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Poriotis Calls On Congress to Redesign “Obsolete” Veterans’ Employment Programs

*Corporate Management Expert Advises Houses Committee to
Explore Private Sector Approaches to Finding Veterans Quality Jobs*

(Washington) – Arguing that “...you will never solve a private sector problem with government approaches and programs,” corporate management expert Wes Poriotis today called on Congress to “...allow the private sector to infuse its knowledge, creativity, and energy into the noble task of finding high quality jobs for the men and women who have so honorably worn the uniform of our Nation.”

Mr. Poriotis, who founded and chairs The Center for Military and Private Sector Initiatives, was a featured witness at the House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity hearing examining the Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS). Poriotis, who has testified three times before Congress on this subject in the past four years, has over thirty years experience in management consulting, executive search and placement as Founder and Chairman of the New York firm Wesley, Brown and Bartle.

“The problem at its core is that VETS is a government program trying to succeed in the private sector with government solutions,” Poriotis told the Subcommittee. “We know that in order to create jobs in our modern economy we have to unleash the talent and creativity of the private sector. Similarly, if we want to find quality new and existing jobs for veterans, we also need to unleash the private sector,” he said.

“Rather than reforming and coping with an obsolete federal agency which itself labors as a distant stepchild in the Department of Labor, we need to seriously develop a blueprint that reconsiders the entire notion of government-centered programs to help veterans get jobs in the private sector,” said Poriotis.

In his testimony, Poriotis referred to recent remarks by Microsoft founder Bill Gates to a meeting of the Nation’s governors that, “...*American high schools are obsolete. By obsolete, I don’t just mean that our high schools are broken, flawed and underfunded.... By obsolete, I mean that our high schools – even when they are working exactly as designed – cannot teach our kids what they need to know today,*” Gates had said.

“We merely need to substitute Mr. Gates words on obsolete high schools with the obsolete Veterans Employment and Training Service,” Poriotis told the Committee. “If Mr. Gates can be so blunt in crying out for a redesign, we can do no less for our veterans,” he said.

Wes Poriotis founded The Center for Military and Private Sector Initiatives in 1995 after completing a study and report on veterans employment requested by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mr. Poriotis is also the Founder and Chairman of the Board of Wesley, Brown, and Bartle (WB&B), one of the America’s leading management consulting and executive search firms, and the nation’s premier diversity search firm. WB&B has placed executive personnel in over 300 of the “Fortune 500” largest corporations, as well as helped staff executive branch departments, agencies, and commissions for both the Clinton and Bush Administrations.