

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Dan Sippl, RSVA President

MOVING TOWARD OUR NEXT DIAMOND JUBILEE

As we concluded our annual convention in Reno, Nevada this past July, we said goodbye to the celebration of 75 years of the Randolph-Sheppard Act that allowed all of us to provide services to our civil servants across the country with the utmost in service excellence and dignity.

Looking back at our past 75 years at our recent annual convention and this past Sagebrush conference, it was very humbling and emotional for many of us as we remembered our friends who have left our ears, but remain in our thoughts. Those who have preceded us would be honored as we move forward and improve our program for the next 75 years as they did for us in the past.

We were proud and privileged, along with many from the Leadership of the American Council of the Blind, to honor our Past Presidents at our Awards Banquet with a tribute to their service.

As we move toward our next Diamond Jubilee, we are excited to research methodologies to expand our program in many ways to allow us to continue to make this program the measuring stick of success for all blind and visually impaired people.

We are presently diligently working with various agencies, especially the Department of Education. We recently met with White House staff and Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) staff to gain the support of the

President in signing an Executive Order reaffirming the Randolph-Sheppard Act to provide us the opportunity to serve all civil servants and our soldiers for the next 75 years.

We are working diligently to find ways to pool our purchases to capture the best wholesale prices which will allow us to maximize our potential to serve our customers in these difficult economic times. We are also exploring ways to move into areas outside of the food and vending services. As always, these changes can only be accomplished with the support and efforts of all of us with cohesiveness and selflessness.

As we move toward our next Diamond Jubilee, please join me in welcoming our new RSVA Board members who are so willing to commit themselves in these efforts. Welcome Eddie Turner, Filo Tu, Rick Petersen and Ron Eller, who moved up to First Vice-President. It goes without saying that we owe a big debt of gratitude for those who have served the RSVA Board with the greatest of dedication over the past 40 years of RSVA.

INSERT PICTURE OF
R-S CAKE CUTTING