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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exempting 100% Disabled veterans from Arkansas Sales tax at The Point of Sale.

In a regularly scheduled, bi-monthly meeting at the VFW headquarters in Sherwood, on Friday, March 18, the members of the Arkansas Veterans Coalition, after careful review, voted unanimously to endorse a proposed Bill from Representative Cindy Crawford, District 76. This proposed Bill, if successful, will fully exempt 100% service-connected disabled veterans from Arkansas sales taxes on purchases of ALL goods and services at the point of sale. AVC Vice President, R.D. Kinsey said, “This is the least we can do for those brave men and women that wore the uniform and promised to fight for our country’s freedom and democracy. There are many that return home but continue to suffer from the effects of war. This is the least we can do as Arkansans and Americans to thank those men and women who have sacrificed their life and their wellbeing.” AVC member, John Posey of Fort Smith’s Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) noted, “Arkansas would not be the first state to enact such a law. In 2006, the state of Oklahoma passed a sales tax exemption law, where the Oklahoma Tax Commission issues the 100% disabled veteran a card good for up to $20,000 per year in sales tax exemptions. And they recently amended this law to extend this benefit to the surviving spouses. Additionally, it allows spouses to make tax-exempt purchases for these mobility-challenged veterans.” AVC member, Mark Diggs said, “Based upon the information from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, there are a little over 10,000 100% disabled veterans in Arkansas. With a $1.2 Billion state surplus, Arkansas can afford to provide this benefit to those who have sacrificed so much.” Kinsey added, “We are asking for Arkansas disabled veterans to receive at least the same benefits as veterans in Oklahoma. Businesses in the border communities like the Fort Smith area and Northwest Arkansas are probably losing sales of goods and services to Oklahoma communities just across the state line.” Posey added, “In the 2021 General Assembly, State Representative Cindy Crawford, District 76, drafted a Bill and was prepared to present it in Committee for possible consideration on the House floor but it was not introduced. Informed of AVC’s unanimous support, Representative Crawford stated she plans on introducing her bill at the next Legislative Session.” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_The Arkansas State Veterans Coalition (“AVC”): The Coalition is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization comprised of Arkansas affiliates of nationally chartered/recognized veterans, military, uniformed services, and veterans service organizations, as well as similar local not-for-profit organizations with common goals. They work in joint pursuit to represent issues affecting all generations of Arkansas Veterans.