (PSA) effort directly aimed at Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families. The goal of the campaign is to increase the number of veterans who seek treatment for combat-related mental health injuries by reducing the stigma and isolation many veterans face when they return home. By connecting veterans with professional resources and other veterans, they can address issues they face- big and small- as they readjust to civilian life.



The compelling television PSA “Alone,” created pro bono by advertising agency BBDO, follows a young servicemember as he arrives home from combat. He is filmed in a completely empty airport terminal, alone on a subway and walking through desolate New York City streets. Eventually, he is approached by another veteran who extends his hand and welcomes him home. When the two young men shake hands, the deserted city comes alive, illustrating the power of connecting with another veteran. The advertisement directs the viewer to CommunityOfVeterans.org, the first and only online community exclusive to those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The advertisement has been broadcast on CBS, CNN, ESPN, AOL and hundreds of local outlets, reaching millions of Americans.

“I wish I had this campaign when I came home.”

BRYAN ADAMS, IRAQ WAR VETERAN, PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT AND STAR OF IAVA'S PSA “ALONE”

The campaign is on track to receive tens of millions of dollars in donated media support over the next several years, and coverage has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, The Associated Press, and on CNN and MSNBC. The Veteran Support campaign will empower the 1.8 million Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to connect with one another and become stronger together.

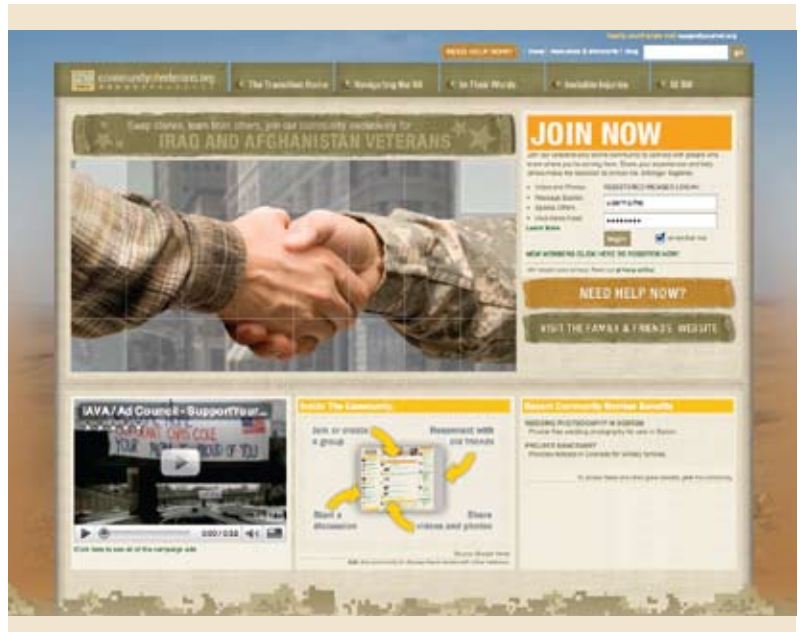
LEFT: IAVA'S PSA “ALONE” FEATURES IRAQ VETERANS TODD BOWERS (L) AND BRYAN ADAMS (R).

IAVA's Community of Veterans

IAVA's Veteran Support campaign website, CommunityOfVeterans.org, is a new and innovative resource website and social network exclusively for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. As the cornerstone of this historic campaign, the site has connected members of this diverse group of veterans in an unprecedented way, creating a unique, engaging and active community for our nation's newest generation of heroes.

Thousands of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans currently populate CommunityOfVeterans.org, with more joining every day. These veterans are finding mental health resources and tips on navigating the VA, posting their stories and pictures, and connecting one on one with other members of the community. The site offers forums for discussion, blog-posting capabilities, and other profile-enhancing features. With a surge of new veterans returning home in the coming years, there is an immense need for connection, and tremendous potential for growth.

CommunityOfVeterans.org has averaged over one thousand page visits a day since its debut in November. There are hundreds of user-generated groups on the website, such as a group for the 82nd Airborne Division and a group for female combat veterans. More revealing are the active discussion boards, ranging from topics like "PTSD Solutions" and "Connecting with Spouses" to "NASCAR fans." The community proves that connecting veterans with each other is a critical first step in addressing the isolation experienced by returning veterans, and is fighting the stigma attached to combat stress and combat-related mental health injuries. IAVA's CommunityOfVeterans.org is truly transforming the way that veterans connect with resources and interact with one another.



