****Date: 10 March 2025

To: Honorable Smart Dog PDD Charles Minton

From: PDD Helen Breen 18-305 & PDD Jacob Bertin 22-093

Subject: Proposed Military Order of the Devil Dogs Constitution & Bylaws Amendment

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

 ***Existing Wording:***

SECTION 101: Eligibility

B. Any such other candidate who is in failing health, and to whom the trip to the Grand Growl of the Pack or the Supreme Growl of the Kennel would cause undue hardship and/or physical endangerment, shall, by written request of the Pound with the approval endorsement of the Pack, and with the written permission of the Honorable Chief Devil Dog, be permitted elevation to the next higher degree at a Growl of the Pound, or at a Special Growl of the Pack permit. Pounds that are not part of a functioning Pack may petition the Honorable Chief Devil Dog directly. The written request from the Pound on behalf of a Pup or Devil Dog in failing health shall be accompanied by a statement from competent medical authority specifically addressing the condition of the individual for whom the exemption is being sought. The Pound Keeper’s written request shall be countersigned by the Worthy Pack Leader in states where there is a functioning Pack; or, sent directly to the Honorable Chief Devil Dog where there is not a functioning Pack in the state, with a copy of the request sent directly to the Honorable Vice Chief Devil Dog of the respective Division. All requests for medical, World War II, and Korean War service exemptions shall be sent directly to the Honorable Dog Robber for factual verification. Once the Honorable Dog Robber validates, both, the faithful service of the Devil Dog for whom the medical exemption is sought and has determined that the medical evidence provided is compelling and complete; the Honorable Dog Robber shall obtain from the Honorable Chief Devil Dog such approval (either in hard copy or digitally) of the request of either the Pound or the Pack as determined to be sufficient for record-keeping purposes and, by direction, notify the Pound or the Pack as soon as possible that the request for World War II, Korean War Veteran wartime service and/or medical exemption has been granted. Once the written approval has been received from the Honorable Chief Devil Dog, the Pound Keeper, or Pack Leader, as appropriate, shall appoint an Installation Officer and Installation Team appropriate for the degree to be conferred, with the express understanding that said Growl will be held within ninety (90) days of the receipt of the written permission of the Honorable Chief Devil Dog. The Honorable Chief Devil Dog and, in the case of a Growl of the Pound, the Worthy Pack Leader should ensure that there is a representative from their respective Staff, whenever possible.

***Proposed Wording:***

B. Any other member who is in **long-term** failing health, and to whom the trip to the Grand Growl of the Pack or the Supreme Growl of the Kennel would cause undue hardship and/or physical endangerment, may request a special advancement at a Growl of the Pound or Special Growl of the Pack.  Requests for special advancement must be submitted via the member’s Pound, endorsed by the Pack, and approved by the Honorable Chief Devil Dog. Pounds not part of a Pack may petition the Honorable Chief Devil Dog directly via the process described below.

**ADD**
C. **WARTIME SERVICE EXEMPTION:** A request for advancement of an eligible member who is a World War I, World War II, or Korean War Veteran as referenced in Section 108 (4) (a) should be submitted to the Honorable Dog Robber with an endorsement letter from the Pound Keeper and a copy of the member’s DD-214.

D. **MEDICAL EXEMPTION:** A request for special advancement due to medical exemption must be submitted to the Honorable Dog Robber and must include the following:
 i. Request letter from the Pound Keeper, endorsed by the Pack Leader (if the Pound is part of a Pack), stating the involvement of the member in the Pound.

 ii. Letter from the member’s doctor stating that due to the member’s long-term medical condition, travel in any manner is not possible (note: the specific medical condition does NOT have to be shared, only that the member will not be able to travel for the foreseeable future)

E. **CAREGIVER EXEMPTION:** A request for special advancement due to full-time caregiver duties for an immediate family member must be submitted to the Honorable Dog Robber and must include the following:

i. Request letter from the Pound Keeper, endorsed by the Pack Leader if the Pound is part of a Pack), stating the involvement of the member in the Pound.

 ii. Letter from the member’s doctor stating that travel in any manner is not possible for an immediate family member requiring continuous care due to chronic illness, cognitive impairment, or end-of-life conditions where no other long-term caregiver is available. (note: the specific medical condition does NOT have to be shared, only that the member will not be able to travel for the foreseeable future due to the family member’s health condition)

F. Once the Honorable Dog Robber receives and validates the information Exemption; he/she shall obtain from the Honorable Chief Devil Dog approval for the Advancement. Once the written approval has been received from the Honorable Chief Devil Dog, the Pound Keeper, or Pack Leader, as appropriate, shall appoint an Installation Officer and Installation Team appropriate for the degree to be conferred, with the express understanding that said Growl will be held within ninety (90) days of the receipt of the written permission of the Honorable Chief Devil Dog. The respective Division Vice Chief Devil Dog and, in the case of a Growl of the Pound, the Worthy Pack Leader should ensure that there is a representative from their respective Staff, whenever possible.

 ***Rationale:***

The current wording the Bylaws is a long run-on sentence that is unclear and hard to read.

This amendment consolidates all advancement exemptions into a single, clear, and standardized policy. It ensures fairness while preventing system abuse, maintaining the integrity of the advancement process, and preserving the final authority of the Honorable Chief Devil Dog.

Respectfully Submitted,



PDD Helen Breen 18-305 PDD Jacob Bertin 22-093
Past Pack Leader, South Carolina Pack Worthy Dog Robber, Pennsylvania Pack