

# National Veteran Small Business Coalition

April 4, 2017



*"One Cause, One Voice"*

Board of Directors and Officers

*Heidi Gerding, President*

*John Condon, Vice President*

*Eric Dailey, Secretary*

*Norris Middleton, Treasurer*

*Bud Almas*

*Timothy Farrell*

*Marc Goldschmitt*

*Bede Ramcharan*

*Scott Denniston, Executive Director*

Headquarters

14001-C St. Germain Drive, #652  
Centreville, VA 20121

703-282-4140

[www.nvsbc.org](http://www.nvsbc.org)

Dear National Veterans Small Business Coalition (NVSBC) Members:

I am writing you at a critical moment for NVSBC members to request your help with a very important new campaign. We have engaged a DC-based public relations firm to help us shame the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) into obeying the U.S. Supreme Court's unanimous decision on the Kingdomware Technologies case. To help finance this effort, the NVSBC Board of Directors has authorized me to seek financial contributions from our members.

A decade ago, the GAO informed the VA that it was wrong on VETS First. Last year, we were thrilled that the Supreme Court agreed and unanimously ruled against the VA in the Kingdomware Technologies case. While this should have put an end to the issue on VA procurement policies for Veteran-owned businesses, it did not.

In June 2016, the VA issued a staff guidance procurement memo on the VETS First Supreme Court decision that **misinterprets the Supreme Court decision**.

Over the past eight months the NVSBC has met with senior VA leadership about the problems with the procurement memo and the fact that the agency is ignoring its own acquisition policies. Nevertheless, the VA continues to:

- Procure open market medical surgical items and industrial supplies from large business prime contractors without regard to VETS First.
- Contract using "Strategic Sourcing" to the detriment of veterans in the office products industry.
- Place "Ability One" vendors ahead of Veteran owned small businesses.
- Send requirements to other agencies to contract for VA.

The agency is now attempting to contract with commercial firms to avoid VETS First all together by contracting the VA contracting functions. This is **a slap in the face of the Veteran community**.

## **Enough is Enough**

The VA and large corporate interests are marshalling forces against VETS First to ensure our Veteran small businesses are NOT given first consideration for federal prime and subcontract procurement opportunities.

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We need your help now to turn the heat up on the VA through a sustained media relations campaign. We are asking each NVSBC member to contribute \$1,000 – or another amount that you are comfortable with – to fund this effort to bring public pressure on the VA.

We understand this is a big commitment for many of our members, but **NOW IS THE TIME.**

You can contribute via credit card at [www.nvsbc.org](http://www.nvsbc.org) on the home page or you can mail a check.

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Please email Heather Hayes for invoices or receipts at [heather.hayes@nvsbc.org](mailto:heather.hayes@nvsbc.org). And please feel free to email me at [scott.denniston@nvsbc.org](mailto:scott.denniston@nvsbc.org) with any questions.

The future of VETS First rests with us! Thank you in advance for your support for this important campaign.

Scott Denniston

Executive Director