

**Victory for Veterans**  
**James D. Edwards, D.C.**  
**ACA Chairman of the Board**

Late in the evening on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, President George W. Bush signed the Veterans bill into law. Despite strong opposition by the Veterans Administration, medical groups and the physical therapists, chiropractic care is now a permanent benefit in the Veterans Administration.

Since that time, other national chiropractic associations have claimed credit for passing the bill. Those claims remind me of President John F. Kennedy's well-remembered axiom rendered in the immediate aftermath of the disastrous CIA-organized Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1962...“Success has a thousand fathers; failure is an orphan.”

In the final analysis, this tremendous victory occurred due to the actions of two organizations...the American Chiropractic Association and the Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC). Without question, they were the real “fathers” of this success.

Even World Chiropractic Alliance (WCA) President Dr. Terry Rondberg acknowledged the ACA’s preeminent role when he wrote, “The ACA successfully coordinated a massive grassroots campaign to counter the opposition and won widespread acceptance of the proposal in Congress.” Dr. Rondberg added, ““It could not have passed without the hard work of the ACA...”

But this tremendous accomplishment is only one of many recent victories achieved by the ACA on behalf of this profession.

- It was the ACA that filed a federal lawsuit against the federal government to insure that only DCs can provide subluxation care.
- It was the ACA (along with the Virginia Chiropractic Association) that filed a federal lawsuit against Blue Cross Blue Shield for its unfair chiropractic reimbursement policies.
- It was the ACA that passed legislation that removed the Medicare X-ray mandate and finally took the federal government out of the doctor-patient relationship.
- It was the ACA (along with the ACC) that passed legislation making chiropractic care available to our men and women in uniform.
- It was the ACA that got doctors of chiropractic on the staff of the Attending Physician and who now treat Members of Congress on premises at the Capitol.

The ACA is achieving victory after victory after victory for your profession, your patients and your practice. To all of you who have been waiting to see action

before joining, the results are in. The ACA has earned your support and it's time to join because there is still much to do.

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