



## MEDIA ADVISORY

**Media Contact:** Ken Kooyman, 314-750-3752

**Date:** December 12, 2013

### **DAV Department of Massachusetts Hosting Rally** ***Veterans Coalition Calls for Legislation to Protect All VA Funding***

**WHAT:** The DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Department of Massachusetts is hosting a rally to discuss how the recent government shutdown hurt our nation's heroes, and what needs to be done to protect veterans' benefits in future budget battles. Nearly 5 million veterans nationwide almost lost their disability compensation, pension or GI bill payments, which for many is their primary or sole source of income.

DAV and a coalition of two dozen other veterans' organizations are supporting bipartisan legislation, the Putting Veterans Funding First Act, to insulate veterans from future showdowns. The bill, which has been approved by both the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees, would authorize Congress to approve funding for all VA discretionary programs and mandatory benefits up to one year in advance. Now the House and Senate both need to bring the legislation to the floor for a vote, pass the bill, and send it to the President to sign into law.

Massachusetts' federal lawmakers have been invited to discuss what they are doing to prevent veterans' benefits and services from being jeopardized again. Congressman John Tierney will be in attendance, as well as representatives from the offices of Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, and Congressmen Mike Capuano, Bill Keating, Stephen Lynch and Niki Tsongas. Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans' Services Coleman Nee will be speaking at the event.

**DAV knows that veterans are a national priority, and it is to fulfill our promises to the men and women who served.**

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Dec. 17, 1 p.m.

**WHERE:** 780 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, Mass.

**WHO:** DAV members representing the nearly 400,000 veterans living in Massachusetts.

*DAV empowers veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. It is dedicated to a single purpose: fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served. DAV does this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life. DAV, a non-profit organization with 1.2 million members, was founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932. Learn more at [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org).*

###