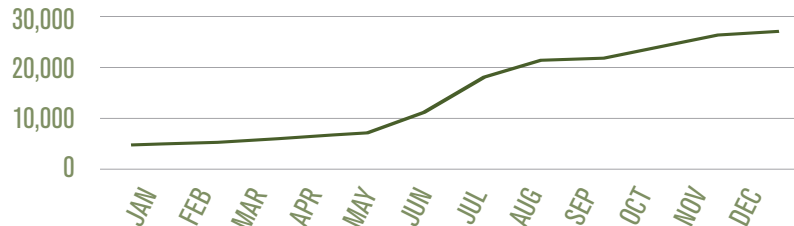
TOP: THE HOMEPAGE OF IAVA'S COMMUNITYOFVETERANS.ORG, THE FIRST SOCIAL NETWORK EXCLUSIVELY FOR IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS.

BOTTOM: AN OUTDOOR BILLBOARD ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE VETERAN SUPPORT CAMPAIGN.

BRINGING VETERANS TOGETHER LOCALLY

At the core of IAVA are its member veterans. In 2008, IAVA gained thousands of new veteran members through interest in benefits under the new GI Bill and the increased visibility of IAVA's mission. Local events enable thousands of veterans to come together, and give the general public a chance to commemorate their service. To continue serving as the premier resource for this generation of veterans, IAVA significantly expanded outreach efforts in 2008.

2008 IAVA VETERAN MEMBERSHIP



“Pat’s Run is one of Arizona’s most anticipated events of the year. As Team IAVA members, it was great to be able to spread the word that such a dedicated and hard working organization exists for the good of the troops and their families.”

CARA HAMMER, IAVA MEMBER VETERAN

Pat’s Run

In April, IAVA member veterans and supporters gathered in Tempe, Arizona to participate in Pat’s Run, an annual 4.2 mile run/walk in support of the Tillman Foundation, founded in honor of Pat Tillman. Tillman was a former NFL player for the Arizona Cardinals who enlisted in the Army after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. He served in Afghanistan, where he was killed in action in 2004.

The fourth annual race had over 19,000 participants. As a part of the event, IAVA hosted a dinner for Team IAVA, allowing for team vets and supporters to meet up and connect. IAVA also issued limited edition Pat’s Run T-shirts to help raise money for the Tillman Foundation, which carries forward Pat Tillman’s legacy of leadership and civic action by supporting future generations of leaders.

July 4th on the USS Midway

IAVA partnered with the voting advocacy group Declare Yourself and Cricket Wireless to commemorate 232 years of American independence. IAVA brought two hundred veterans and their family members onto the deck of the USS Midway aircraft carrier in San Diego, California for an Independence Day celebration. The event included live musical performances and a display of an original copy of the Declaration of Independence. Veterans from all generations were honored in a special ceremony featuring Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families, and fireworks lit up the night sky to close an amazing day.



OPPOSITE: TEAM IAVA AT PAT'S RUN IN TEMPE, ARIZONA.

TOP: HUNDREDS OF IAVA SUPPORTERS GATHER ON THE DECK OF THE USS MIDWAY FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY.

BOTTOM: FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA PUTS CARE PACKAGES TOGETHER WITH IAVA SUPPORTERS AT IAVA'S "SHOW THAT YOU CARE PACKAGE" PARTY.

IAVA at the National Conventions

At the Democratic National Convention and the Republican National Convention, IAVA sponsored events to assemble and ship care packages to our troops serving overseas. Hundreds of IAVA volunteers participated in IAVA's "Show That You Care Package" parties, creating over five hundred packages to send to deployed troops. The events demonstrated that caring for our troops isn't a partisan issue, but a unifying show of service and support. First Lady Michelle Obama energized volunteers with a speech before making care packages at the DNC event, and Senator Kit Bond (R-MO) helped to make care packages at the RNC event.

A Night for Vets: An MTV Concert for the BRAVE

On October 23, 2008, IAVA teamed up with MTV's Choose or Lose campaign to mobilize support for our country's newest generation of heroes with "A Night for Vets: An MTV Concert for the BRAVE." The nationally televised concert coincided with the launch of BRAVE (Bill of Rights for American Veterans), a petition to call attention to the most urgent issues facing Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. IAVA gathered over 1,200 new veterans and their supporters to participate in this amazing concert. Performers and special guests included Ludacris, 50 Cent, Hinder, CNN's Anderson Cooper and MTV's Sway Calloway.

