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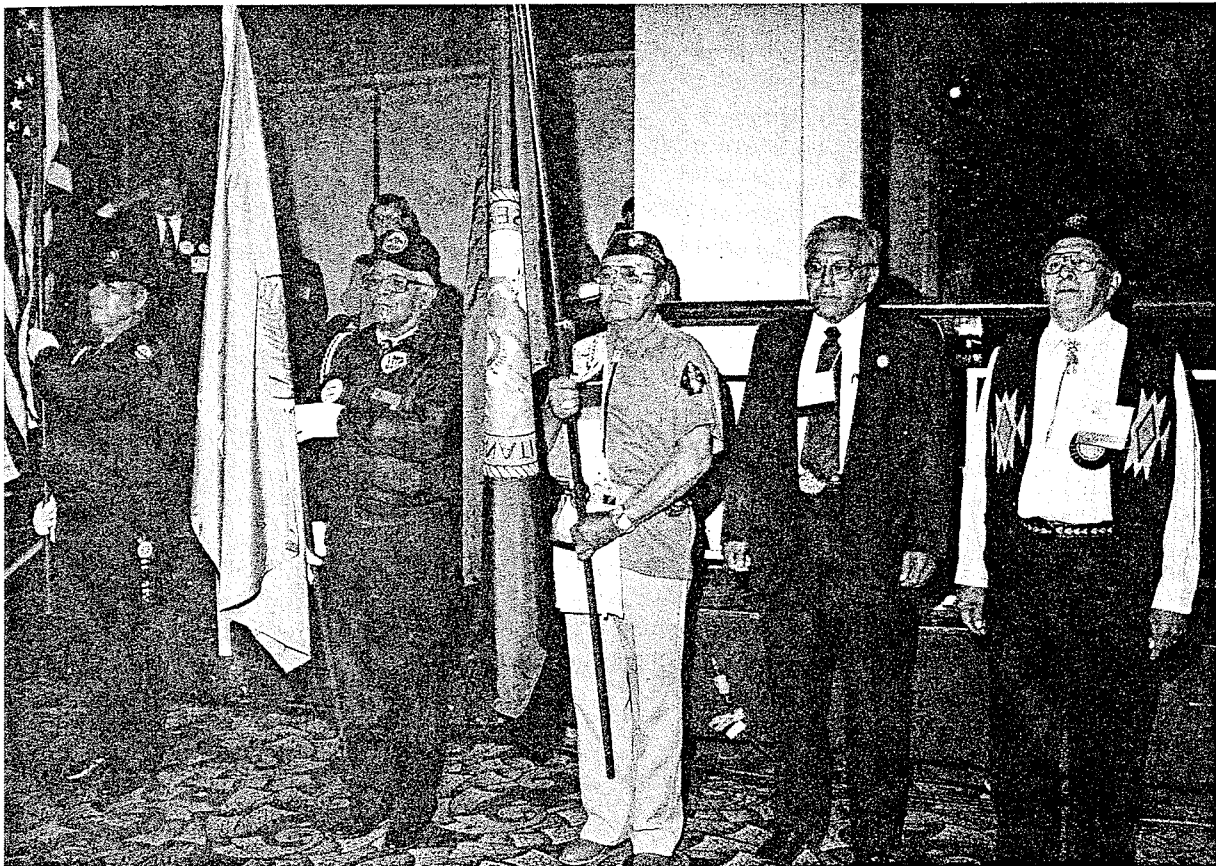
**Strengthening and coordinating the delivery of legal assistance to older persons**

- 1 WHEREAS legal assistance is crucial to promoting and protecting independence, rights, well-being, and security for older persons;
- 2 WHEREAS the delivery of legal assistance must take into account the social and economic needs of low-income persons, racial and ethnic minority populations, the frail elderly, and elderly persons who are isolated by geography or living arrangements;
- 3 WHEREAS the field of elder law is emerging as a specialty practice, and it is essential to foster public and private bar collaboration and standards of practice;
- 4 WHEREAS the provision of national and statewide legal assistance support and development is essential to the statewide coordination of elder rights advocacy, including ombudsman programs, public benefits counseling, elder abuse and adult protective services protection and advocacy, information and referral, and legal hotlines; and
- 5 WHEREAS Federal, State, and local funding for legal assistance to the elderly must be sufficient to assure a statewide and local program of coordinated legal assistance, including adequate training and technical support for the delivery of legal assistance;

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the 1995 White House Conference on Aging to support policies that:***

- 6 Assure the authorization and adequate funding of Older Americans Act (OAA) and Legal Services Corporation programs, including State and national support, statewide legal hotlines, and legal assistance development within the aging network;
- 7 Establish national uniform standards, regulations, and guidelines for the provision of legal assistance to older persons, including adequate and predictable minimum funding;
- 8 Promote quality, comprehensiveness, and coordination of service among private bar and publicly-funded practitioners within the emerging field of elder law;
- 9 Provide for adequate training and support services at the national, State, and local levels for providers of legal assistance, including elder law and clinical legal education programs in professional schools;
- 10 Allow State units on aging to use OAA funds for direct funding of statewide or regional legal assistance programs or State support centers;

- 11 Promote legal assistance outreach to low-income persons, ethnic and minority populations, persons with disabilities, and isolated older persons, and ensure adequate legal counsel for the long-term-care ombudsman program.



*Closing Ceremony, May 5, 1995*