

# NEWS OF VETERANS

## The New GI Bill For The 21st Century

(NAPSA)—*The following is an excerpt from VFW Commander-in-Chief John F. Gwizdak's speech to a joint hearing of the Committees on Veterans' Affairs United States Senate and United States House of Representatives.*

A top VFW objective directed toward ensuring that our young men and women leaving active duty may assume their proper place in society is the establishment of a new GI Bill for the 21st century. We envision that such an educational program will recognize and reward members of the Armed Forces for their service to their country by providing full tuition support, covering the cost of all educational related fees and providing a reasonable stipend for living expenses at any institution of higher learning or training to which a veteran is accepted.

This new GI Bill will provide our young men and women in uniform with the opportunities they need to compete with their non-veteran counterparts and, of major import to the nation, assume their proper place as federal, corporate and private sector leaders.

Also, with respect to our active duty personnel, military pay continues to lag approximately 11 percent behind comparable civil service pay. Our active duty forces have earned and deserve pay raises that exceed the annual Cost Of Living Adjustment for the next several years or until there is no pay difference between the military and the civilian sector. We urge the Congress to fully fund the President's request for a significant military pay raise as provided in the Fiscal Year 2002 Budget Submission.

I would be remiss if I did not



**John F. Gwizdak, commander of the VFW, calls for a new GI Bill that will provide our young men and women in uniform with the opportunities they need to compete with their non-veteran counterparts.**

address at this juncture the unfair penalty imposed on our military retirees who must literally pay for their VA compensation out of their hard-earned longevity retirement pay. They are the only group of federal employees who must sacrifice a portion or all of the retirement pay they earned through the years of service to the nation in order to receive the compensation that is their due because of a wound or disability incurred while in uniform. This situation must be corrected and it must be corrected now.

For a free brochure about becoming a member of the VFW write: Veterans of Foreign Wars, National Headquarters, Membership, Broadway at 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.