Veterans Week 2008

In what has become an IAVA tradition, IAVA member veterans and supporters participated in over two hundred events in fifty states to honor our nation's troops and veterans during Veterans Week in November. At IAVA.org, supporters added their own activities and searched for existing events in their own neighborhoods. Veterans Day events stretched across the country, from an 8K Veterans Day run in Juneau, Alaska, to a Welcome Home gathering in Tucson, Arizona. At the New York City Veterans Day Parade, IAVA organized dozens of Iraq and Afghanistan vets to march down Fifth Avenue, and afterwards two hundred member veterans attended an IAVA-sponsored reception. Other highlights included the Veterans Day Parade in San Diego, California, a Veterans Week Air Show at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, and a groundbreaking ceremony for Jericho Project's Veteran Residences in New York.



TOP: (L-R) CNN ANCHOR ANDERSON COOPER, IAVA MEMBER VETERAN CAROLYN SCHAPPER, AND IAVA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAUL RIECKHOFF AT MTV'S CONCERT FOR THE BRAVE.

CENTER: IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS AFTER MARCHING IN THE VETERANS DAY PARADE IN NEW YORK CITY.

BOTTOM: IAVA MEMBER VETERANS AT THE NASDAQ BUILDING IN TIMES SQUARE, NEW YORK CITY.



Ring the Bell at NASDAQ

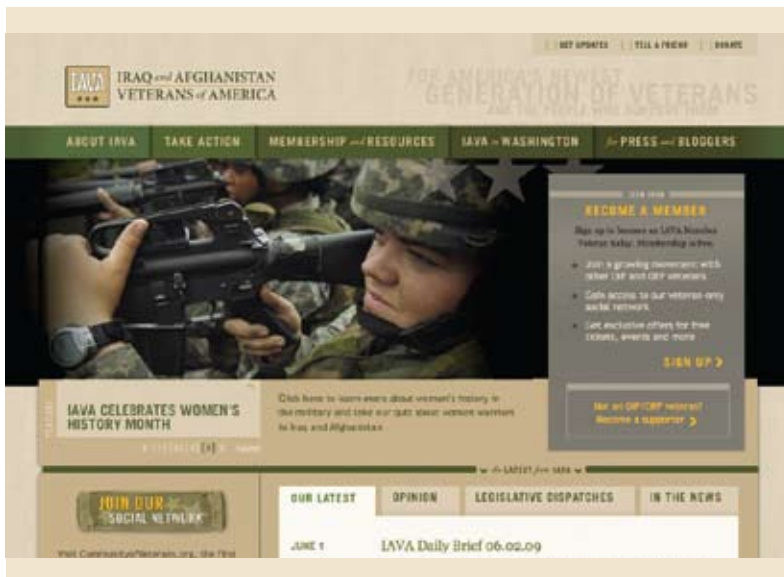
IAVA brought together fifty Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to ring the opening bell at the NASDAQ stock exchange on December 31, 2008. The ceremony was a great opportunity to close an historic year for veterans, and to remind the nation to keep veterans' issues as a top priority in 2009.

ENGAGING AMERICA

IAVA creates meaningful and innovative ways for civilians to get involved and show their support for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Through engaging emails, online petitions, social media outreach, and volunteer opportunities, IAVA's civilian membership grew to over 100,000 supporters in 2008.

IAVA.org Relaunch

In December of 2008, IAVA launched a complete redesign of IAVA.org. The breakthrough website serves as the hub for all of IAVA's online activities, from social networking and advocacy campaigns to local outreach and fundraising. The new homepage, which receives 1,500 visits a day, prominently showcases current IAVA events, member veteran stories, campaigns, and updates from Washington, D.C. As part of a broader refocusing of IAVA's online outreach, the site easily enables those who want to take further action to support IAVA, both online and in their communities.



Charlie Wilson's War House Parties

To spark dialogue among supporters about Afghanistan, IAVA hosted house parties to view *Charlie Wilson's War*, a film that shows some of the historical background to the current conflict in Afghanistan. Supporters signed up on IAVA.org to receive a copy of the DVD, courtesy of Universal Studios Home Entertainment. After parties viewed the film, participants dialed in to a conference call with IAVA's Executive Director Paul Rieckhoff, Afghanistan veteran Nathaniel Fick, the author of *One Bullet Away: The Making of a Marine Officer*, and Congressman Charlie Wilson himself. Tom Hanks, the film's star, also gave a welcome message to supporters on the conference call. Over two hundred house parties were held nationwide.



ABOVE: IAVA SUPPORTERS SALUTE OUR NATION'S HEROES AT THE NEW YORK CITY VETERANS DAY PARADE.

LEFT: THE NEW IAVA.ORG OFFERS THE LATEST ON IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS' ISSUES.

