



# BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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May 27, 2009

Paul Sieving, M.D., Ph.D., Director  
National Eye Institute/National Institutes of Health  
Building 31, Room 6A03  
31 Center Drive, MSC2510  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-2510

Dear Dr Sieving,

The Blinded Veterans Association (BVA), the only Congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organization exclusively dedicated to serving the needs of our Nation's blinded veterans and their families, wishes to express its sincere appreciation for your strong leadership and dedication as you celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the National Eye Institute and designate 2010-2020 as the "Decade of Vision."

America must confront the challenges inherent in a growing population of low-vision and blind citizens during the next 20 years. We are confident that NEI efforts, crucial for those who have been diagnosed with age-related degenerative eye disease, will lead the way in vision research to save vision, restore it, or improve the quality of life for millions of Americans. NEI research will also support scores of those now returning with combat-related eye injuries experienced in Iraq and Afghanistan. NEI research and the ensuing medical and technological advances provide the hope to which so many of our constituents and their families look.

BVA extends its congratulations on the success that this important anniversary marks. We appreciate the efforts of Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin and Congressman Pete Sessions to sponsor a bipartisan Congressional resolution during this legislative session that raises awareness of this "Decade of Vision." We will continue to provide our full support in this pursuit of increased vision research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Zampieri Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Thomas Zampieri Ph.D.  
Director of Government Relations