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# PRESS RELEASE

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## VVA Calls for Swift Passage of *Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act*

(Washington, D.C) – “The *Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act* (H.R. 542 & S. 141) offers the first light at the end of a long tunnel for elderly veterans and their caregivers,” said Jack McManus, National President, Vietnam Veterans of America. The *Dole Act*, when enacted, will expand access to non-VA providers for the delivery of care to elderly veterans in their communities; update online access for veterans and caregivers to medical care and information; initiate a pilot program to address homemaker and health aide services; increase access to respite care to give caregivers a temporary break; and more. “VVA urges Congress to pass this legislation expeditiously so that our veterans may receive their earned benefits before it is too late. They deserve to live out their lives with dignity, security, and independence.”

“We know that effective care for all these aging veterans requires VHA implementing dependable, evidence-based care. This is the kind of care supported by the *Dole Act*,” McManus noted. “Evidence-based programs allow veterans to age in place, avoid or delay nursing home placement, and choose the care environment that best aligns with their care needs, preferences, and goals. Veterans using these programs have experienced fewer hospitalizations and emergency department visits, reduced hospital and nursing home days, and fewer nursing home readmissions and in-patient complications. Our veterans need this legislation – without delay.”

“VVA is committed to ensuring the best possible healthcare for our 6.4 million elder Vietnam veterans. As we age, our healthcare needs expand and become more complex,” McManus said. “Bearing this in mind, VVA has been aggressively advocating for the continuation and expansion of multiple programs geared towards transforming VHA into a comprehensive, age-friendly health system.”