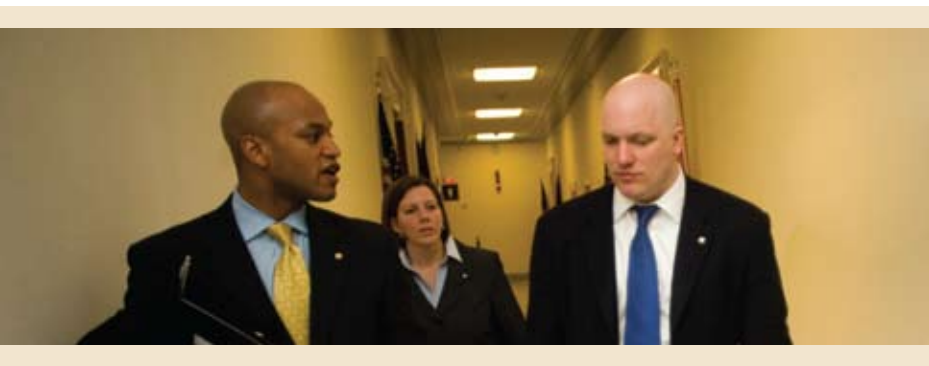
DEFINING THE VETERANS' AGENDA IN WASHINGTON

As a leading force in Washington, D.C., IAVA is committed to ensuring that our nation's lawmakers properly provide for troops, veterans and their families. IAVA's dedicated policy and research teams provide in-depth analysis on issues facing Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, and work with Congress daily to develop and advance pro-veteran legislation. IAVA testified thirty times during the 110th Congress, and gave expert recommendations on issues such as GI Bill benefits, homeless veteran outreach, disability compensation, and PTSD research. In November of 2008, IAVA was honored to join The Military Coalition, a prestigious group of thirty-five veterans' organizations in Washington, together representing 5.5 million veterans nationwide.



IAVA's Annual "Storm the Hill" Trip

IAVA's annual "Storm the Hill" trip reached a new level of impact in 2008. A dozen member veterans from across the United States came to Washington, D.C. in February to advocate for IAVA's top legislative priority: a new GI Bill that makes higher education affordable for servicemembers. They met with 78 members of Congress over three days, participated in dozens of media interviews, and reported their experiences in videos posted on IAVA.org. These critical meetings laid the groundwork for the GI Bill campaign over the course of the spring, and showed that when veterans speak, Congress listens.



TOP: (L-R) IAVA BOARD MEMBER PERRY JEFFERIES AND IAVA DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TODD BOWERS MEET WITH CONGRESSMAN JOHN BOOZMAN (R-AR) DURING IAVA'S "STORM THE HILL" TRIP

CENTER: (L-R) IAVA MEMBER VETERANS SAM BOND AND ANDREW ROBERTS WITH SENATOR PATTY MURRAY (D-WA), IAVA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAUL RIECKHOFF, AND IAVA POLICY DIRECTOR VANESSA WILLIAMSON.

BOTTOM: (L-R) IAVA BOARD MEMBER WES MOORE, MEMBER VETERAN SARA SKINNER, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAUL RIECKHOFF ON CAPITOL HILL.

Educating the Next Greatest Generation: The Campaign for a New GI Bill

In 2008, IAVA achieved a monumental victory for our newest generation of veterans: a 21st Century GI Bill. The original GI Bill, passed in 1944, was one of the greatest social investments the government has ever made, and was vital to rebuilding our nation after a half-decade of war. In contrast, the Montgomery GI Bill, in place since 1984, covered only a fraction of the cost of college. Veterans coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan faced a very different future than previous generations, and in January of 2007, IAVA committed to changing that.

The campaign for a new GI Bill was a long but historic effort. IAVA led the way in making the new GI Bill a prominent issue by participating in hundreds of meetings on Capitol Hill, testifying six times before Congress, and garnering over two hundred media appearances. Most importantly, IAVA galvanized its supporters to take action. The innovative online hub of the campaign, GIBill2008.org, explained the urgent need for better education benefits for veterans, reported the latest news from Capitol Hill, and encouraged visitors to hold their representatives accountable through petitions, emails and phone calls.



For eighteen months, IAVA spearheaded the fight for improved education benefits that today's servicemembers have earned. Congress overwhelmingly passed the legislation, and on June 30, 2008, the President signed the new GI Bill into law, ensuring that those who defend this country are given the opportunity to succeed when they come home. As IAVA's top legislative priority for 2008, this historic legislation makes college affordable for 1.8 million veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.



TOP: IAVA DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TODD BOWERS TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS.

