The American Academy of Neurology is the world’s largest association of neurologists with more than 24,000 members dedicated to promoting the highest quality patient-centered neurologic care. A neurologist is a doctor with specialized training in diagnosing, treating, and managing neurologic complications such as traumatic brain injury, often referred to as TBI.

The Academy believes that our veterans deserve the best possible care and treatment for neurologic injuries sustained in their service to our country. The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have resulted in significant numbers of combat veterans who have suffered traumatic brain injury. TBI is associated with cognitive dysfunction, post-traumatic epilepsy, headaches, and other motor and sensory neurologic complications.

It is essential that the federal government and private sector allocate the resources to ensure all veterans have access to the necessary neurologic interventions and long-term treatments that their injuries require.

The Academy has and will continue to build awareness and education opportunities among our neurologist members and advocate for national programs to ensure the diagnosis, care, treatment, and ongoing surveillance that will be required for our returning veterans to the community. For the last few years, the Academy has offered CME courses at its Annual Meeting addressing neurological injuries that result from war, developed a Sports Neurology Section that addresses issues related to TBI, and advocated for local and state government laws governing care of concussion and return to play.

We were a leader in advocating for the successful development of the VA regional Epilepsy Centers of Excellence to assure access to care for veterans suffering from post-traumatic epilepsy.

The American Academy of Neurology is committed to supporting the “Joining Forces” project by:

- Advocating for the funding and development of additional programs and services at the national level to support veterans and their caregivers with TBI, post-traumatic stress disorder, and related conditions. This includes expansion of telemedicine capabilities, training and support for veterans and their caregivers to manage the long-term consequences of their injuries.

- Publishing articles to build awareness for our members on the need to increase their capacity and expertise in managing patients with these conditions.

- Developing further CME educational programs at our Annual Meetings, webinars, and other conferences on diagnosing and treating veteran patients.

- Using our Government Services Section of neurologists to lead this effort across our membership.

- Developing tools and resources based on practice guidelines on TBI and concussion medicine to assist members in advancing their clinical knowledge and skills in this arena.