BOTTOM: IAVA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAUL RIECKHOFF SPEAKS ON THE STEPS OF THE CAPITOL TO RALLY FOR A NEW GI BILL.

"I want to thank IAVA and their members for their efforts, their leadership, and their commitment. I think what was accomplished here...was remarkable. It was remarkable because it made a better world."

SENATOR CHUCK HAGEL (R-NE),
VIETNAM VETERAN, SPONSOR OF THE POST-9/11 GI BILL

Moving Forward to Serve Veterans: Relaunching GIBill2008.org

After the new GI Bill's passage, IAVA launched an aggressive nationwide outreach effort to provide information on the new legislation, and to help veterans access their new benefits. IAVA transformed GIBill2008.org from an advocacy website to a dynamic information portal for veterans interested in applying for their new benefits. Visited by more than 2,000 people a day, the site now features a benefits calculator, an exhaustive Frequently Asked Questions section, a link to the GI Bill website at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and downloadable flyers and pamphlets. While IAVA achieved a major legislative victory, the commitment to ensure that new veterans receive their benefits in a timely manner will continue well into 2009 and for years to come.



TOP: GIBILL2008.ORG ENABLES VETERANS TO LEARN ABOUT THE NEW GI BILL.

BOTTOM: IAVA CHIEF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL PATRICK CAMPBELL SPEAKS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH SENATORS FRANK LAUTENBERG (D-NJ) (L) AND JIM WEBB (D-VA) (R) AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE POST-9/11 GI BILL. BOTH SENATORS WERE COSPONSORS OF THE LEGISLATION.

LEFT: IAVA ADVERTISED IN NEWSPAPERS NATIONWIDE TO GARNER SUPPORT FOR THE NEW GI BILL.

IAVA's 2008 Legislative Successes: Significant Progress for Veterans

(As of December, 2008)

COMPLETE



BUILD A NEW GI BILL—In June of 2008, the landmark Post-9/11 GI Bill was signed into law, ensuring an affordable education for all veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The new GI Bill was IAVA's number one priority for 2008, and it represents the single largest increase in veterans' education funding in sixty years.



COMBAT THE SHORTAGE OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS—In the 2008 budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Congress approved an additional \$5 million for VA scholarships and \$15 million to address staffing shortfalls at Vet Centers. To provide veterans in rural areas with better access to counseling, Congress also funded mobile Vet Centers. The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) authorized extensive retention bonuses for psychologists, and gave the service secretaries more power in recruiting and retaining these employees. Despite these advances, the VA still faces a shortage of mental health professionals.



MAKE VA HEALTH CARE FUNDING SUFFICIENT AND MANDATORY—For the second year in a row, the VA's budget exceeded the recommendation of leading veterans' organizations, including IAVA. The budget included a \$4.5 billion increase on top of historic budget increases from 2007. Moreover, the VA's budget was approved on time for the first time since 2001. However, the threat of late funding remains a significant issue. In 2008, IAVA called for mandatory funding for VA health care, but Congress did not act on this recommendation.



PROTECT SERVICEMEMBERS FROM UNFAIR CONTRACTS—Deploying students must be reinstated at the same academic status as they were before they were deployed, and the 6% interest cap mandated in the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) now applies to student loans, but not for tuition payments made before deployments. In addition, deploying servicemembers may now suspend or terminate cellular telephone contracts without penalty. Purposeful violations of the SCRA now result in a fine or prison sentence.



OVERHAUL THE MILITARY AND VETERANS' DISABILITY SYSTEM—Several pieces of legislation passed by Congress resulted in studies assessing the effectiveness of the disability ratings system and various plans to revise the current process. In addition, a new program is testing joint processing for the Department of Defense (DOD) and VA disability evaluations. In September of 2008, the VA announced a revised rating schedule for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The new schedule will take into account both the unique nature of TBI as well as the different levels of severity.



ENSURE THOROUGH, PROFESSIONAL, AND CONFIDENTIAL MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING—In the 2008 NDAA, the DOD incorporated the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, which provides mandatory check-ins for returning National Guardsmen and Reservists. However, much more must be done to ensure that every servicemember returning home receives a mandatory, face-to-face screening performed by a mental health professional. This will be a top focus for IAVA in 2009.

ONGOING

SALUTING OUR NATION'S HEROES

Warrior Champions

During the summer of 2008, IAVA sponsored two extraordinary member veterans as they prepared to compete in the Paralympic Games in Beijing, China. Scott Winkler and Carlos Leon both served in Iraq and suffered serious injuries. They overcame incredible obstacles to earn the right to represent the United States as Paralympians, and after months of intensive training, competed in the Shot Put and Discus events in Beijing. IAVA supporters contributed \$20,000 in donations over the course of a month to directly support Scott and Carlos' training leading up to the Games. Their achievements will be chronicled in *Warrior Champions*, a documentary produced in association with IAVA, which will be released in 2009. The dedication of these athletes is inspiring, and IAVA was grateful to be a part of their journey.

IAVA and JPMorgan Support Our Troops

Last spring, IAVA partnered with thousands of JPMorgan employees to support our men and women in uniform with the "JPMorgan Supporting Our Troops" campaign. JPMorgan employees generously contributed towards purchasing care package supplies, and participated in three events to assemble the packages. In total, over one thousand care packages were sent overseas. The generosity of JPMorgan employees was inspirational, and IAVA was proud to support their efforts. By collaborating with IAVA, companies can show their support for our nation's newest generation of veterans and their families. IAVA is eager to replicate the success of this partnership in the future.



TOP: WARRIOR CHAMPION CARLOS LEON.

BOTTOM: WARRIOR CHAMPION SCOTT WINKLER

IAVA's Second Annual Heroes Gala

The Second Annual Heroes Gala was held on November 12, 2008 at Gotham Hall in New York City. The evening was a culmination of IAVA's Veterans Week activities and outreach, with over three hundred guests attending to celebrate the tremendous achievements of the year and raising over \$250,000. IAVA was proud to honor philanthropist Arnold Fisher, Honorary Chairman of the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, with the *2008 IAVA Civilian Service Award*, and Iraq veterans and Warrior Champions Carlos Leon and Scott Winkler with the *2008 IAVA Veterans Leadership Award*. The award presenters, General Peter W. Chiarelli, Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, and Milo Ventimiglia, star of NBC's "Heroes," made the program memorable and inspiring. USO Performer and veterans' advocate Henry Rollins emceed for the evening, and brought an energetic spirit to the awards ceremony.

The Heroes Gala brought together IAVA's member veterans, benefactors, staff, and supporters in the veterans' community, and reminded everyone that while there is much to celebrate, there is still much to be done. Please visit IAVAHeroesGala.org to see more photos from the evening, and to find information on the upcoming Third Annual Heroes Gala, which will be held on November 10, 2009.



"IAVA looks out vigilantly on behalf of these great Americans to make sure that they get what they need and they get what they deserve."

HENRY ROLLINS, ACTOR, AUTHOR AND USO PERFORMER



TOP: ACTOR MILO VENTIMIGLIA, SON OF A VIETNAM VETERAN, PRESENTS THE 2008 IAVA VETERANS LEADERSHIP AWARD.

BOTTOM: GENERAL PETER W. CHIARELLI, VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE US ARMY, PRESENTS THE 2008 IAVA CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD TO ARNOLD FISHER, HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE INTREPID FALLEN HEROES FUND.

INVESTING IN ACCOUNTABILITY: IAVA ACTION FUND

IAVA Action Fund (IAVAAction.org), the sister organization to IAVA, is a nonprofit, non-partisan 501(c)4 dedicated to pushing for solutions for veterans through issue advocacy.

The 2008 Congressional Report Card

In the fall of 2008, IAVA Action Fund launched the 2008 Congressional Report Card. The Report Card serves as the authoritative resource on the voting record of Congress on veterans' issues for the public, the media, elected officials, and most importantly, 1.8 million veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The 2008 Report Card received national media attention and effectively brought Iraq and Afghanistan veterans' issues to the forefront of public discourse.

2008 CONGRESSIONAL REPORT CARD

TAKE ACTION. JOIN IAVA ACTION.

Email Zip **GO**

IAVA IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA
ACTION FUND

HOME ★ ABOUT THE REPORT CARD ★ DOWNLOAD THE REPORT CARD ★ DONATE ★ TAKE ACTION ★ A TEAM/D LIST ★ IAVA.ORG

Find out who in Washington really supports our troops and veterans.

The IAVA Action Fund is the foremost nonprofit, non-partisan advocate for our nation's returning warriors and their families. Our 2008 Veteran Report Card, based on the key veterans' legislation that came to a vote during the 110th Congress, grades every Senator and Representative on their level of support for our troops.

SEARCH CONGRESS BY LAST NAME
 GO

SEARCH BY ZIP CODE
 GO

SEARCH BY STATE
Select State **GO**

ABOVE: VETERANREPORTCARD.ORG SERVED AS THE HUB OF THE 2008 REPORT CARD CAMPAIGN.

The 2008 Report Card evaluated every member of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in the 110th Congress. IAVA Action selected nine key votes on veterans' issues in the Senate, and thirteen in the House, based on the legislative priorities outlined in IAVA's 2007 and 2008 Legislative Agendas. These priorities are reflective of the highly consistent positions on issues from IAVA's member veterans, and the votes included support for the new GI Bill and full funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The scoring used a straightforward approach and transparent methodology. If a Senator or Representative voted with IAVA Action, they received one point. If they voted against the position of IAVA Action, or they failed to vote, they did not receive a point.

The results of the 2008 Report Card show that the 110th Congress achieved historic success on behalf of troops and veterans. More than 150 legislators received a perfect score of "A+." This is largely due to support for the new GI Bill, which achieved monumental bipartisan support.

The U.S. House of Representatives	The Senate
"A" Team: 249/435	"A" Team: 57/100
"D" List: 5/435	"D" List: 4/100

ABOVE: THE 110TH CONGRESS SHOWED OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS. THE CHART ABOVE SHOWS THE NUMBER OF LAWMAKERS WHO RECEIVED AN "A" FROM IAVA ACTION, AS WELL AS THE NUMBER WHO RECEIVED A "D" OR AN "F"

The IAVA Action Congressional Report Card received immediate national media attention, including coverage in The Hill, Newsweek, CQ, Military.com and MSNBC, as well as coverage in dozens of local newspapers and blogs. Several members of Congress who scored high touted the Report Card in their own local press releases.

The Report Card website, VeteranReportCard.org, served as the hub of the campaign, and continues to be a comprehensive resource for those interested in how lawmakers support veterans. Visitors can download a complete version of the Report Card, which includes descriptions of all votes and user-friendly vote listings for every lawmaker. The website also offers ways to easily spread the word about the Report Card, including a tool to Tell-A-Friend, write a Letter to the Editor, or to contact members of Congress. During the week that the Report Card launched, VeteranReportCard.org received over five thousand visits. IAVA Action Fund will continue to hold lawmakers accountable and ensure that they properly provide for troops, veterans and their families.

IAVA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

IAVA's Board of Directors was established in 2008, and is comprised of a distinguished group of individuals who represent exceptional leadership in a variety of fields. As advocates for today's veterans and committed benefactors of IAVA, the Board is vital in shaping the organization's growth and direction, and ensuring the achievement of our mission to improve the lives of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families. For full biographies, visit IAVA.org/BoardOfDirectors.

Edward Vick (Chairman)

Former CEO, Young & Rubicam
Vietnam veteran, US Navy

First Sergeant Perry Jefferies, USA (Ret.)

Founding Member of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
Iraq veteran, US Army

Mike Atkinson

Palmer Square Partners
Gulf War veteran, US Navy SEALs

Gabe Kleinman

Executive, Creative Artists Agency Foundation

Nancy Berglass

Principal, Berglass Community
Investment Consulting
Lead Consultant & Strategist,
Iraq Afghanistan Deployment
Impact Fund (IADIF)

Yannick Marchal

Foreign Exchange Derivatives, Deutsche Bank
Former CFO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

Leslie Gelb

President Emeritus, The Council
on Foreign Relations

Westley Moore

Investment Professional, Citigroup Global Markets
Afghanistan veteran, US Army

Craig Newmark

Founder & Customer Service Representative, Craigslist.org

Rosanne Haggerty

Executive Director & Founder,
Common Ground

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Executive Director & Founder, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
Iraq veteran, US Army

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2009

IAVA's Support Your Vet Campaign

As a part of the multiyear Veteran Support campaign with the Ad Council, a second public service advertisement effort will debut in the spring of 2009, and is aimed at the families, friends and loved ones of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The campaign website, SupportYourVet.org, will help friends and family members serve a critical role in supporting a veteran's return to civilian life. Visitors will be able to find resources, interact with one another through forums, and engage in discussions with other family members who have experienced the same readjustment issues.

IAVA will also continue to collaborate with the Ad Council to directly address the mental health and transitional needs of returning veterans. A second public service advertisement aimed directly at veterans will be launched around Veterans Day 2009, and will include new radio, print, web, and outdoor components.

Expanding the Veterans' Community

IAVA will continue to create valuable connections among this generation of veterans, and is preparing for significant growth in membership and outreach. Coming in 2009 is a nationwide Memorial Day campaign and local outreach events, in addition to IAVA's annual "Storm the Hill" trip, Par's Run 2009 in Tempe, Arizona and San Jose, California, and Veterans Week 2009.

Implementation of the New GI Bill

The new GI Bill goes into effect on August 1, 2009, and IAVA's policy team is working hand-in-hand with the VA to ensure timely and smooth implementation of the legislation. IAVA will continue its landmark outreach campaign to help explain these new benefits to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, which includes the most comprehensive GI Bill resource website available.



LEFT: IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS MARCH IN THE NEW YORK CITY VETERANS DAY PARADE

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Foundation, Inc. 501(c)3

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	2008	2007
Cash	\$763,827	\$190,246
Prepaid Insurance	833	1,801
Investments	474	928
Other Assets	11,624	9,124
Total Assets	776,758	202,099

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	17,678	27,122
Deferred Revenue	800,072	-
Total Liabilities	817,750	27,122

Net Assets:

Unrestricted	(40,992)	174,977
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$776,758	\$202,099

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets:

Support and Revenue

Contributions	\$2,094,574	\$1,360,952
Special Events	200,930	175,055
Interest Income	21	-
Total Support and Revenue	2,295,525	1,536,007

Expenses

Program Services	2,080,831	1,136,358
Management and General	239,420	131,556
Fundraising	191,243	124,802
Total Expenses	2,511,494	1,392,716
Increase in Net Assets	(215,969)	143,291

Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	174,977	31,686
Net Assets, End of the Year	\$ (40,992)	\$ 174,977

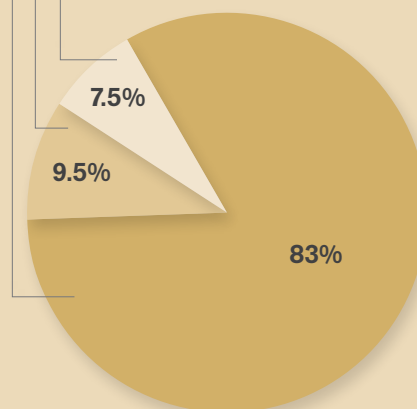
2008 EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

Total Expenses: 2,511,494

Program Services: 2,080,831

Management and General: 239,420

Fundraising: 191,243



IAVA Action Fund 501(c)4

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	2008	2007
Cash	\$3,656	\$99,657
Total Assets	3,656	99,657
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	500	-
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	3,156	99,657
Total Net Assets	3,656	99,657
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,656	\$99,657

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets:

Support and Revenue

Contributions	\$53,872	\$19,082
Grants	-	500,000
Other Income	33,733	-
Total Support and Revenue	87,605	519,082

Expenses

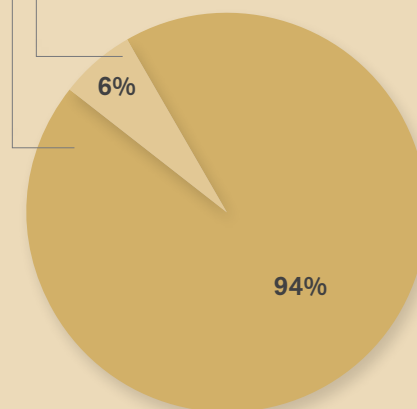
Program Services	173,728	434,232
Management and General	10,378	4,939
Fundraising	-	-
Total Expenses	184,106	439,171
Change in Net Assets	(96,501)	79,911

Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	99,657	19,746
Net Assets, End of the Year	\$3,156	\$99,657

2008 EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

Total Expenses: 184,106

Program Services: 173,728
 Management and General: 10,378
 Fundraising: 0



THANK YOU


Over the past five years, IAVA has catapulted to become the national leader on Iraq and Afghanistan veterans' issues. Thanks to your overwhelming support, the momentum will continue to grow, and as troops return from combat, they will come home to a nation ready to show real support.

IAVA would like to thank its member veterans, dedicated supporters, benefactors, Board of Directors, and trusted advisors for driving our continued success. On behalf of America's newest generation of heroes and their families, thank you.



TOP: IAVA MEMBERS SCOTT STANFORD AND DONALD SKINNER AT PAT'S RUN 2008.

BOTTOM: IAVA SUPPORTERS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY ON THE USS MIDWAY.



99% of Americans have seen combat on TV.

1% of Americans have seen combat in Iraq or Afghanistan.

We know where you're coming from.

If you're a veteran of Iraq or Afghanistan, you're not alone.

We've been there. Join us at CommunityofVeterans.org



IRAQ and
AFGHANISTAN
VETERANS of
AMERICA





IRAQ *and* AFGHANISTAN
VETERANS *of* AMERICA

**Thank you for supporting the newest generation
of American heroes and their families.**

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